



CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL



The Villager



A Community Service Weekly Since 1973
4132 E. 12th Street Austin, Texas 78721

www.TheAustinVillager.com



TPA TEXAS PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION



This paper can be recycled



Vol. 46 No. 40

Phone: 512-476-0082

Email: vil3202@aol.com

April 12, 2019



RAPPIN' Tommy Wyatt

R.I.P Akwasi!!

Last Monday morning I received a call that knocked me off my feet. The caller said that my longtime friend and fellow publisher Akwasi Evans had been found deceased in his home. The caller was also a long-time friend of Akwasi and had gone over to see him because he had not returned several phone calls. And that is when he found Akwasi.

It was unbelievable, but I also had made several calls without a return call. But, that was not unusual for Akwasi as he would sometimes let his voice mail be filled to the limit and stop taking messages. I went over to assist Joe Washington with handling the situation.

Because of my long-time relationship with Akwasi, a number of our friends have been reaching out to me for answers. I have none at this time. However, his daughter is on the way to give us some direction with the situation. At press time we were told that she was scheduled to get here on Thursday.

Many of you have called looking for information about his final rites. You all loved and respected Akwasi as much as I did. He was a tireless warrior for East Austin, who would spare nothing in support of his friends or his beloved community.

As soon as we have any more information about his home going service, we will sound it from the roof top for all to hear.

I have been around the world with Akwasi in pursuit of more knowledge that would enable us to be better newspaper publishers. We were not partners, but very loyal associates that supported each other.

As soon as we have some information about the support needed to complete his home-going, we will let all of you know. In the meantime let us all keep his family in our prayers.

Akwasi Evans

Founder of NOKOA: The Observer Passes at 71

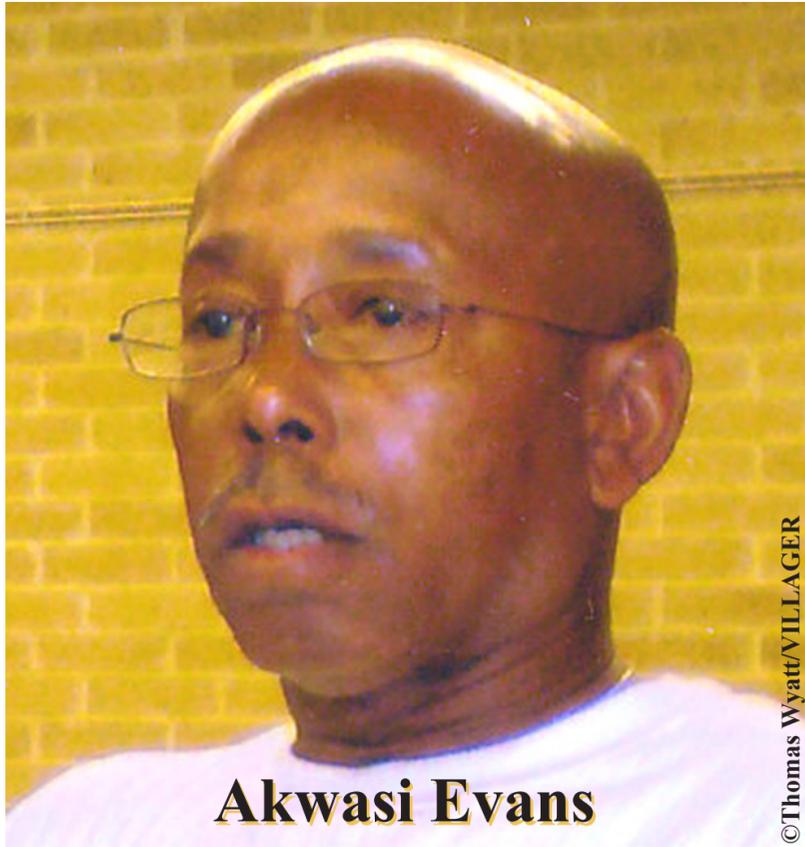
By Thomas Wyatt VILLAGER News

(AUSTIN, TX) – For the past 32 years, a weekly newspaper, NOKOA: The Observer, has graced the City of Austin's community with important, valuable, and relevant information, as well as, vital public service announcements regarding its citizens. The architect of this edifying publication was none other than Akwasi Evans, founder of the NOKOA since 1987.

Evans passed away last week at the age of 71. Evans led a meaningful life.

Known throughout the community as a fearless freedom fighter and a consciously willful spirit, Evans worked tirelessly representing East Austin's often neglected African-American community. And through selfless contributions, Evans was a crucial part in the progression of East Austin's social, financial, and political infrastructure.

Evans, a Kentucky native, moved to Austin



Akwasi Evans 1948 - 2019

© Thomas Wyatt/VILLAGER

and became involved in its political scene immediately by becoming a beat reporter for the Villager newspaper. After getting his feet wet and learning the lay of the land, Evans set out to found his own publication with a streamlined purpose to bring focus to archaic laws and the oppression of people of color.

Evans and T. L. Wyatt, founder of the Villager Newspaper, participated in the Million Man March held in Washington, D. C. on October 16, 1995. Soon after returning from the

D.C. expedition, Evans and Wyatt teamed-up again to form the Breakfast Club on Austin's radio station, KAZI 88.7 FM, every Friday morning at 8 am.

Evans, a longtime member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Texas Publishers Association (TPA), will always be remembered as an activist who defined 'Activism' as, "Do something, whatever it is, to address the issue that you feel is not being satisfactorily or correctly addressed." This belief was faithfully demon-

strated during the past decade of Evans' unrelenting crusade against the shameless and brutal gentrification of East Austin, an historically known and beloved African-American community.

It is with a heavy heart that the Villager, KAZI, our community, and justice seekers all around the world say goodbye to a true disciple for the betterment of mankind. (As of the print deadline of the week's publication, final arrangements were not available to pass along to the public.)

INSIDE



To see things from another perspective See KORVER Page 2



Venson picks-up award at AMA's, drops "JOY" album See VENSON Page 3



Marijuana proposal faces hurdle from Legislative committee. See COLE Page 6

THE BREAKFAST CLUB



T. L. Wyatt, Akwasi Evans and Damita Shanklin (7-21-17)



The University of Texas at Austin Division of Diversity and Community Engagement

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR STORIES

Cultural Place-keeping in the Age of Growth and Gentrification to be Discussed April 16

(AUSTIN, TX) - The Center for Community Engagement, part of the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin, invites community members to a Front Porch Gathering on Tuesday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Vesper Church located at 3106 E. 14 1/2 Street, Austin, 78702.

As Austin grows and portions of the city continue to experience mass gentrification and displacement, it is critical that we consider the cultural and social shifts that take place as a result. For much of the native Austin community, the cultural displacement and disconnection from important landmarks and neighborhoods, is just as painful and destructive as the residential displacement suffered at the hands of economic forces. With this phenomenon in mind, the Center for Community Engagement invites community members to explore dis-

ruptive interventions and practices that may help serve to document history and heritage, preserve cultural legacy, and sustain connection to place, space and racial identity.

Whether through art, community gatherings, food, historic archiving, writing, or landmark preservation, we invite you to invent, inspire and interrogate the practices, policies and intentional precautions that the city should adopt in pursuit of authentic and meaningful cultural place-keeping.

Please note there is limited parking in the Vesper lot, but free street parking is available on adjacent streets and there is free and available parking in the Space 12 lot a few blocks away. The event is free and open to the public. A light dinner will be served. For more information, please call 512-232-8586.

