The grand dame of the Greenbelt News Review turned 80 this month. Elaine Skolnik has spent nearly 50 of her 80 years at the helm of the News Review. The News Review, she explains, is a metaphor for her life, the cause of many joyful moments as well as occasional sorrow.

Her journey began shortly after she arrived in Greenbelt in 1952 with her husband Al and her two daughters, 4-year-old Barbara and 1-year-old Rita. Their son Richard was born in 1957. Elaine describes Greenbelt as love at first sight. “Oh, those tall pines and oaks, the lake, the large green areas on which the playgrounds beckoned to the children, the co-operative baby sitting club, the co-op nursery school and kindergarten. It was such a sweet life,” she remembers fondly.

Al’s dream of being a journalist became a reality when he joined the News Review staff. Of her own skills, Elaine modestly proclaims, “I had no talent for typing” although she took over the “Our Neighbors” column in 1954. She saw her role as supporting Al’s key interest in Greenbelt House, Inc. (GHI) board meetings and his fascination with city budgets.

During the 1950s the News Review suffered its own budget cuts and the paper depended then, as now on advertising. Delivered free to every home in Greenbelt, the newspaper staff struggled financially from week to week to print the news. Elaine chaired the “Coffee Pot” fund drives held over the years. It was her first taste of civic activism and her first foray in fighting for a cause she held dear.

Her first big development story occurred when the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCP) turned down the $17,500 judgment awarded to the developer by a Prince George’s County jury in January, 1968, for a local real estate developer. The suit charged that the paper had defamed the developer by publishing his name in a story. The developer, attorney who represented them in the libel suit, described Al as a person who “responded with courage, vigor, perseverance and a healthy outrage. It is because of men like him that our freedoms remain inviolate.”

Elaine assumed the presidency of the News Review.

She married her second husband, Victor Nicholson in 1985 and soon after immersed herself in Vic’s dreams concerning the future of cable TV.

Elaine Skolnik Nicholson is still engaged in her journey. “You pick your niche” in life, she affirms. Surely, the citizens of Greenbelt have benefited from the niche this grand lady has carved.

The News Review Staff celebrated News Editor Elaine Skolnik’s 80th birthday on Friday, June 10 at the Greenbelt Marriott. Richard Skolnik, Elaine and Jeannette Zubkoff are seated at the head table.

The Greenbelt News Review held an open house on Greenbelt Day to entice new volunteers to join. Many Greenbelters dropped in to see the workings of the paper and to eat cookies baked by Solange Hess. Pictured from left to right are staffers Katie Jara, Solange Hess, Carol Griffith, Eileen Farnham (hidden), Sue Krofchik, Barbara Likowski, Marat Moore and Stacy L. Hardy.

The selection, a few new stories and word processing was done by 4 staff members Sandra Lina, Carol Griffith, Robin Everly, Eve Gresser, Pat Davis, Larry Hunt.抗菌素。The late Roger Clark, the attorney who represented them in the libel suit, described Al as a person who “responded with courage, vigor, perseverance and a healthy outrage. It is because of men like him that our freedoms remain inviolate.”

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June 16, 2005

The victory was sweet, coming after four agitating years. Elaine recalls that “Al dream[ed] that when he retired he would devote himself full time on his beloved newspaper.” But such was not to be. Al suffered a fatal heart attack on his way home from work in March 1977. He was 56 years old. The late Roger Clark, the attorney who represented them in the libel suit, described Al as a person who “responded with courage, vigor, perseverance and a healthy outrage. It is because of men like him that our freedoms remain inviolate.”

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I hope to read equally inspiring future issues of the News Review. I was inspired by the article entitled “The Buzz of Conversation” by Anne Sucher and peace activist John Drown Out Muzak. I found it fascinating how the author was able to convey the importance of public space and the role of music in shaping community. The article vividly describes how music can unite people and how it can be a tool for social change. I was impressed by the author’s ability to evoke emotions and make readers think about the impact of music on our daily lives.

Greenbelt and Prince George’s County should be proud of a mayor’s efforts to make Greenbelt a livable, walkable community. The mayor’s plan to demolish the Springhill Lake apartments is a costly and unnecessary effort. The Springhill Lake apartments were built with public funds and are owned by AIMCO, a for-profit real estate company. The mayor’s plan to demolish these apartments is an example of the kind of wasteful spending that helps to keep the cost of housing artificially high.

I recently attended a Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee meeting, and I was impressed by the passion and dedication of the members. They are working hard to make Greenbelt a better place to live. I applaud their efforts and look forward to seeing the results.

Well Done! Congratulations and a hearty well-done to the staff of the News Review! I have been a subscriber for over 20 years and have always found the paper to be informative and well-written. I have recommended your publication to many of my friends and family members, and I believe that your work is a valuable contribution to the community.

Neighborhood Shoppers

Drown Out Muzak

I was in the Co-op the other day. I was there to attend the school’s annual fall fair, but I also had the opportunity to browse the store. I was impressed by the variety of products available, and I found it refreshing to see a store that was not only focused on profit but also on community.

Greenbelt is Great!

On October 14 I joined many other Greenbelters in watching the celebrating unveiling of the 1994 documentary “The Town” in the University of Maryland’s Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. At that point during the introductory comments, every Greenbeltener was asked to stand up. I stood up along with a few neighbours and a fellow who was over 3,000 miles away. Afterward, many of us met again in the Greenbelt Community Center for a panel discussion. It was a great celebration of the early years, so child- and safety-oriented was Greenbelt’s planned network of inner walkways and underpasses.

Well done! The moderators opened the floor for questions and comments, I made these remarks: Hi! I’ve been in Springhill for 50 years, in the beginning our young families fully benefited from the services and facilities it offered. And then, many years later, something very interesting happened. By that time I had become a member of the Senior Citizen Advisory Board. And who did I meet? People just staying in Greenbelt. And where originally Greenbelt was a glowing example of the services and facilities it offered its young families, right now it is, in addition, a glowing example of the services and facilities it offers its senior citizens. And again it is unique: which other city has a senior center? We have one. We believe that it is important to provide a variety of services and facilities to accommodate the Graying of America. Thanks to all your efforts it still is true: GREENBELT IS GREAT!

Leonie Penny – October 25, 2007

Old News

Thanks to the News Review for publishing my article about Greenbelt Nursery School’s kindergarten night. Unfortunately, the article was published without mention of the 2001 kindergarten Night, not the more recent 2002 kindergarten Night. While the article is still generally accurate, I would like to mention that Greenbelt Elementary and St. Hugh’s Schools both represent two of the 2002 kindergarten Night. These are two programs that I would like to bring to the attention of our readers, who can provide more information.

Amy Hansen – February 6, 2003

News Stories Should Not Include Opinion

The Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists (www.sjp.org) states that “Journalists should distinguish between advocacy and news reporting.” Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresented fact or context. Even though they are volunteers, the News Review should provide appropriate oversight and exercise adequate oversight to ensure that its employees follow the code of ethics established by and for professional journalists whom they emulate.

Robert Firevid

Editor’s Note: Robert Firevid’s first paragraph cites what our reporters strive for – hard news and facts, no opinions – but the two examples he gives seem to us not to rise to the level of angst he displays.

– January 5, 2006

Legitimate Criticism

I find it sad, but typical, that the News Review answers a new-comer’s legitimate criticism (Rob Firevid’s letter, Jan. 5) with snide remarks.

Don Comis

Editor’s Note: We can always use more help.

– January 12, 2006

Omission

The editors of the News Review deleted several lines from my letter last week concerning the visit of the Queen of England. Perhaps they considered them too controversial but they should remember that Greenbelters have always enjoyed controversy and are not afraid of a controversy starting with the first paper in 1937 known as the Cooperator, that encouraged citizens to express personal opinions. Also, I did not personally see any county police cars though they may have been kept behind.

Margaret D. Zarin

Editor’s Note: Sometime letters are edited for brevity or civility.

– May 17, 2007

Greenbelt is a unique city: which other city has is unique: which other city has

letters to the editor?
Greenbelt and Washington, D.C.

By Mary Moien

Greenbelt Virginia Beauchamp is a “shero,” according to Assemblywoman Mary Beth Mandel, chair of the Women Legislators of Maryland. As the first woman in Maryland’s General Assembly, Beauchamp was one of six women inducted into the Cooperator, Women’s Hall of Fame in Annapolis on March 26. Beauchamp was honored for being an educator, journalist and community activist who has made significant contributions to the legislative and to women’s literature and history.

Assemblywoman Ehrlich, Jr and Lieutenant Governor Michael S. Steele both made an appearance. While waiting for their arrival, speakers had been describing the need for a new and vibrant Cooperator Women’s Hall of Fame.

Drs. Bob and Barbara Zugby have been leaders in the community. Many of those early women, he used to say. He always made himself indispensable. Just look under the topic on the Cooperator staff of those in whom he had the responsibility to write technical staff reports on "professionalism" and "pride" in his work.

It has been my gig for many years – so many I can’t remember when it all began. I’m talking about the News Review story announcing the annual selection of Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen. Sometimes I’ve known that person; sometimes he or she has been a complete stranger, traveling in different circles from those in which I move.

The case this year is a little different. Not only have I previously known the winner but I have worked with her for 36 years, right here – week in and week out – at the editing desk of this paper. So it was a true pleasure to hear her name called out by committee chair Bob Zugby – The Outstanding Citizen for 2007: Barbara Likowski.

Since 1966, when she and her husband, the late Julius Likowski, came to Greenbelt, she has lived in the same GHU house on Hillside Road, where she raised two children, Alex and Betsy.

During most of the years since then, until her retirement, she worked as a substitute teacher in Greenbelt Elementary School and taught the prototype after-school program there under a grant from the Casey Foundation for children at risk.

Much of her volunteer work has also been devoted to children’s needs. She taught Sunday School classes at her church and led a local Brownie troop. She was a member of the PTA in the schools her children attended and a Girl Scout volunteer. In another context she was a charter member of both the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club and Citizens for Greenbelt.

But in 1971 she joined those of us already working as staff members on this paper and soon made herself indispensable. Sometimes in the 1980s she became the paper’s assistant editor, a position she has held ever since.

The accuracy of her proof-reading eye is remarkable and her care with every detail of the paper’s obituary articles is noteworthy. And on Tuesday nights, when the paper is put to bed – however late that may be – Barbara Likowski is one of the very last to close the door.

Congratulations to the Greenbelt News Review for 70 years of excellent news coverage and service to the Greenbelt community.

Judith “J” Davis

The families of Paul and Frank of Remenick’s Improvements wish

The News Review a Happy Birthday on their 70th and many, many more!

Paul Remenick
Frank Gomez

Barbara Likowski holds one of the many citations that she received following the announcement of her 2007 Outstanding Citizen award. At right is Outstanding Committee Chairperson Bob Zugby.

Virginia Beauchamp Inducted Into Md. Women’s Hall of Fame

by Virginia Beauchamp

In the 1950s Izzy Parker’s full-time job was working as a draftsman in the Naval Hydrographic Office. He commuted to Washington for his federal government job during the day, volunteered for the community newspaper at night and raised a family.

Then an extraordinary thing happened to Izzy Parker. He was accused of being friendly with communists and was suspended from his Navy Department job along with four other Jewish employees of the Naval Hydrographic Office, all of whom lived in Greenbelt.

Parker suffered quietly. The Navy would not divulge the names of his accusers. He would get a hearing, but he would never know exactly what the charges were against him or who had made them.

During this same period of time, some very conserva-
tive people in Greenbelt were opposed to the formation of a housing cooperative. They thought that people who joined cooperatives were communists. Some people called Greenbelt “Commiebelt.”

Parker suspects that his po-
sition on the Cooperator staff also got him in trouble. When he wrote an editorial stating that it was not in the coopera-
tive spirit for the Ladies Aux-
iliary of the American Legion to refuse to loan their bingo equipment to the Jewish Comm-
unity, he earned the ire of the American Legion. He received several threatening letters and he stopped writing against printing the editorial.

Guilt by association instilled in him many Greenbelt citi-
zens. Some people told Parker that they did not want to put their jobs at risk, so they would no longer associate with him. Others, however, came to his aid and attested to his loy-
alty when he finally received a hearing 11 months after being suspended.

Parker was exonerated. But he had to work during the 11 months without pay. He sold shoes and did other odd jobs during the holidays, weekends and other free weekends. Once cleared by the Navy, he was entitled to back pay, minus any-thing he had earned during his suspension. Thus, his back pay amounted to about $42, which he says didn’t make a dent in his lawyer’s fees.

Sandra A. Lange, May 4, 2003

Parker also commented about how he was surrounded by “strong women” in both his personal and professional life. He then stated that he thought the Hall of Fame should be in the State House where it could be part of the walking tour of Annapolis.

The lieutenant governor then laughingly said that he has dis-
covered that he is the chair of the State House trust and will do his part to see the Hall of Fame move to that location. Mrs. Ehrlich briefly spoke and indicated that she hopes to take part in the History of Women in Maryland project.

During Mandel’s presentation she recounted how women are seldom called to center stage. They are often working behind the scenes. She referred to the six women that were honored.

She pointed proudly to the number of women in the Maryland Leg-
islature: 62 in this session. That represents one-third of the gen-
eral assembly. Maryland ranks third in the country in number of women elected to the general assemblies.

Beauchamp Award

William E. Kirwan, University of Maryland Systems Chancellor, presented Beauchamp’s award. He recalled working with her in 1985, when he was the president, University of Maryland College Park. Beauchamp “dedicated her career to elevating the status of women,” Kirwan stated, adding that she was the quintessential example of how a genuinely kind person can

 finish first. He recounted that she is a “pioneer in the scholarship of women,” also who also fought for greater salary equity for women at the university as well as an in-
crease in the presence of women in senior positions.

May 3, 2003

Isadore “Izzy” Parker Dies

by Virginia Beauchamp

Greenbelt’s Old Curmudgeon Cartoonist “Izzy” Parker died Monday, October 11, 2004, at the age of 84, following several years of failing health.

Izzy’s association with this pa-
paper began when it was still called The Cooperator. He also served as editor from June to December 1949.

Even then he was providing cartoons to illustrate and enliven everyday life in this planned community. He started with his earli-
est cartoons, he was pleased to note, are in circulation today. During the early years they are ubiqui-
tous. Just look under the topic of “carpools.”

Izzy returned to Greenbelt, joining the News Review again as our official cartoonist in 1997. Since then he has been lampoon-

ing local events in Greenbelt as well as national issues that both-
hered.

Izzy loved to join the staff in

Greenbelt's Old Curmudgeon Cartoonist “Izzy” Parker Dies

Isadore “Izzy” Parker

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Sandra A. Lange, May 4, 2003
A Debt of Gratitude

Many people volunteer their skills each week to put out this community newspaper. Very few are indispensable. But one whose work had indeed become indispensable to us will no longer be filling that position—Neil McLeod. Not only was he indispensable, he was mostly invisible, needing to do his work when no one would be using the computers. Thus, for a long time, only a few on our staff knew him or realized the significance of his contributions.

The Greenbelt News Review has benefited over the last three years from McLeod’s work to keep us online and in business on our networked computers. Working long hours on short notice, often at night, he performed like the cobbler’s elves to produce working equipment from chaos.

We have lost a most valuable player.

— July 6, 2006

Marat Moore, Coal Miner to Author
To Civic Activist, Finds Home Here
by Sandra A. Lange

It is hard to imagine blonde, blue-eyed Marat Moore as a tough, grumpy-faced female plunging into a mine shaft to work. Why would this petite Greenbelt woman choose to spend a year working in the mines of West Virginia?

It all began in 1976 when Moore (her given name is Jean but a recurring dream influenced her to change her name to Marat) was a 22-year-old co-ed. She finished college at Duke University the following year.

When word reached the city of the Scotia mining disaster in Letcher County, Ky., none of the typical inquiries of the typical Tuesday night and no one talked much to the new person or showed anything to do so she wandered out again. It was six months before she returned. A call had gone out urging anyone with an interest in community service to come to the News Review and the woman was spurred to come back. The people were again frenzied and desperate for help—another typical Tuesday night. This time, however, the editor taught her how to count letters for headlines and Marat Moore (formerly Smith) carved her niche in the News Review. For the next nine years she taught everyone who came down to work on the paper how to count letters for headlines.

A little over a year later Mary became assistant editor. “Every-one else was having babies,” she said. By this time also she was doing the make-up on Wednesday nights and often went down to the print shop on Thursday mornings to read the page proofs.

In 1967 Mary became editor. It was a position she did not welcome but one she held for five and a half years, until the fall of 1972, when she again assumed the smaller responsibilities of assistant editor.

“Greenbelt was the best place to raise children . . . and the News Review was the best thing for the town,” Mary observed. “I got to know how the town worked . . . I lived in Greenbelt for 16 years . . . it was tough to leave.”

— September 6, 1973

Celebrating the News Review’s 60th anniversary are past and present editors. From left, back row—Dorothy Sacher, Harry Zulkooff, Russ Greenbaum, Barbara Likosovski (assoc. editor), Izzy Parker and Ellie Ritchie. Front row—Elaine Sholnik (president emeritus and news editor), Virginia Beauchamp, Mary Lou Williamson (current editor) and Mary Granofsky.

Farewell to Mary Granofsky
by Sandra A. Lange

Marat Moore

Some 10 years ago a woman wandered down a short flight of stairs to the basement headquarters of the Greenbelt News Review. Timidly she approached the editor. She didn’t like to write and she couldn’t type—but she could spell. Did the News Review have any need of such a person? As often happens, the editor and his assistants were busy handling one crisis involving city council and another involving GHI and another involving controversial letters-to-the-editor. It was a typical Tuesday night and no one talked much to the new person or showed anything to do so she wandered out again. It was six months before she returned.

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— September 6, 1973

Memorandum

Date: November 29, 2007
Subject: Commitment

Memo To: The Greenbelt News Review Staff and Volunteers

Thank you for your 70 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Greenbelt.

Congratulations:

Ed Putens
P.S. Do it again!

Greenbelt Community Church, UCC

Future Interests

Moore loves being in Greenbelt. She and Steve bought a GHI house on Hillside Road in 2001. She had intended to move back to her rural roots in Appalachia near mine walls.

It all began in 1976 when Moore (her given name is Jean but a recurring dream influenced her to change her name to Marat) was a 22-year-old co-ed. She finished college at Duke University the following year. She shoveled coal near the underground conveyor belt, built concrete block walls in the mine tunnels and hung ventilation cur-tains near mine walls.

Ferns embedded into the slate near mine walls.

Shoveling coal near the underground conveyor belt.

Living in Greenbelt is like walking into the United States Steel mill.

Moore finished college at Duke University the following year. She shoveled coal near the underground conveyor belt, built concrete block walls in the mine tunnels and hung ventilation curtains near mine walls.

Following her stint in the mines, Moore began to research the history of women coal miners in the United States and in other countries, and interviewed undocumented U.S. workers who had worked underground as early as the 1920s. Then she went to work for the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) in Washington, D.C., as a writer and photographer, developing investigative articles on mine safety and championing the rights of female miners. Moore met her future husband, Steve, at a UMWA benefit at the Kennedy Center when they joined hands.
Periodical Cicadas in Greenbelt; Ready or Not, Here They Come!

In mid-May, cicadas will emerge in Maryland and other parts of the Northeast. In Greenbelt we can expect a spectacular show by these rare and fascinating, albeit noisy, creatures, particularly in Old Greenbelt, with its many large trees and minimal recent development that would have dug up or paved over the cicadas’ underground burrows.

Love ‘em or hate ‘em, the periodical cicadas will emerge. So put screens in the windows, protect your young trees and then run and prepare to be dazzled by their strange appearance, varied songs and sheer abundance.

The brown, wingless cicada nymphs have been underground since 1987 and have been feeding on sap from tree roots. During this, the 17th year, they have burrowed to within inches of the surface and are just waiting for warmer weather. Over the course of three to five days in mid-May, the cicada nymphs will emerge from their burrows at night and climb a nearby tree, house or other vertical structure. They latch on to the structure with their legs and begin to molt and adults emerge from the shiny brown shell. The adult cicadas require a few days for their new exoskeleton to harden before they are ready to begin their mating ritual.

– April 22, 2004

Three-alarm Greenbriar Fire Claims a Life, Injures Nine

The three-alarm fire, which occurred Friday, November 21 in a Greenbriar condominium apartment building at 7806 Hanover Parkway, resulted in the death of Mary Alice Carroll, 61, of the same address, according to MPO George Mathews of the Greenbelt Police Department. The Washington Post reported that nine people, including five firefighters, suffered injuries including burns and smoke inhalation.

A three-alarm fire relays to fire departments that every possible resource is needed. Nearly 100 firefighters were on the scene during the night.

Mayor Judith Davis said the dense smoke and flames went through the walls, spreading so rapidly that the stairwells were completely filled with smoke. Many people trapped inside the building went out onto their balconies to seek help. Because the interior floors of the 7806 building were collapsing, firemen had to exit and work from the outside.

At one point some firemen were returning to their trucks, believing that the fire had been contained. But when flames burst through the roof of the building, horns from other trucks were sounded, signaling that the fire was out of control. Three other buildings were evacuated – 7800, 7802 and 7804, Davis said. Firemen stood on the roofs of those buildings to wet them down and prevent a chain reaction. Those buildings were without power and water.

Almost all of the residents of 7800 and 7802 were allowed to return later when the utilities were restored. Building 7804 was also checked for structural damage. Residents were allowed to go in one by one to retrieve personal items.

The Greenbriar Community Building was set up as a headquarters. Four Red Cross volunteers were called to the scene at 11 p.m. for immediate disaster relief, according to Public Affairs Officer Courtney Prebich. They stayed until 5 a.m. providing lodging, food and clothing to nine families.

– November 27, 2003

The Queen of England Makes Stop in Greenbelt

The queen greets Goddard employees who gathered along the sidewalks between buildings during her tour.

– May 10, 2007

Editorial

It’s Your Paper, Celebrate It!

The News Review is holding an open house on Greenbelt Day weekend to reveal the secrets of how the nation’s longest-running cooperative newspaper has kept publishing every week for nearly 70 years without missing a deadline. Join us on Sunday, June 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. in our office in the Community Center. See how the paper is put together and learn how you can get involved if you’re interested.

– May 24, 2007

Congratulations on 70 years of serving your community from Chef Lou and Denise Parker of Reality 1

Happy 70th Anniversary to the Greenbelt News Review from the members of St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church and School.

Happy 70th

Happy 70th Anniversary to the Greenbelt News Review from the members of St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church and School.

CONGRATULATIONS to the staff of the Greenbelt News Review. Thank you for all your hard work.

Jeannie Smith, GRI, American Realty, Inc.
301-442-9019

I. J. PARKER ©2004

SUNOCO

Greenbelt Service Center

Happy 70th

161 Centerway
Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-8348

The Old Curmudgeon

“There’s a cicada in my soup . . . my dessert . . . my hair . . . my pants . . .”

– April 22, 2004

The Old Curmudgeon

A lone fire fighter stands on the front steps of 7806 Hanover Parkway. The area of the fire can be seen in the apartments to the left of the entrance from the terrace level up to the roof, each of these four apartments were burned out in Friday’s fire at Greenbriar.

– November 27, 2003
Monday was definitely a dark and stormy night at the News Review office, where staff were preparing for the regular Tues- day editing of the paper. With a darkening sky threatening a big storm there was only a brief rain and nothing nearby of lightning or thunder but . . . down went the power, anyway, throwing the Community Center into near darkness, along with everything in the center and south end of town. Tantalizing but brief re-

sumptions of power had lights flickering on and off awhile, then the building was left with only the emergency exit and hall lights provided by a noisy emergency generator outside the News Re-

view windows. After an hour of darkness, staff trickled off into the night – some to darkness at home, others to the north end of town, which did not lose power during the storm or its aftermath. Early birds who returned Tuesday to attend to papers left stranded about in the dark found even more storm remnants to deal with – computers that would not work and a high-speed internet line that required expert attention. All day we limped through with dial-up that blocked anybody from reaching us by fax but till our computer guru Neil McLeod managed to get the DSL up and running. We were freshly reminded of how slow the internet was before we acquired DSL.

May 3, 2006

Greenbelt police officers along with the department’s dragoon rescue vehicle (armored person-

nel carrier) and evidence van were sent to Jefferson Parish in Louisiana to assist in the relief effort in the aftermath of hurri-

 cane Katrina. The rescue vehicle was carried on an 18-wheel tra-

ctor trailer provided by the Mary-

land Department of Transporta-

tion. The officers are expected to return home on Friday, Sept. 9. The Maryland Emergency Man-

agement Agency had requested the assistance.

Area Schools Aid Hurricane Victims

To assist in relief efforts, the county school system is spon-

sorring collection of financial donations to help victims of the disaster. All funds collected through September 30 will be presented to the American Red Cross.

– February 3, 2003

A Snow Emergency of a Happier Nature

Another story has come to our attention concerning January’s snowstorm. On Tuesday, Janu-
ary 21, Reverend Daniel Hamlin, pastor of Greenbelt Community Church received an emergency call from a lady in distress. “Do you perform weddings?” she asked.

“Yes,” he replied. “Can you do one today?” It seems her wedding plans had gone away with the storm. All the relatives were there, they had the cake and there were gifts with January 21 inscribed upon

them. But the courthouse was closed because of the storm and the couple could not get mar-

ried as planned.

While Hamlin normally will not do a ceremony on such short notice, he agreed to do this one. He walked from his home in Boxwood to the church, got out the lawn tractor and plowed out the sidewalks and access to the handicap lift for the wedding par-
ty, walked home, shed his jeans and got into better clothes, came back to church and performed the ceremony.

– March 6, 2003

Greenbelters Feel Local Earthquake

An earthquake that measured 4.5 on the Richter scale, with an epicenter 30 miles west of Richmond, moved the earth under Greenbelt. Randy Crenwelge, who lives in a frame GH town-

town on Laurel Hill Road, said he was talking on the phone “and the whole house started shaking.” He said it lasted just a few sec-

onds and was accompanied by “a low rumble.” He thought some-

one was working on a house next door, but then he turned on the news and heard about the quake.

City staff felt the tremor as a slight jiggler and noticed that items on shelves moved, accord-

ing to David Moran, assistant to the city manager. The News Re-

view staff, however, was unaware of the tremor, speculating that the old Community Center building is so solid that it doesn’t shake.

– December 11, 2003

Happy 70th Anniversary from

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Congratulations on your
70th Year!!!

College Park Farmers Market

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Happy 70th Birthday

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A SNOW EMERGENCY

Greenbelt News Review office, where staff were preparing for the regular Tuesday editing of the paper. With a darkening sky threatening a big storm there was only a brief rain and nothing nearby of lightning or thunder but . . . down went the power, anyway, throwing the Community Center into near darkness, along with everything in the center and south end of town. Tantalizing but brief re-

sumptions of power had lights flickering on and off awhile, then the building was left with only the emergency exit and hall lights provided by a noisy emergency generator outside the News Review windows. After an hour of darkness, staff trickled off into the night – some to darkness at home, others to the north end of town, which did not lose power during the storm or its aftermath. Early birds who returned Tuesday to attend to papers left stranded about in the dark found even more storm remnants to deal with – computers that would not work and a high-speed internet line that required expert attention. All day we limped through with dial-up that blocked anybody from reaching us by fax but till our computer guru Neil McLeod managed to get the DSL up and running. We were freshly reminded of how slow the internet was before we acquired DSL.

– February 3, 2003

Groups, Businesses, Individuals Add to Katrina Relief Efforts

Greenbelt takes Direct Action

Rena Hull of Lakeside Drive left Monday for New Orleans. A retired pediatric nurse, she had volunteered last Thursday and re-
cieved a call Sunday. She is working with a group from Mary-

land. The hospital they were first assigned to did not need them, so they were sent to another hospital. Hull reports the electricians there are busy restoring electricity to the building. The group will help set up clinics. Hull was Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen in 1999.

– September 8, 2005

An Eerie Silence; Neighbors Helping

by Virginia Beauchamp

There’s nothing like the eerie silence after a great snowstorm. All the ordinary noises are muted – sounds of traffic, chirps of birds, car doors slamming, people calling back and forth. Tucked away in my house, snug in its warmth, I was enjoying the spe-
cial silence of Monday’s blanket of snow. As far as I could see, everything was white; everything was quiet.

Having enjoyed the purity of that view from my window, I turned my attention instead to tasks inside the house, keep-
ing myself busy with mundane work at hand. But suddenly my thoughts were interrupted. I was hearing noises outside my front door, a kind of scraping sound. And naturally I looked out.

There, creating a path from the door outward toward the street, was a man shoveling vigorously. I hadn’t noticed him, nor had he noticed me. He was making his father’s death. Out of pure, neighborly spirit he was making it possible for me to reach out to the outside world.

– March 6, 2003

Thursday, November 29, 2007

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GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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The News Review Revue

by Virginia Beachamp

Creative Kids Day Camp Bakes Up a Musical Winner

So what’s my favorite scene in “The Cookie Caper,” the musical ending the two-week Creative Kids day camp program? Campers from 6 to 12 years old performed it twice on Friday, July 13 in the Greenbelt Arts Center, once in the morning and once in the afternoon, for admiring parents and friends.

The choice was inevitable. It had to be scene 4, when that bunch of older kids, sleuthing around the (imaginary) Community Center for the pulmonary cookies, entered the News Review office. A group of Editors and Informed Citizens had just been singing “The News Review Revue.”

“No review the News Review!” “The News Review?” Indeed we do! We all peruse the latest news! We’re thoroughly up to date.

“At times there’s an omission!” But we swear we never sin! It’s always our ambition. To put every story in! But for over 60 years! We’ve been run by volunteers. And our budget is so tight it’s like a splint! So we’ve adopted as our motto: ‘All the news that fits, We’ll print.’

Well, yes, that’s right on. Sometimes we have to hold on to stories even for weeks, if there’s not a pressing deadline. I also liked that line from Camper 7: ‘Reporters and editors are the ones who check sources and verify the facts.’ The kids had been discussing how outmoded we were, now that everyone uses blogs and text messaging. But with all the interventions, they say (and we agree), who can really trust those?

What are the other places the kids explore in their search for the cookies? They have to locate clues on slips of paper, each clue leading to a new place inside, and finally outside, the building. It’s really an old fashioned treasure hunt.

So they explore the ceramics studio, the nursery school, the art room, the museum exhibit room, the dark room (a really spooky place), the senior citizens’ classroom, the theater rehearsal room and then the stone panels on the building’s outer wall. And in each of these places we get a song and dance from a chorus of clammers.

Each set of campers represents different groups of folks who hang out in the building and each set has T-shirts of a uniform color – the potter’s in yellow, the nursery school kids in blue, the newspaper crowd in tangerine, the painters in purple and the arts center folks in green.

The play is an original show by Camp Coordinator, the talented Christopher Cherry, with pianist Stefan Brodd. Scott Kincaid handles the lights and surprises us all when he storms out on to the stage. There’s a surprise ending, but – shh – we have to keep the secret. I can only say that it’s in harmony with Greenbelt’s 1937 origin.

Casinos Are Coming to Greenbelt

Donald Trump’s Plans Applauded

by Camden Yard

City officials were stunned to learn of massive manipulations taking place in the halls of the Maryland State House that will bring slots to Greenbelt and major new development to the city and its environs. The rapidly put-together package will bring greenlight to the Maryland Office of Parks newest casino expected to be built in Maryland and the east coast, two new hotels with more possible, a tournament golf course around a 500-acre lake, and a heliport to fly in gamblers.

Because Greenbelt City will benefit from a huge increase in tax revenues resulting from the increased assessments on new construction and from its collection of the hotel-motel tax, city officials are rapidly joining the bandwagon of supporters that expect to see final approval reached in the legislature before its adjournment.

What has caused this rapid change of events is the entrance into the Maryland scene of famous land developer and casino owner Donald Trump. According to Senator Paul Pinsky, a convert to gambling in Maryland, Trump is considering Greenbelt to be the hottest real estate market on the east coast. What with plans to redevelop Springhill Lake and the oncoming Metroland development, land investors from all over the world are looking to get a piece of the action in Greenbelt, he said. “I understand la Donnie barely beat out a consortium of Asian princes.”

This paper has learned that for months, Trump had been working behind the scenes putting together a deal maker. He now has an agreement to purchase the old Greenbelt Federal Credit Union property located next to the Federal Courthouse on Ivy Lane. More than three football fields in length, the casino will be the largest on the east coast, with over 5,000 one-armed bandits.

What makes this development possible, according to Governor Herbert Ehrlich, is the agreement he pushed through the Bush administration to surplus 1,000 acres of adjacent Beltsville Agricultural Research Administration land currently not used for agricultural research purposes. The land will be sold to Trump at $1 an acre, as it is mostly swampland. Ehrlich says the state will contribute its recently acquired wetlands forest located between Springhill and Metroland to the Trump package. Trump envisions the adjacent swampland and floodplain to be drained by forming a scenic lake. Much of the reclaims land will be used for parking lots for casino users. As a concession to city council, concerns to keep Greenbelt green, Trump, at considerable added expense, will use green asphalt in the lots.

The 36-hole championship course will be located along the shores of the lake, to be named after Virginia Beauchamp. Mayor Judith Davis applauded the name choice saying that it will be nice to have something named after a president other than Roosevelt.

April 1, 2004
April Fool’s

70 Years!

Ben Barnes, State Delegate

Congratulations Greenbelt

The News Review on

70 Years!

Ben Barnes, State Delegate

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The News Review Revue

Do you review the News Review? The News Review? Indeed, we do! We’re thoroughly up to date.

Do you review the News Review? The News Review? Indeed, we do! We scan the page and rant and rage if stories are wrong or late.

At times there’s an omission! But we swear we never sin! It’s always our ambition. To put every story in! But for over sixty years! We’ve been run by volunteers. And our budget is so tight, it’s like a splint! So we’ve adopted as our motto: ‘All the News That Fits. Well Print!’

Do you review the News Review? The News Review? Indeed, we do! We all peruse the latest news. We’re thoroughly up to date.

Do you review the News Review? The News Review? Indeed, we do! Just look and see and you’ll agree. We all need the Fourth Estate!

So review the news, renew your views. And soon you’ll shout it, too! Here’s a banner teaser! We’re proud to read The Greenbelt News Review!

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70 YEARS!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Greenbelt News Review

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