

The EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by Vollintine-Evergreen Community Action Association

Here is a summary of the answers the Evergreen News received:

City Council

DISTRICT 5

Robert B. James

1. Proponent of careful zoning practices, urban renewal, and preservation of historic sites. 2. Suggests increased expenditure to keep up school quality. 3. Set goal of visitation with various underrepresented groups. 4. No blanket policy on zoning; relies on Planning Commission. 5. The problem of minority employment is taking care of itself and should be helped by the planned Community College. (Lives in Central Garden District; president of the Memphis Building Maintenance Co., Chairman of MATCOG; incumbent councilman)

Jerry P. Tucker

1. Has specific plans for improving inner city with emphasis on residential improvement and the development of community centers. 2. Assuring an atmosphere conducive to learning and encouraging a strong administration. 3. Plans regular meetings with neighborhood groups and consultation with constituents on all ordinances. 4. Will use influence as councilman to protect district zoning. 5. Has plan for providing minority employment and solving pay parity problem in police and fire departments. (Lives in Mid-Memphis area; president of Universal Mechanical Contractors)

DISTRICT 7

Alma Morris

No response. (Owner of Morris Barber Shop and Cleaners; husband lost to J.O. Patterson in election 4 years ago)

J. O. Patterson, Jr.

No response. (Attorney; served as state representative; endorsed by AFL-CIO; incumbent councilman; incumbent state senator)

AT-LARGE POSITION 1

Gwen R. Awsumb

1. More stringent housing code enforcement. 2. Supports up-grading of physical plants and curriculums (ed. - no specific plans mentioned). 3. Will remain available to listen to groups in an attempt to prevent problems from arising. 4. Will keep eye on mid-town area and oppose any detrimental zoning. 5. Current council has set policy of "equal opportunity" and it is now in the hands of the administration to implement it. (Long time political worker; incumbent councilwoman)

Paul (Dilly) Dillingham

1. Use of modern building practices in improving neighborhood; getting inner city residents involved. 2. Proponent of vocationally-oriented educational programs. 3. Continued support of police department's community relations program. 4. Work with local groups to get their opinions of zoning. 5. Supports fairness in hiring policies. (Plumber; active in American Party)

Wayne Mink

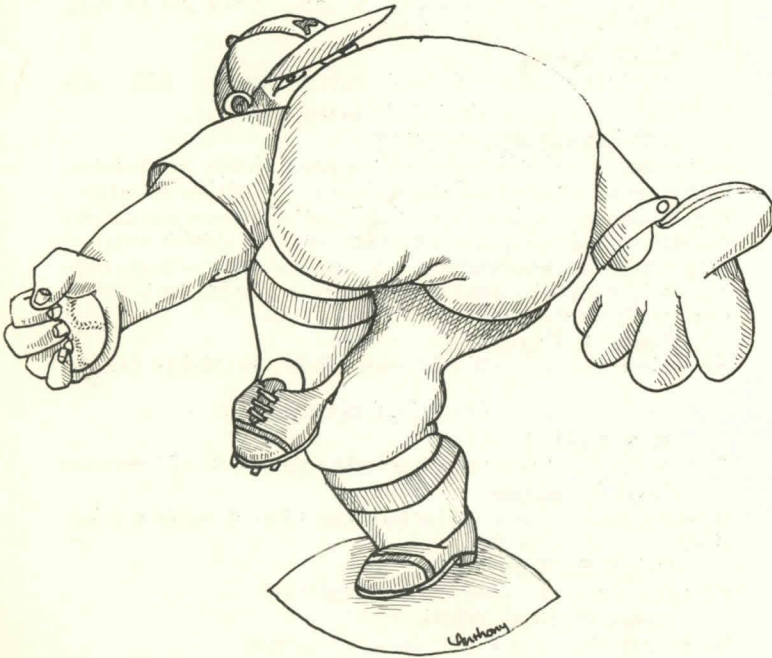
No response. (Office building manager; has served on Planning Commission)

Travis D. Yarbrough

1. Plans for improving downtown and attracting tourists; also mass transit and development of small businesses.

SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE

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Who's Got The Pitch?

The upcoming World Series may well stir many Memphians more than the imminent municipal elections. If voting statistics of the past are an indication, however, residents of the Vollintine/Evergreen community will once again exercise their voting privilege in record numbers. And for good reasons. Among the candidates for the Board of Education and County Court this year, some of the best qualified live in our community.

Among the candidates for City Council for whom Vollintine/Evergreen residents can vote, we unfortunately cannot boast a neighbor, but we hope that, in regard to these very important positions too, the questionnaires which they have answered below, will aid us in making our choice.

The candidates for City Council for whom Vollintine/Evergreen community residents can vote were asked the following questions:

1. Do you have specific plans for preserving the vitality of inner-city areas?
2. What will you do to support the Board of Education in maintaining and improving the quality of mid-town schools?
3. What channels of communication will you provide to listen to neighborhood associations and underrepresented groups like the elderly, the poor, and the black?
4. What can you do to prevent categories of zoning that would have adverse effects on mid-town residential areas?
5. What will you do to increase minority employment in responsible city positions?

THE BURROW LIBRARY
Southwestern at Memphis
Memphis, Tennessee 38112

YARBROUGH continued

2. Raise per-capita expenditures and encourage kindergartens and vocational training. 3. Advocates regular district meetings with local groups. 4. Creation of special group to give consideration to preservation of mid-town residential areas. 5. Eliminate discrimination in hiring and employ best person. (Bread company route-man)

AT -LARGE POSITION 2

Chapman Bain

No response. (Real estate agent; campaigned for Ingram in 1963)

Curtis Byrd

No response. (Real estate agent; minister of Mt. Sinai Methodist Church)

John Joseph Campbell

1. Supports revitalization. 2. Will support School Board. 3. Willing to listen to anyone. 4. Will support zoning that will maintain quality of mid-town. 5. Support re-evaluation of present job holders and this should result in the hiring of minority group members. (Mid-town lounge owner - also lives in mid-town)

Clayton P. Elam

1. No specific plans but wants to discuss issues with mid-town residents. 2. Proposes better salaries to attract higher quality teachers. 3. Plans mid-town office for communication with district residents. 4. Communication with residents on zoning problems. 5. Qualifications should be the only basis for employment. (Insurance executive; has run for office numerous times)

Tom Todd No response. (Incumbent councilman)

AT-LARGE POSITION 3

Thomas B. Avery

1. Efforts to prevent block-busting and other social problems. 2. Supports better working conditions for teachers. 3. Will be accessible for listening to neighborhood groups. 4. Will oppose detrimental zoning. 5. Will eliminate discrimination. (Former state senator)

James M. "Mickey" Keep

1. Improvement of downtown and transit systems; resident involvement. 2. Will support schools. 3. Accessible for consultation. 4. Can vote to oppose adverse zoning. 5. Will influence mayor in his appointments. (Truck line employee)

Betty C. Lawo

1. Encourage neighborhoods to improve; will make Council resources available. 2. Each school should be best possible. 3. Plans regular meetings; this is a main area of concern. 4. Encourage voter to take part in zoning discussion. 5. Qualifications should be only criteria. (Wife of retired police inspector; ran last time for Council; lives near VECAA area)

Philip A. Perel

1. Will emphasize zoning as deterrent to deterioration. 2. Will encourage intelligent appropriation of funds by Council. 3. Will be available for consultation with any group. 4. --same as answer to number 1 question-- 5. Urge all departments to be fair. (Vice-president of Perel and Lowenstein's; former president of Downtown Association; incumbent councilman)

AT-LARGE POSITION 4

Jim Lockard

No response. (Law clerk and law student)

AT-LARGE POSITION 4 continued

Robert H. (Bob) Love

No response. (Attorney; reserve police chief)

Charles Monger Withdrawn from race.

Ron Scharff

1. Will encourage physical improvements as well as communication and pride. 2. Promote decisions of School Board. 3. Take the Council to the people; utilize neighborhood leaders. 4. Zoning system should be improved and spot zoning eliminated. 5. Best man should be hired for the job. (Sales manager for land development firm; Naval Air Reserve commander)

Frank White

No response. (Former state representative and state senator)

AT-LARGE POSITION 5

A.D. (Andy) Alissandratos

1. Support residential zoning; improve street conditions. 2. Will cooperate with School Board. 3. Full-time attention to Council and will regularly attend area meetings. 4. Will oppose any zoning that will be detrimental to city's older neighborhoods. 5. As a minority group member, will support equal opportunity. (Owner of Canada Dry bottling company)

Drew J. Canale

No response. (Member of well-known Memphis family)

AT-LARGE POSITION 6

Jack McNeil

No response. (Attorney; served as state representative)

Cecil K. Miller

No response. (Retired fire captain; has run for office before)

Mrs. C. B. "Cob" Smith, Jr.

No response. (Former county constable)

James H. (Jim) White

No response. (Attorney; former reporter)

In forming a basis for an evaluation of these candidates, it seems that V/E neighborhood voters should look for evidence that a candidate is sensitive to the needs of an integrating mid-town community. Many candidates appear to have neighborhood-oriented platforms, but several of these have originated in reaction to integration or threats of integration, and such a candidate might polarize the Council. It would seem that happiness in V/E means a non-polarized Council, and we should look for evidence not only of a candidate's interest in promoting business but also of his concern for environment, taxes, services, and a spirit of cooperation.

Board Of Education

The candidates for the Board of Education for whom Vollentine/Evergreen community residents can vote were asked the following questions:

1. Vollentine School is at least 75% black while the neighborhood is probably 75% white. This imbalance is a major factor in "white flight". What would you do to help solve this problem?
2. Snowden School is crowded this year with over 35 in some classes. How could you help here?

RE-ELECT

MRS. LAWRENCE COE

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 5

EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP

Political Advertisement-----Dr. Laurence Fitzgerald

A VOTE FOR

GEORGE H. BROWN, JR.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
DISTRICT 7

IS A VOTE FOR YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Committee for the Election of George H. Brown, Jr.

3. What is the most effective way to spend the Federal money the schools will be getting in the future?

Here is a summary of the answers:

DISTRICT 5

Mrs. Lawrence Coe

1. "Adoption of a policy to adjust school boundaries where possible to maintain integrated school situations." 2. "A state law requiring that no elementary school may have any class over 30 may be needed". 3. "Form advisory committees for all federal programs, such as ESAP and Title I have now, to better meet the real needs of students." (Only incumbent seeking re-election; Commercial Appeal endorses her as candidate with "dedication and high personal standards", "fully acquainted with the problems and potentials of city schools.")

Norman D. Bryant

1. "Not really a Board problem". 2. "Add mobile classrooms and more teachers, or possibly expand the physical facilities". 3. "Use funds for vocational training to enable students to secure jobs when released from school". (8 years' experience as Probation and Parole Officer; puts emphasis on vocational training because 89% of all law breakers are school dropouts.)

Mrs. James T. Robertson

1. "Neighborhood should encourage parents to support the school". 2. "A balance (equal number of students in each classroom) is difficult to maintain". 3. "To ensure quality education by working with your 'under-achieved' students". (Calls "quality education" the deciding factor, herself a "concerned parent", believes neighborhood schools are essential.)

DISTRICT 7

George H. Brown, Jr.

Says cannot answer questions succinctly in a few words. As a neighborhood resident and member of VECAA he is familiar with problems of our schools. (Former teacher; now attorney and director of Memphis and Shelby County Legal Services Association; adviser to Memphis Board of Education; endorsed by Commercial Appeal.)

C.B. Myers

No response. (Businessman; president of Hyde Park-Hollywood Civic League and prominently active in several other civic and political organizations; graduate of LeMoyné College with a degree in Romance languages.)

AT-LARGE POSITION 1

Ruby Gaither

1. "Send children to school of choice — redistrict neighborhood (Vollentine) — defy court decision". 2. "Add classrooms and good teachers" (at Snowden). 3. "Refuse federal money" -- don't pay the part of income tax that goes for Health, Education and Welfare. (Member several community advisory boards.)

Arnold Hurst

No response. (County teacher. Endorsed by AFL-CIO.)

Wm. S. Pollard, Jr.

No response. (Engineering and planning consultant. Endorsed by Commercial Appeal.)

Joe Scott

No response. (Restaurant manager; member Parkway Village Citizens Against Busing.)

AT-LARGE POSITION 1 continued

Barbara E. Sonnenburg

1. "Apply to courts for limits on minority transfers." 2. "Classes with over 30 should be divided". 3. "Spend Title I funds for reading in the lower grades and ESAP funds to make desegregated schools appealing to students". (Chairman Title I Advisory Committee to Board of Education, member of Community Action Agency board.)

Rev. Melvin Wade

No response. (Minister and school board employee, advocates more vocational and special education.)

Mrs. Milton (Marilyn) Wray

1. "Would redistrict Vollentine". 2. Add "more classrooms and teachers" at Snowden. 3. If permissible, use federal funds to reduce local school taxes. (Former city elementary teacher, opposes educational experimentation.)

AT-LARGE POSITION 2

Hunter Lane, Jr.

No response. (Mid-town resident, former city commissioner, attorney. Endorsed by Commercial Appeal and AFL-CIO.)

David L. Wieties

1. Would study Vollentine situation. 2. "Seek temporary facilities" for Snowden. 3. Apply Federal money to "smaller classes, better qualified teachers, and more instructional aids". (Supervisor, Greyhound lines; Frayser resident; member, Citizens Against Busing.)

For the Board of Education, we must consider that Memphis, though only the 17th largest metropolis in the country, has the 10th largest school system, and with its rash of annexations continuing, it will take every cent of the nearly \$90 million budget, in addition to administrative and legislative genius, to just maintain the educational standards our children enjoy now. Yet, as is demonstrated in the Vollentine/Evergreen community, where the concept of "the neighborhood school" falls flat, changes of some sort are urgent. To bring these about, we need Board members with proven intelligence, imagination, and a genuine interest in education.

"County Court"

Justice of the Peace, County Quarterly Court consists of a body of eleven members. The County Court, as it is normally called, functions like City Council, but for all of Shelby County, including city, giving twice as many funds to school systems, supervising appropriations for sheriff and fire departments, hospitals, and many other services.

The election in District 2 is a special one to replace James Long who resigned. There are four candidates to fill this vacancy:

Walter Lee Bailey, Jr.

Qualifications: Attorney; B.A., Political Science; LLB from Southern University; President of Shelby County Democratic Club; President of American Civil Liberties Union; Member of Memphis Human Relations Commission; past member of County Charter Commission, current member of City Planning Commission.

Platform: To make county government more responsive to people; to decentralize the Memphis hospital system, with annex in North Memphis, a move already under consideration by other members of the Court; to study need and feasibility of morning nutritional program in schools. (Mr. Bailey is a resident of our community;

FOR ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP

ELECT

BARBARA SONNENBURG

BOARD OF EDUCATION
POSITION 1 AT-LARGE

Political Advertisement---Mr. M.J. Williams

VOTE FOR

EXPERIENCE INTEGRITY VISION

WALTER LEE BAILEY, JR.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
COUNTY QUARTERLY COURT

Political Advertisement-Members, Southwestern Faculty

WALTER BAILEY continued
endorsed by Democratic organizations; experienced in
workings of county and city government.)

Harrel C. Moore

Qualifications: Realtor; former president of the Bluff
City Junior Chamber of Commerce; unsuccessful candi-
date for County Commission in 1970.

Platform: To hold the line on taxes; clean up Wolf River;
provide housing for the poor; other services. (Mr. Moore
is a last-minute entry; among the co-chairmen of his
campaign is Lt. George W. Lee, old-line Republican
black leader and head of Lincoln League; Mr. Moore
lives on North Belvedere.)

Louis P. (Louie) Ragghianti

Qualifications: Grocer; past state commander and current
member on Board of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who
awarded him the Cooper T. Holt Award for a successful
membership drive; has been associated with boy scouts;
a past president of the East Frayser Civic Club; suc-
cessful candidate for City Council in 1967.

Platform: To cooperate with other officials to stabilize
taxes; to consolidate some city and county departments;
according to the Commercial Appeal, in Frayser Mr.
Ragghianti has appealed to whites as one who is running
against two Negroes and a woman; he denies racial bias.
(Mr. Ragghianti has close ties with the Sheriff's office;
has a son and brother working for Sheriff Nixon, who has
endorsed him.)

Donna K. (Mrs. Ted) Thurmon

Qualifications: Legal secretary, wife of a fire depart-
ment captain; former executive secretary of County Beau-
tiful; corresponding secretary of the Shelby County
Democratic Women's Club; president of the Frayser Civic
Club; campaign worker for Mayor Henry Loeb in 1967, for
former Mayor William B. Ingram for the County Com-
mission in 1970; employed by County for five years.

Platform: To work for lower taxes and the development
of a green belt along the Wolf River; to expedite the
construction of the expressway along the northern edge
of the city. (Mrs. Thurmon spearheaded the program
which enabled the Carver Heights community to obtain
water, after 17 years of political tie-ups; she would like
to see Memphis Council of Civic Clubs become more ac-
tive; running against Sheriff Nixon's political machine.)

This seems to be the race to watch, for the qualifi-
cations, personalities, and priorities of the four candi-
dates offer the voter a true choice.

McLean Baptist Day Care Center accepts school-age
children from 3 - 5 p.m., weekly rates. 275-3460.

Wanted to buy, 3- or 4-bedroom home in VECOA-
midtown area. Call 684-6409.

Will buy used plumbers tools, carpenter tools, old
picture frames, wood and coal ranges, marble top
furniture, old dishes, old books. Nights, 398-1553.

Address correspondence to: John Bruhwiler, 883 Univer-
sity Street, Memphis, Tenn., 38107.



The next VECOA meeting will take place
Monday, October 18, 8 p.m., Fellowship
Hall, McLean Baptist Church. Topic will
be OPEN-SPACE SCHOOLS with a guest
panel of neighborhood school principals.

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Meet The Voters

by Rick Thomas

The six precincts, or parts thereof, that comprise
the Vollintine/Evergreen community range in political
outlook from what could be termed "moderately conser-
vative" to a persuasion that could be called outright
"liberal". On the basis of voting patterns during the
past ten years the area between Jackson Avenue and the
L&NRR (36-3) would have to be described as the most
conservative section of the neighborhood, with the pre-
cinct containing Southwestern (36-1) and the precinct
between Vollintine and Jackson (36-3) being a close
second and third. 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
fairly liberal voting habits are the Springdale area (52-1)
and the northwestern section of the community (40-2).

An apparent factor in voting patterns is the racial
make-up of the precincts involved. Not surprisingly,
those "solid" white precincts have the most conserva-
tive voting records, while what might be called "gray"
precincts generally support the more liberal candidate.
The ethnic origins of the neighborhood sometimes be-
comes a factor also, as in 1967 when council-aspirant
Philip Perel made a much stronger showing in the VECOA
area than in the city as a whole. Another interesting
phenomenon is the small part that party affiliation plays
in influencing votes. Since area voters are not regis-
tered by party, the only way of determining party affil-
iation is by looking at participation in the Democratic and
Republican primaries. If the record here is indicative of
actual affiliation, then the VECOA community is over-
whelmingly 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% participation
not being unusual. The proportion of registered voters
who actually vote seldom falls below 70%, although last
year's consolidation referendum was a notable exception
(25 - 30%). This nevertheless was a higher rate of par-
ticipation than the city as a whole. Again, racial com-
position affects voting habits, with the "gray" areas
turning out in slightly less force than the solid white
precincts.

In none of the above-mentioned instances was there
any political consensus. These voting patterns, if no-
thing else, underscore the divergent viewpoints charac-
terizing the Vollintine/Evergreen community and render
election predictions for our six precincts an exercise in
folly.

VECAA Hears Hopefuls

About 150 persons crowded into the chapel of McLean
Baptist Church September 20 to witness the largest VECOA
meeting yet. About 25 of those present were candidates
for political office in the October 7 elections and their
speeches constituted the program. The audience was
attentive and the program had plenty of zip, ramrodded
by chairman Margaret Dichtel and paced by timekeeper
Bruce Sells.

Candidates for mayor and the District 5 and 7 candi-
dates for Council and School Board were the invited
guests. In addition, other at-large Council and School
candidates were present and were introduced for brief
statements.

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