

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine - Evergreen Community Action Association

Political Poop

This fall marks the start of a new political season. In addition to numerous City Councilmen, school board members, mayoral candidates and judges VECCA residents will be voting for a County Mayor for the first time on October 9th.

To introduce the at-large and VECCA district candidates for City Council The Evergreen News circulated a questionnaire which asked the following:

1. What is the single most important problem facing midtown and how would you solve it?

2. Do you plan to involve neighborhood groups in the City's planning process?

Here is a summary of the answers we received.

City Council

District 5

JIM FIELDS

Background: Discjockey, advertising executive.

Positions: 1. Crime. To curb crime we must have a better line of communication between the City Council and the police department. 2. In order to have neighborhood involvement we must establish a communication line and make the City Council representative of the people.

JACK GIBSON

Background: Master of Regional Planning; Ph. D. candidate; Peace Corps; City Planner; professor (planning); Planning Consultant.

Positions: 1. Lack of neighborhood identity. Area planning committees should be formed to stabilize home values, promote race relations, and better public education. 2. Yes. Neighborhood committees should participate in all phases of the planning process. They should be the biggest supporters of our city's cleanliness, quality educational opportunities and public safety. I have worked conscientiously with neighborhood groups all over the country and believe in their success.

District 7

PEGGY CLAY

Positions: 1. The problems that involve midtown also involve



Political candidates will have a chance to debate the issues and answer questions at the neighborhood rally to be held Monday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the chapel of McLean Baptist Church. City and county mayoral candidates, aspiring judges and city council and school board candidates have all been invited.

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the city of Memphis as a whole. And it is time for Memphis to come together as a whole and stop dividing itself off. 2. I do plan to involve the whole community and community groups in the process.

MARY JANE BURT, WILLIAM M. LARSHA, and J. O. PATTERSON (incumbent) - No Response.

At-Large Position 1

BONNY MARTIN

Background: Board of Directors, LeBonheur Hospital; Commissioner, Memphis Park Commission; Shelby Farms Planning Board.

Positions: 1. I would be willing to listen to responsible groups representing this area who can identify the problems and work toward solutions. 2. Yes, by listening to responsible groups.

BETTY BOUTON SMITH

Positions: 1. Retain the good and improve the not so good. Clean up repair and maintain services, good street lighting and public safety. Do these things and then increase civic pride by educating and involving as many people as possible. 2. Before any concrete plans are made there should be many public meetings to inform and obtain ideas and recommendations. ROSCOE DIXON, JR., ROBERT GLISSON, WAYNE MINK, SILKY SULLIVAN, RUTH TROTTER, and PAT VANDERSCHAAF (incumbent) - No Response.

At Large Position 2

TOM TODD

Background: Member, Memphis Cotton Exchange; Director, First Federal Savings and Loan Association; served two terms in the State Senate, Chairman of the City Council.

Positions: 1. Midtown's most important problem is the deterioration of downtown. The present downtown redevelopment will have a desirable effect on Midtown. 2. Create sense of pride in the city, our neighborhood and homes.

SAM DATTEL

Background: Law Degree; 24 years experience in real estate. Positions: 1. Decay of downtown has effect of filtering to the midtown area. A viable downtown would stabilize midtown's potential problems. 2. Yes. All neighborhood groups should be involved in the planning of their area as it relates to streets, schools and community centers.

KEN THOMAS. No Response.

At Large Position

ED WILLIAMS

Background: Consulting Engineer and Vice President of con-

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sulting firm; three terms in Tennessee General Assembly; member, Mayor's Downtown Historical Task Force; Board of Trustees, Pink Palace Museum.

Positions: 1. Maintenance of neighborhood stability. City Council should not allow zoning and public construction projects which will upset the balance of midtown residence. Neighborhood groups should have voice in both decisions which affect them directly and the City as a whole.

JOE DAVID CASEY

Background: Diploma from U. T.; Employee, Sears Roebuck & Company.

Positions: 1. Crime. Hiring more policemen to form walking patrols of midtown. Vandalism of Overton Park and Overton Square is another problem. 2. Yes.

DAN EVANS

Background: Leave of Absence from WREG to run for office; involved with Urban League, NAACP, PUSH, Boy's Club, Coalition of Black Youth.

Positions: 1. Crime resulting from unemployment which causes residents to flee and brings about a new downtown situation to midtown. 2. Yes. Put neighborhood groups and City Fathers together for good and equal representation and progressive laws.

ROSCOE McWILLIAMS, Sr.

Background: Librarian, Memphis City Schools.

Positions: 1. The ineffective leadership of the City Council as a whole. I feel I have what is needed to help solve most of the problems of all the people of this city. 2. Yes. Organize bi-racial groups of all ages to seek advice and be evaluated.

OSCAR EDMONDS, Jr. - No Response.

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At-Large Position 4

PAT HALLORAN

Background: Former University Dean, chief executive, Pi Kappa Alpha National Fraternity; past president, Big Brothers of Memphis; vice president, Memphis Junior Chamber of Commerce; member, City of Memphis Housing Rehabilitation Board.

Positions: 1. Better police and school services. Increase stability by keeping a close watch on zoning, and making people feel they have the ear of local government. Doesn't support proposed N. Parkway expressway route because of negative impact on neighborhoods. 2. Yes. By working together to eliminate the type of government that stifles progress and openness.

NULL ADAMS

Background: Graduate from American Press Institute Seminar; Newspaper Guild for 38 years (covered City Hall); director, Cynthia Milk Fund.

Positions: 1. Give more attention and direct more funds to solve needs. Non-political survey is needed. Downtown and midtown must be restored to have a great city. 2. Yes. It is essential to a well planned city.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON

Background: Lawyer.

Positions: 1. Lack of new homes. I would like to study the possibility of converting Overton Park into a beautiful residential area. I believe this would breathe "new life" into the midtown area. Also would put I-40 through the park and save N. Parkway as a beautiful residential street.

JIM MARTY - No Response.

At-Large Position 5

ANDY ALISSANDRATOS

Background: Incumbent Councilman.

Positions: 1. In my opinion several problems in midtown deserve attention. If I had to choose one, I would say crime, but

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followed closely with necessity to stabilize the area. I have worked hard to curb crime and get to its causes and to stabilize midtown and downtown. I plan to continue my efforts toward these goals.

NEIL MASNER

Positions: 1. Crime. Solicit help of community leaders. Gain community respect for lawful authority. Involve the schools, encourage law enforcement. 2. Yes.

WAYNE CHASTAIN and PAT JOYNER - No Response.

At-Large Position 6

MIKE CODY

Background: Lawyer; vice-chairman of Greater Memphis Urban Development Corporation; cofounder of the Memphis and Shelby County Neighborhood Legal Services Project; Who's Who in the South.

Positions: 1. How to preserve its vitality as a residential area. Fate of midtown tied to downtown's convenient proximity. Midtown has unique sense of community, diversity of age and economic groups and warmth of homes. 2. Definitely. Central Garden Area Association is good model. Their plan process should be available to all communities to identify goals and implement them.

MALLEY J. BYRD, LOUISE W. GLATT and JACK McNEIL-
 No Response.

School Board

Petitions were also sent to candidates for the School Board in Districts 5 and 7. Unfortunately, only Mrs. FRANCES COE responded. She urged the strengthening of the area and school advisory committees to give more autonomy to each school. She also felt that the schools should be set up to serve the community whereby neighborhood residents really use the schools day and night for activities they set up.

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Continuing Ed

With September Southwestern's Center for Continuing Education cranks up its program anew. Through the Center a wide variety of opportunities for civic education has been made available to Memphians and Mid-Southerners in the region during the last thirty years. Cooperation with national organizations as well as with a number of local civic groups has enabled a small staff with limited resources to make a significant contribution to the life and thought of the region.

This Fall's offerings would please anyone with an interest in literature. Discussion groups - the backbone of the Center's program - will focus on many topics of interest. Dean GRANVILLE DAVIS and Dr. JAMES ROPER will lead one group on "Literature as Personal Revelation" while Dr. RAY HILL will conduct a session on "American Literature and Changing Values." In the latter the poems and novels of the last 200 years will be examined in the light of changes in American society. The search for identity will continue in another course called "The Search for Identity in the Modern German Novel." Led by Dr. JOHN BRUHWILER, this group will examine attempts by characters in German fiction to live out their personal convictions in their society.

In keeping with the times another course, "Pioneers and Caretakers," will deal with nine prominent women writers. Through their works the role of women as preservers of the national heritage will be studied. And, of course, there is a Bicentennial offering. A session entitled "The American Dream: What Are We Celebrating?" will deal with the political writings of prominent Americans during the past two centuries. Both sessions will be led by FRANK FAUX.

Two "how-to" courses are also being offered this term. RAY HILL will conduct a session in playwriting giving the participants actual experience. Another session will be a film animation workshop (including a history of film animation) in which MICHAEL MATHENY and ROBERT FRIEDSTAND will teach optical effects techniques.

All courses start in late September or early October and run from nine to sixteen weeks. Most are in the evening and most are offered one night a week. Fees run from \$20 to \$60. Registration may be made by telephone, by mail or in person.

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Evergreen Associate

The five precincts that comprise the bulk of the Vollintine/Evergreen community range in political outlook from what could be termed "moderately conservative" to a persuasion that could be called "liberal." On the basis of voting patterns during the past decade and a half, the area from Jackson Avenue south to the L&N tracks (36-3) would be described as the most conservative section of the neighborhood, with the precinct containing Southwestern (36-1) and the precinct between Vollintine and Jackson (36-3) being only slightly more liberal. On the other hand, the area north of Vollintine including Baron Hirsch Synagogue (41-2) would have to be termed the most liberal at the polls. Also with a fairly liberal voting record is the northwestern section of the community (40-2).

An apparent factor in voting patterns is the racial makeup of the precincts involved. Not surprisingly, the "solid" white precincts have the most conservative voting records, while what might be called "gray" precincts generally support the more liberal candidate. Interestingly enough, when an issue has been at stake (e.g., liquor-by-the-drink) rather than a candidate, the entire community has tended to take the liberal position.

Party affiliation apparently has a limited effect on voting patterns here. Since area voters are not registered by party, the only way of determining party affiliation is by looking at participation in the Democratic and Republican primaries. If the record here is indicative of actual affiliation, then the V/E community is overwhelmingly Democrat. Yet, when election day comes, recent years have seen these Democrats throw their support to the Republican candidate.

Vollintine/Evergreen residents generally turn out in large numbers for elections, with over 90 percent participation not being unusual. The proportion of registered voters who actually vote seldom falls below 70 percent. Again, racial composition affects voting habits, with the gray areas turning out in slightly less force than the predominately white precincts.

'Y' Registration

Registration for the Fall programs at our neighborhood YWCA will be held September 9-11 at First United Lutheran Church (Jackson and Willett). The hours of registration will be 4-7 p.m. on Tuesday, 1-4 p.m. on Wednesday and 4-7 p.m. on Thursday. An open house will be held Sunday, Sept. 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. and late registrants can sign up then.

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