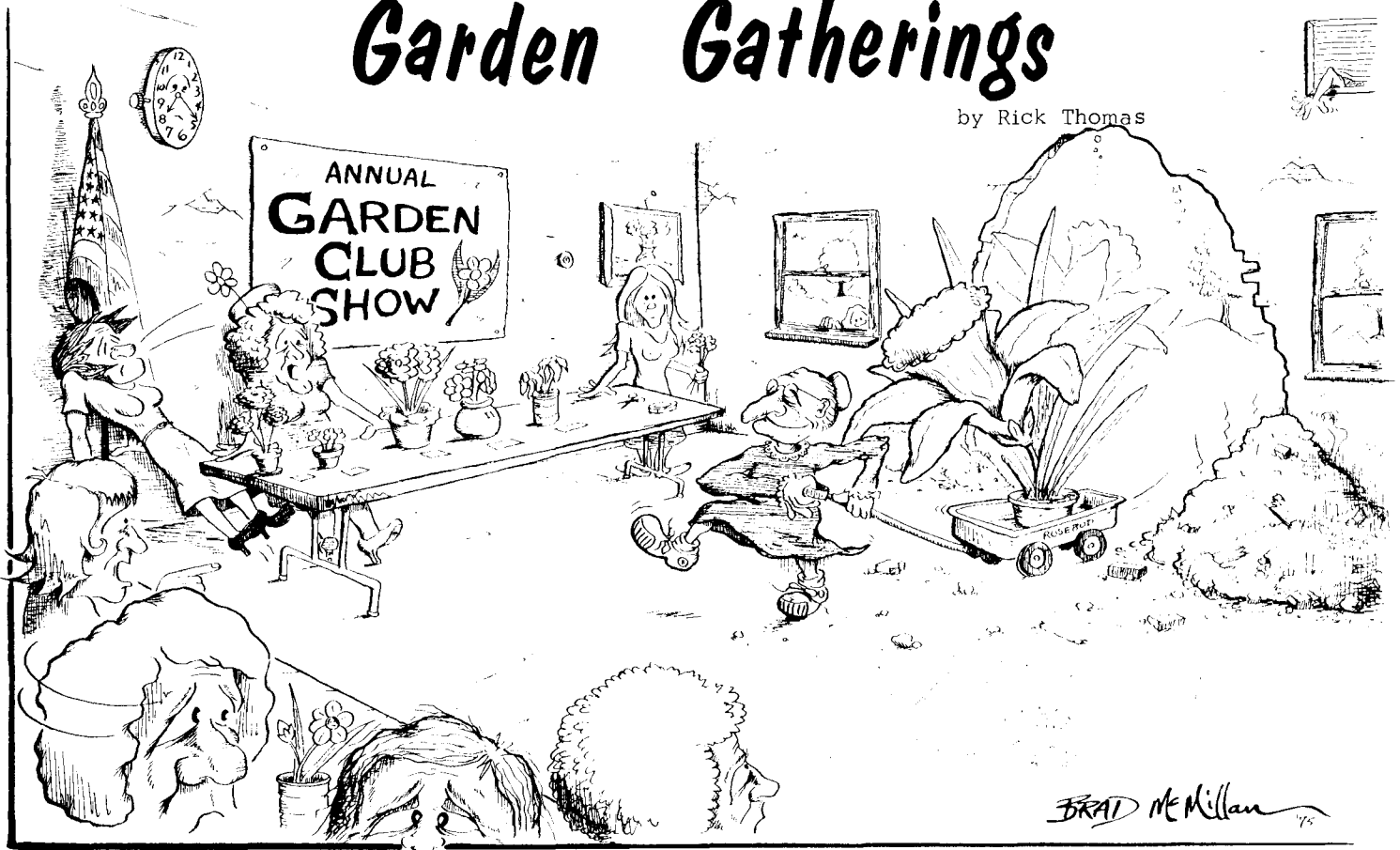


# The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

## Garden Gatherings

by Rick Thomas



As this article is written spring is ready to burst on the V/E community. Daffodils are up, forsythia and quince are in bloom and our acres of azaleas are on the verge of flowering. The community has a long history of appreciation of flowers and trees, reflected in the well-kept lawns of its residents and the landscaped grounds of Southwestern. Not surprisingly, many of the city's garden clubs got their start here and a number of neighborhood residents are active in such organizations.

The names of many such clubs reflect their origins, like the Belvedere Garden Club and the Evergreen Garden Club. The former originated on the street whose name it bears but its 17 or 18 members are now spread over town. Many members, such as immediate past president Mrs. CHARLES E. RAUSCHER of 745 N. Auburndale, still live nearby, however. Besides monthly meetings (whose programs sometimes stray from gardening nowadays) the Belvedere Club publishes a yearbook and donates gifts to welfare societies at Christmas.

The Evergreen Garden Club grew out of a larger organization called the Evergreen Club which met in the house on the northwest corner of Evergreen and Overton Park Avenue. When the parent organization disbanded in 1938, the garden club remained and it has a dozen or so members still active today. Its original club plants were the rose and the

dogwood tree and the club takes credit for most of the dogwoods planted in the neighborhood. Other activities include monthly meetings, a yearbook, and the donation of trees as memorials. At one time a strictly neighborhood club, its members are now widespread. Both secretaries are community residents. They are Mrs. M. L. PATTON of 1753 Galloway and Mrs. CHARLES YOUNG of 1755 Forrest. And they also boast as a member one of the neighborhood's leading rose experts, Mrs. C. H. CALDWELL of 1976 Lyndale.

Because of our proximity to Overton Park many clubs have been established around this theme. Those include the Overton Park Garden Club, one of the few area clubs with definite boundaries, and the now inactive Park Vista Garden Club. The former was founded in 1946 and its territory partially overlaps that of the V/E community. Its flower is the daffodil and its 25 members meet monthly. The club makes periodic donations to support programs for the visually handicapped and has a long history of working with the city in its gardening efforts. Mrs. FRANK YATES of 1884 Overton Park is this year's vice-president. The Park Vista Garden Club was centered around the Buena Vista area but has been



There will be no VECAA meeting held in March. Please watch the News for notice of the next general meeting.

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active in providing flowers for Snowden School.  
Two other groups that got their start in the V/E commu-  
nity are the Flora Garden Club and the Chloris Garden Club.  
The Flora Club, founded in the 1950's, was the child of  
neighborhood residents and many, such as Mrs. Z. A.  
BERRY of 995 N. Garland, are still active today. Its presi-  
dent for the past several years also resided here. The clubs  
ten members meet regularly and recently had a flower show  
at Wesley Towers. The Chloris Garden Club started in the  
neighborhood some 40 years ago and like the Flora Club has  
spread over the city. In addition to monthly meetings and the  
publication of a yearbook, the Chloris Club donates flowers  
to senior citizens homes. Miss MAYSEL HOLMQUIST of  
1743 Crump is this year's vice-president and the current  
president also is a neighborhood resident.

Other clubs that started elsewhere often have ties with  
the neighborhood. The secretary of the Sesame Garden and  
Arts Club, for example, is Mrs. NELSON HATCHETT of  
1734 Forrest. The city-wide Field and Garden Club plants  
and maintains the Holly Court on Southwestern's campus.

Perhaps the one true neighborhood club is the Hein Park  
Garden Club. The largest and most active of such organi-  
zations in the area, it offers monthly programs to its 100-  
odd members. In addition to gardening, programs deal with  
such diverse subjects as art, fashion, self-defense and the  
zoo. An annual tea is held along with a September family  
picnic. Members are kept informed by means of a year-  
book and a newsletter entitled "Heinsite".

Founded in 1935, Hein Park is one of the city's oldest  
garden clubs and its efforts go beyond local beautification  
to the preservation of in-town residential areas. Its offi-  
cers for this year are Mrs. WILLIAM MACKEY of 600 Cen-  
ter Drive, president; Mrs. GEORGE BURKLE, JR. of 610  
Center Drive, vice-president; Mrs. E. PAUL JONES of  
799 West Drive, secretary; and Mrs. RICHARD ECKELS  
of 633 Center Drive, treasurer.

**Around The Neighborhood**

Thanks to the persistence of various V/E residents, we  
now have a police officer regularly patrolling the neighbor-

hood and traffic patrolmen monitoring our major through-  
fares with radar.

JOHN CARTER of 581 N. Avalon was recently awarded a  
Personal Sales Award Plaque by the Amway Corporation for  
his outstanding sales achievement record in the home pro-  
ducts field.

Welcome to Miss AMANDA HILL who is the new  
owner of the home at 2124 Vollentine. Miss Hill for-  
merly lived at 942 Alaska. She is a teacher of home  
economics at Manassas High School.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT SPARKS  
who were married January 7. Mrs. Sparks is the for-  
mer DEBBIE BARLOW, daughter of Mr. and Mrs.  
JOHN BARLOW of 1815 Jackson. Debbie was featured  
in the "Meet the Neighbors" column when she was a  
junior at Northside High.


The Vollentine-Evergreen Community Action Asso-  
ciation (VECAA) is a non-profit neighborhood organi-  
zation founded in 1970. Its boundaries are roughly  
Watkins, Cypress Creek, Trezevant and Overton Park  
Avenue. VECAA's initial goal was to enhance and  
maintain a stable biracial community with quality hous-  
ing, services and facilities. It has been active in pro-  
moting stability, assisting in school desegregation, op-  
posing commercial rezoning and in general promoting  
those activities that serve to create a viable mid-town  
community.

Vollentine-Evergreen Community Action Association  
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Membership \$2.50 - Individual, Family, Business  
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## Planners' Progress

(One of the benefits of long range planning is that it lets a community decide what kind of changes it wants for itself. While in many ways we might wish things to stay "just as they are" there are other places where we could hope for an improvement or two. Your land use task force is looking at several items such as zoning, major streets, and housing conditions, and it hopes to make some recommendations soon. Here is a review of the zoning question now being considered by the task force. -Editor.)

The big zoning concern now is R-3 vs. R-2. R-3 is a duplex zone, allowing two families in a single building. R-2 is a single family zone, allowing only one family per building. Most of the residential buildings in the neighborhood are single family, but the city zoning ordinance of 1955 zoned most of the neighborhood R-3 (duplex) and this zoning still holds today.

One might ask why in 1955 this seemed to be good planning. One can assume that the planners expected that the city's population growth would most likely be accommodated by conversion of homes into duplexes, or the addition of apartments to existing homes, which also requires R-3 zoning. Several areas less fortunate than our own have been zoned R-4 (multi-family), even though most of the buildings were single family.

Aside from the theories (policies) that set this up, what are the practical implications of zoning property for duplex or apartments when it is now single family? Looking at the last 20 years we see on the surface very little effect - most of the homes have stayed single family, very few having been converted to duplex or apartment.

Some new duplexes have been built on vacant lots, and in many cases these have been a definite asset to the neighborhood. The present market price of a midtown residential lot is \$8,000-\$12,000, and since most homes in the neighborhood are worth much more than this, it is unlikely that a house will be torn down to make room for a new duplex.

The proposal now before the land use task force is for changing most of the R-3 zone up to R-2. This would have the effect of preventing further duplex construction or conversion. The proponents of the up-zoning say that this action will assure homeowners that their streets will remain single-family and thus encourage them to maintain and improve their property. They further believe that to retain R-3 zon-

ing would keep homeowners under a threat of possible changes, and that this uncertainty would retard home improvement.

Some areas have a lot of duplexes already and, under the proposal, these areas would remain R-3.

The zoning change would be accomplished by city ordinance passed by the Council after a review by the Planning Commission. The new zoning would allow existing duplexes to continue to be used as such, even if the new zoning is R-2.

The City Council would have to see strong community support before giving its approval, and the task force wants to give the matter a public airing (of which this review is a part) before it is taken to the Planning Commission. Revisions may be necessary, and the wishes of individual residents to be included or excluded should be made known. Eventually a public meeting will be held, to be announced in this paper, but anyone wishing further information now should call Joe Hough (task force chairman) at 274-5551 or 396-3130.

## Community Development

If Memphis had \$372 million, it could meet its needs for such things as housing, parks and drainage. That was the conclusion reached at a public hearing on March 5 in the City Council chambers.

Under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 Memphis will have only \$32 million in federal funds to spend on these projects during the next three years. The city's Action Program Advisory Committee has recommended that North Memphis, including portions of the V/E area, be selected for comprehensive treatment along with eight other priority areas. The portion of the V/E area included is north of Vollintine, east of Watkins and west of University. (See the February, 1975, issue of the News for a more detailed account.)

The City Council will have a public hearing the latter part of March in order to finalize these areas and develop plans and budgets for comprehensive treatment.

## Classifieds

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# 'Y' Notes

# Tiny Tables

The neighborhood YWCA at First United Lutheran Church (Jackson at Willett) announces its first showing of artists completing its oil painting course. This will be held March 23 from 2 - 4 p. m. There will also be a display of handwork and crafts to illustrate the types of skills to be learned at the "Y".

Pre-registration for courses beginning in April will also be held at this time. Joining such on-going activities as dance, exercise and karate will be the following:

Activity	Starting Date	Length	Time	Cost
Japanese Flower Arranging	April 1-5wks.	Tues.,	7-9 p.m.	\$12.50
	April 2-5wks.	Wed.,	9-11 p.m.	\$12.50
Yoga	April 3-6wks.	Thurs.,	1-2p. m.	\$12.50
	April 3-8wks.	Thurs.,	8-9p. m.	\$12.50
Oil Painting	April 3-8wks.	Thurs.,	7-9p. m.	\$12.50
Candlemaking	April 9-5wks.	Wed.,	10-12 a. m.	\$12.50
Crewel/Needle-point	April 9-6wks.	Wed.,	1-2:30p.m.	\$12.50
	April 10-6wks.	Thurs.,	7-9:30 p. m.	\$12.50



Furniture work is no stranger to the neighborhood, with Modern Upholstery located here on Jackson, but when BILL and MARY ANN WADE of 873 Dickinson think of furniture, they think small. For several years Mary Ann's hobby has been balsa doll furniture. Recently her uncle encouraged her to exhibit some of her handiwork at the Fairgrounds Flea Market, and we thought you'd like to see it here. In the photos you can see the craftsman herself in action and one of her creations, a complete bedroom suite.

The Wades have lived in Midtown for five years and moved to the Dickinson address in November. Mr. Wade is with the maintenance department of Gallagher Property Management and his hobbies are basketball, bowling, and science fiction. Mrs. Wade works in the pathology lab at St. Jude Hospital.

## DIRECTORY OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

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