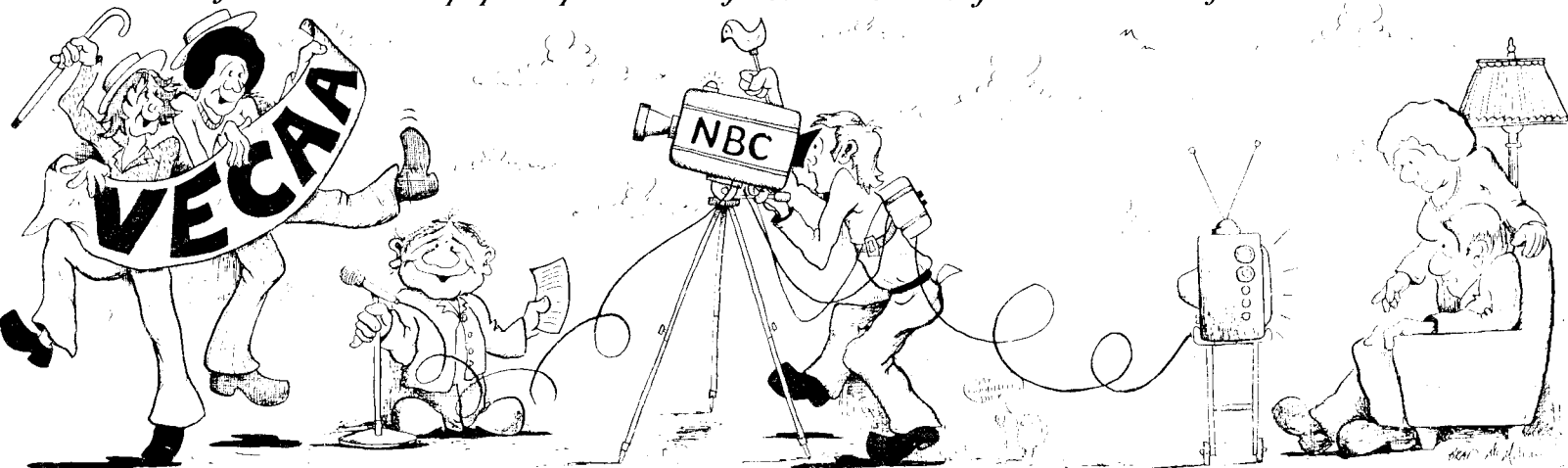


# The EVERGREEN NEWS

*A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association*



## VECAA Exposure

When RICK THOMAS, CHARLESSCRUGGS, MARGARET DITCHEL and MIKE KIRBY met to talk about the VECAA neighborhood last month they had an interested on-looker. An NBC News film crew in Memphis to report on open housing met with them to discuss VECAA's successes in the areas of housing, education and neighborhood stability.

Producer FRIEDA WILLIAMSON had chosen the Vollintine-Evergreen community because it is one of the few successfully integrated neighborhoods in the South and, in fact, across the nation. Also featured in the news short will be a report on the Hyde Park community in Chicago which will serve as a Northern counterpart to the VECAA area.

In addition to the filmed interview with VECAA spokesmen the crew shot footage at Vollintine Elementary School and interviewed its principal, ROCHESTER NEELY. Random scenes were filmed on other aspects of the neighborhood.

The crew also visited the Westwood area where subsidy housing and overcrowded schools have caused white flight and the Bellevue-Lamar area where residents have produced a film documenting a series of town meetings they have held.

In Westwood Reverend JAMES NETTERS, former City Councilman and director of the Community Relations Commission, escorted the news team through his newly founded Mt. Pisgah-Westwood Church. The congregation, which is black, recently moved to Westwood from South Memphis and this resulted in white flight from the area.

In contrast the VECAA panel expressed confidence that race relations were no longer a major problem. Margaret Ditchell stated that those persons wanting to do so had already left and that some black residents had sold their homes to whites anxious to move into the neighborhood. Mike Kirby, chairman of VECAA, felt that the neighborhood's stability is based upon a willingness to accept blacks as neighbors. He also attributed VECAA's success to a set of effective tactics developed by the organization to handle potentially damaging issues.

According to Mrs. Williamson, the South compares favorably to Chicago where she also interviewed neighborhood residents. "In Chicago white flight has been preceded by bombings and violence. I don't see that happening in the South. However, with regard to integration, VECAA is the exception. For most cities open housing has not meant integration."

The filmed report will be broadcast sometime in March as a five-minute segment of the NBC evening news. It will serve as a follow-up report on a newscast aired when open housing was introduced ten years ago.



## VECAA Meets On Housing

The next meeting of the Vollintine/Evergreen Community Action Association will be held on Sunday, April 4, at 3 p.m. at our neighborhood "Y" at 1542 Jackson Avenue.

A major concern of V/E residents in recent months has been housing deterioration and April's program is devoted to this problem and its possible solutions. The program will focus on housing code enforcement and the featured speaker will be RICHARD HOLLADAY with the City's Department of Housing Improvement.

Mr. Holladay will discuss the nature of the housing code and what we, as concerned residents, can do to see that it is enforced in our neighborhood. The code as a means of forcing absentee landlords to maintain their property will also be dealt with.

Plans are also being made to have at least one City Councilman at this meeting so that your concerns about the area's housing can be voiced. We encourage everyone to come and bring a neighbor.

Memphis, Tennessee  
Volume VI, Number 3

6 March, 1976  
Circulation: 5000

**NOT TO BE PLACED IN MAILBOXES**

## Meet The Neighbors

by Karen Tynes



Judge ALBERT BOYD and his wife, JULIA, are relative newcomers to our neighborhood. They bought the house at 424 N. McNeil just two years ago. In addition to his new duties as city court judge, Boyd says he has also become a plumber, painter and electrician. The house, though structurally sound, needed a great deal of work and, like so many others, they are doing the work themselves. Julia's parents, Mr. and Mrs. GORDAN BINGHAM, live right around the corner from them and were responsible for their finding the house on McNeil. The Judge's mother, Mrs. Clara Boyd, makes her home with the Boyds.

Both the Boyds had lived out east before and really enjoy the convenience of Mid-town living. The Judge says he is only eight minutes from his work and Julia, who is a nurse for an obstetrician and gynecologist near Methodist Hospital, also finds it convenient. They both particularly enjoy their large front porch and the front yard's huge shade trees. No one can doubt the sincerity of their enthusiasm for our section for they have just purchased the house across the street from theirs. They hope in time to refinish it also.

Judge Boyd is a native Memphian but Julia's home town was Grenada, Mississippi. They attended Southwestern simultaneously but did not meet until years later when a mutual friend introduced them. The Boyds have only been married for about four years.

The judge has had a rather varied career. In 1954 he was a radio announcer for about nine months in Booneville, Mississippi but, failing to find a similar job in Memphis, went to work for the Rock Island Railroad and later for Gordon's Truckline. Then, because of his background, he was granted a special license to practice law before the interstate Commerce Commission in 1957. He received his general license in 1963.

A few years ago he was appointed a commissioner for this federal district, a part-time position that has since been replaced by the full-time Magistrate system. This quasi-judicial work was work he enjoyed and it was the deciding factor in his decision to run for election a couple of years ago. He lost then and was not going to run again but, when no one else came forward to oppose Churchill, he decided to run again. He's enjoying his work and its variety. This past month he has been holding court for felons, next month it will be for traffic violations.

## New Ad Rates

Effective with the April issue of the News, there will be an increase in the price for commercial ads. The News has for over six years maintained the rates that were charged in the initial issue. These prices have been far below the going rate and the new prices will still be a bargain.

The new prices will be \$5 for a small box ad and \$10 for a large box ad. The rate for classified ads will remain 50¢ as this section is looked at as a neighborhood service.

## Quotable

It is my belief that our existence on this pebble of the universe is sustained by interdependency. We will never secure the blessings of liberty and the pursuit of happiness without the eradication of all artificial barriers that separate us. Here now, here in this place, here now in this hour, let us issue forth a Declaration of Interdependence.

We, the people... grateful for the opportunity and promise of this beautiful land, declare ourselves to each other without regard for race, color, sex, age or other artificial categories; and to the fulfillment of the long yearned for dream of America. Let us come together as neighbors and share the wonder of each other.

— Eversley S. Vaughan  
National Neighbors

## Circulation

The distribution of the Evergreen News has been taken over by the recently-reactivated VECAA communications committee and various improvements are being made to assure fast and thorough circulation. JOE HOUGH, chairman of this committee, wants anyone who is not receiving the News on a regular basis or who wants to deliver on his street to call him at 274-5551.

<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
<p>8 P.M. EVERY MONDAY 16 Games—\$75 Min. Prize 3 Cards \$5, 4th Card FREE <b>Jackpot</b></p> <p>\$1500 - 50 Numbers or Less \$1000 Min.—51 Numbers and Up \$200 Consolation</p> <p>Baron Hirsch Ladies Auxiliary (Lighted Parking Area)</p>				
<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>

<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>Fred's Barber Shop</b> 1697 JACKSON at EVERGREEN MEN AND WOMEN Haircuts - \$1.75</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p><b>Arts, Crafts &amp; Frames</b> VISIT US FOR ALL YOUR FRAMING NEEDS AT REASONABLE PRICES</p> <p>1378 Overton Park Avenue (Near Crosstown Theatre) Ronald O. James 272-7640</p>	
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<p>● 1703 JACKSON 274-1281 ●</p>	<p><b>BORG PHARMACY</b></p> <p><b>SUPER PHARMACIST!!!</b></p> <p>COLOSTOMY BAGS AND APPLIANCES WHEEL CHAIRS For rent or sale</p>	<p>● 1703 JACKSON 274-1281 ●</p>
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1688 Jackson 276-8431

## Around The Neighborhood

STEVE WHELAN, a 16 - year - old student at Christian Brothers High School, has received a summer scholarship to the Sewanee Music Center. Steve is a percussionist and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. JOHN WHELAN of 1952 Jackson.

REVA COOK of 727 West Drive recently was given the position of director of public relations for the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Memphis. Mrs. Cook has long been active in promotional activities.

### Cypress Health and Safety Committee

As this issue hits the streets a public hearing is being held in the neighborhood to obtain citizen comments on some of the area's environmental problems as identified by the Cypress Health and Safety Committee. The hearing, which is scheduled for 7 p.m., March 4, at Baron Hirsch Synagogue, is significant because it is being held in the neighborhood at a time when citizens can participate. The Health and Hospital Committee of the Shelby County Quarterly Court, along with Squires Bailey, Canale and Smith, will answer questions and receive statements from neighborhood residents.

### New YWCA Program

BETTY AMMONS, director of the north branch of the YWCA, has announced a new program beginning in March at the facility in the First United Lutheran Church at Jackson. In an effort to meet the needs of neighborhood residents, the "Y" is initiating a program for nearby senior citizens. While not duplicating any existing services for the elderly, the "Y" is planning to turn over its facilities every Wednesday morning to neighborhood senior citizens. The activity will be unstructured and both "Y" members and non-members can plan projects to meet their needs. There will be no classes

REWARD for return of five-month-old Doberman with red collar. Escaped from yard Thursday, Feb. 19 in the Vollintine/Evergreen area. Call 324-5638 and leave number. No questions asked.

WINDOW AIR CONDITIONERS thoroughly cleaned and checked. \$17.50 for one unit or \$15 per unit for two or more. Call Ed Wingfield, 274-3840.

## Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd

1971 Jackson (at University)

SUNDAY SERVICES

7:30 A.M. - Mass

9:30 A.M. - Church School

10:30 A.M. - Choral Communion

WEDNESDAY SERVICE

10:00 A.M. - Mass and Bible Study

THE REVEREND FATHER

CHARLES H. SYKES

RECTOR

## WILSON'S RESTAURANT



454 N. Bingham

324-1221

Just east of The Park off Broad

but an attempt to provide companionship through card playing, watching soap operas on TV, etc.

The program is open to both men and women and such ideas as sack lunches and widow-to-widow programs may be tried.

For further information call Ms. Ammons at the downtown "Y" at 527-9486.

### Community Development Meeting

About twenty residents of the Community Development (CD) Program's priority area I-B met on March 1 at McLean Baptist Church. The meeting served as an organizational introductory session to kick off the planning effort for the area bordered roughly by Chelsea, University, Vollintine and Evergreen.

The participants elected committee officers to work with

The Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association (VECAA) is a non-profit neighborhood organization 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 housing, services and facilities. It has been active in promoting stability, assisting in school desegregation, opposing commercial rezoning and in general promoting those activities that serve to create a viable mid-town community.

Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association  
**1976 NEW AND RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP 1976**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Membership \$2.50 - Individual, Family, Business

Make checks payable to VECAA.

Send to: Mr. Irvin Sachritz

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**OPEN DOOR BIBLE CHURCH**  
1792 N. Parkway  
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Service - 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Service - 7:00 p.m.  
*"It's the Bible you want,  
you want The Bible Church!"*

CD officials and made some progress in organizing block clubs. Each V/E resident in the area described above will be contacted and asked to participate in the planning process. Only five of those present live in the V/E area; many more voices are needed if our needs are to be considered.

Planners from the architectural firm of Taylor and Crump were present to explain the process by which they would determine the allocation of over \$3 million in the neighborhood. The plan will require three to four months to prepare.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for Monday evening, March 22, at McLean Baptist Church. Plan now to attend and make your needs known to those planning the future of our area.

### More VECAA Officers

VECAA chairman, MIKE KIRBY has announced the selection of additional officers to serve with him and secretary HAROLD CHANDLER during 1976.

JOE HOUGH of 871 University will continue to chair the zoning committee that is presently preparing a proposal for presentation to the City's planning commission. Joe is also heading up the reactivated circulation committee which has taken over distribution of the Evergreen News. JOE SOHM (one of last year's co-chairmen) of 872 Sheridan will chair the housing committee. This group will be charged with looking into the problems of housing deterioration, absentee landlords and related matters.

MARCIA HEITZMANN of 745 N. Hawthorne has been chosen to head the programs and publicity committee which will receive major emphasis this year. A committee to deal with the problems of senior citizens has been formed. Although no chairman has been selected, it has already made some progress in this important area.

IRV SACHRITZ of 899 Sheridan (also one of last year's co-chairmen) will serve as treasurer and is looking forward to receiving membership dues from each of our readers.

### Jackson MPH Increase

The Transportation Division of the City has recently increased the speed limit on Jackson Avenue from 35 mph to 40 mph through the V/E neighborhood stopping at Watkins.

Mr. ED BOYD, assistant deputy engineer in the division, states that the increase was appropriate on the basis of studies completed in the area.

The main criterion used in making such changes is the typical rate of speed by drivers now using the street. State law requires that speed limits approximate the existing speed of 85% of the vehicles. The transportation department also checks land use to determine if population density, congestion, etc. are factors and test drives the route at various speeds. At present, Central Avenue is the only midtown street with a 10 mph speed limit although Mr. Boyd predicts that others will be changed.

It is questionable whether a faster speed for through traffic offsets the disadvantages for the neighborhood. It appears that this is another attempt at helping suburban residents reach downtown more quickly at the expense of the midtown area. Those who feel that 10 mph is an excessive speed for this V/E street can write to Mr. Boyd or Frank Palumbo at the Public Works Department or call VECAA chairman, Mike Kirby at 274-1800 or 274-8709.

### Rep Report

State Representative PAM GAIA (District 89) has been pushing legislation that would benefit many residents, especially the elderly, in the V/E community. She has introduced a drug substitution bill that would allow pharmacists to substitute less expensive generic drugs for more expensive brand names in certain instances. Such a substitution would save money for the consumer while providing the same quality of medication. Unfortunately, strong lobbying interests have lessened chances of the bill being passed.

Ms. Gaia has also introduced a bill to insure tax-exempt status to "community organizations involved in neighborhood preservation." This would give VECAA and similar organizations a tax break not now allowed under state law.

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