



News Review Marks Its 75th Anniversary

by Sandra A. Lange

This week's edition of the Greenbelt News Review will begin the 76th year of continuous publication. Six weeks after the first families moved into Greenbelt in 1937, several people got together in the living room of one person's home to write and assemble a letter-size, 16-page mimeographed publication. They titled their publication the Greenbelt Cooperator. The first issue reached Greenbelt families on November 24, 1937.

History

The early pioneers recognized the need to keep people informed of local events and to provide a forum for the exchange of views. They laid down the principles that still guide the actions of the present News Review – a non-partisan, nonprofit cooperative endeavor, whose aims are to print the news accurately and fairly and to respect the Greenbelt "good neighbor" philosophy of life.

In January 1938, the federal government (which owned Greenbelt) made free space available at the town's commercial center and also loaned furniture, typewriters and office equipment. The paper moved its office five times before 1996 when it established a permanent home in the former kindergarten room of the Community Center.

Free Delivery

An important decision was to deliver the Cooperator free of charge, beginning in September 1939.

Today the paper is sustained through its advertising revenue. Over the years, the paper has been as small as two pages and as large as 28 pages. Most issues now are 12 pages. The paper rarely operates at a profit with most issues barely breaking even. At present, 9,200 free copies of the News Review are distributed weekly to homes and apartment complexes throughout Greenbelt and to Greenbelt office buildings

and shopping centers.

Early Printing

For over five decades the paper was printed by a small business, Allen Printing Company in Hyattsville. The Allens were like family to the staff who got to know four generations. At times, the Allens extended credit to the News Review, forever plagued with an inability to cover costs. The Allens ceased printing the paper in 1995 when computer technology made more economic sense.

Former editor Harry Zubkoff was responsible for changing the paper's name from the Cooperator to the News Review in 1954 to distinguish the paper from other cooperatives in the city.

Staff and Board

The paper is governed by a seven-member board elected each October. The board sets policy, writes and/or approves editorials. In the 1960s, the paper reported on a city council meeting where a citizen accused a developer – Charles Bresler – of trying to blackmail the city. Bresler sued the newspaper and its board president, Alfred M. Skolnik, for \$2 million. The News Review lost in two lower courts and appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where a unanimous Freedom of the Press verdict was rendered in favor of the News Review in 1970. Al died suddenly in March 1977. He was 56 years old.

After his death, his wife Elaine Skolnik assumed the presidency of the News Review. She stepped down in 1986 but has continued to be a pivotal member of the staff for over 58 years and news editor for the past 25 years. Elaine also organized fund drives for the News Review in 1959, 1960, 1966 (in connection with the libel suit) and in 1985.

Mary Lou Williamson has been editor for much of the past 50 years. She once told a Washington Post reporter that "In a way, a newspaper has as much influence as a city councilmember."



25th Anniversary News Review Staff

Front row from left: Bess Halperin, Harry Zubkoff, Al Skolnik, Virginia Beauchamp, Bernice Kastner. Second row: Rita Fisher, Thea Lovell, Elaine Skolnik, Dorothy Sucher, Dorothy White. Back row: Izzy Parker, Victor Fisher, Russell Greenbaum, Margaret Thompson, Mary Lou Williamson and Syd Kastner.

News Review Staff Years of Service

Over 50 Years – Virginia Beauchamp, Elaine Skolnik, Mary Lou Williamson

Over 40 Years – Sandra Lange, Barbara Likowski, Joanne Tucker

Over 30 Years – Elizabeth Jay, Diane Oberg, Bill Cornett, Jean Turkiewicz

Over 20 Years – Eileen Farnham, Judi Bordeaux, Mary Moien, Bernina Giese, James Giese

Over 10 Years – Judy Bell, Jessi Britton, Cynthia Cummings, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, Solange Hess, Barbara Hopkins, Suzanne Krofchik, Marat Moore, Altoria Ross, Helen Sydavar, Nancy Tolzman, Ian Tuckman, Dea Zugby

Over 5 Years – Rebecca Boggs, Agnes Conaty, Peter Curtis, Lynn Clinedinst, Paula Clinedinst, Elizabeth Eny, Joan Falcao, Eli Flam, Kathleen Gallagher, Marjorie Gray, Melanie Lynn Griffin, Carol Griffith, Pat Hand, Larry Hull, Sharon Kenworthy, Cathie Meetre, Emma Mendoza, Carol Ready, Thomas X. White, Renauta York

Less than 5 Years – Bernadette Gormally, Stacy Hardy, Jeannette Holman, Ginny Jones, Jim Link, Catherine Madigan, Lou Ann McCann, Kathleen McFarland, Janet Meetre, Heba Pennington, Shirl Phelps, Ann-Marie Saucier, Susan Stern, Jonathan Taylor, Linda Tokarz

Less than 1 Year – Arlene Clarke, Angie Evans, Sylvia Lewis, Cheryl Rudd

Editors –

1937 to Present

- Donald Cooper – 1939-May 1940; June 1942-February 1943
- Liman Schwartz – May-August 1940
- Dorothea Ford – August-November 1940
- Francis Fosnight – November 1940-June 1942
- Waldo Mott – June-November 1943
- Anne Hull – September 1944-July 1945; February-September 1947
- Eleanor Ritchie – July 1945-April 1946
- Ralph Miller – October 1946; December 1952-March 1953
- Edith Nicholas – October 1946-February 1947
- Sally Meredith – September 1947-October 1948; January-July 1950
- Edward Meredith – October 1948-June 1949
- Isadore J. Parker – June-December 1949; October 1955-September 1956
- Harry Zubkoff – July 1950-May 1952; October 1953-October 1954; March-September 1955
- Janice Solet – May-October 1952
- Bernard King – April-October 1953
- Russell Greenbaum – October 1954-January 1955; February 1960 – May 1962; January-June 1963
- Virginia Beauchamp – June-December 1962
- Dorothy Sucher – July 1963-February 1967 (off and on)
- No editor – September 1963-February 1964, Bernice Kastner – Associate Editor
- Mary Lou Williamson – July 1963-February 1967 (off and on)
- Mary Granofsky – March 1967-October 1972
- Mary Lou Williamson – November 1972-present

Contributors

Many staff members pitched in extra hours to work on putting together this special issue. Thanks to Angie Evans, Nancy Tolzman, James Giese, Carol Griffith, Sue Krofchik, Sandra Lange, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Carol Ready, Altoria Bell Ross, Helen Sydavar, Kathleen McFarland, Lou Ann McCann, Larry Hull, Solange Hess, Eileen Farnham and Mary Lou Williamson.



The 2012 News Review Annual Meeting – Front row, from left, Jean Turkiewicz, Renauta York, Mary Lou Williamson, Judy Bell, Barbara Likowski, Diane Oberg, Thomas X. White and Eileen Farnham. Row 2: Sandra Lange, Jonathan Taylor, James Giese, Solange Hess, Janet Meetre, Joan Falcao, Angie Evans and Virginia Beauchamp. Row 3: Marjorie Gray, Ginny Jones, Kathleen McFarland, Bernie McGee Giese, Marat Moore and Kathleen Gallagher. Back row: Lou Ann McCann, Cindy Cummings, Sue Krofchik, Larry Hull, Altoria Ross, Sylvia Lewis, Barbara Hopkins, Carol Griffith and Jim Link.

PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

1930-40s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s +

Established November 24, 1937, as the Greenbelt Cooperator • Goes from mimeographed, collated and stapled paper to photo-offset process, then back to letter press • Goes from 16-page letter-size to tabloid size • Delivered free to every home • Housed on the 2nd floor of the commercial center, then moved to 8 Parkway

1930-40s: In the Beginning . . .

The coverage of the paper from 1937 to 1949 documented the growth of the neophyte city under the watchful eye of Eleanor Roosevelt who wrote to its citizens and often visited. Other women took on pivotal roles during the development of Greenbelt. The City Council unanimously elected Betty Harrington as its first female mayor and Lenore Thomas' Mother and Child statue was erected in the Center. The Center also welcomed the grand opening of Greenbelt Consumer Services (now known as the Co-op) and the Co-op Gas Station. The Greenbelt Band also struck a note for a summer series. Schools, housing and a hospital were built. Due to war time, the Army took over Schrom's Airport and air raid wardens were authorized to enter homes in violation of blackouts. Victory Gardens were planted.

First Lady Makes Surprise Visit

Mrs. Roosevelt Will Address Rally Tomorrow Night in Auditorium

Star attraction at Greenbelt's first Defense Rally, Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is expected to draw Greenbelt's greatest turnout tomorrow night in the auditorium, in an event designed to raise \$1,000 for local defense requirements. Sponsors of the meeting are confident that this goal will be easily surpassed as Greenbelt's citizens respond to the appeal for funds to equip five first-aid stations and supply needed materials for the town's auxiliary police and firemen.

— February 20, 1942

GCS Plans Grand Opening Of Supermarket Tuesday Night

Greenbelt's new co-op supermarket will have its grand opening next Tuesday night, November 9, beginning at 6:30 with a dinner given by the Greenbelt Consumer Services board for the visiting guests, and going on from 8 to 10 with open house in the new building, complete with drawings for door prizes. Big catch of the evening will be a television set, which along with other prizes will be awarded to the holders of the lucky tickets given out at the door.

— November 4, 1948

City Council Unanimously Elects Mrs. Harrington 1st Woman Mayor

Betty Harrington was elected mayor of Greenbelt by unanimous vote of the city council Monday night, with the applause of a crowd of citizens attending the first meeting of the newly-elected group.

— October 6, 1949

Band Concerts to Start on July 14

The Greenbelt Community Band will begin a series of summer concerts on Wednesday, July 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the court between the food store and the theatre. These programs will be held semi-monthly in place of the concerts held in various parts of the town last year.

— July 2, 1943

Lenore Thomas Statue Dedication Will Be Held on November 12

— November 9, 1939

Air Raid Wardens May Force Entry

Air raid wardens have the authority to force entry into houses where lights are left burning during blackouts or test blackouts, it was revealed by Commander of Civilian Defense Corps George Panagoulis at the meeting of the wardens which was held at the local fire station Monday night.

— July 23, 1943

Army Is Taking Schrom's Airport

Complying with an order of the Army Air corps, the training school of Schrom's Airport will be moved inland before August 15, it was announced Monday by Pete Davidson, the airport's clearance officer.

— July 15, 1942

New Elementary School to Be Built In the North End

Scheduled to open in time for the 1942 fall term is the new Elementary School that is to be built with a portion of an appropriation of \$450,000 authorized by Federal Works Agency at the suggestion of Farm Security Administration. The balance of the appropriation will be used to enlarge the High School by six rooms and an auditorium.

— January 30, 1942

Mrs. Roosevelt On Latest Projects

Praises "Neighborly Spirit" and studies Co-op Store Project; Finds School Children Happily at Work; Seeks Information on Medical Plans

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt spent an interesting day in Greenbelt Thursday. She came unannounced and quickly went about the community with Dr. Will W. Alexander, administrator of the Farm Security Administration.

— December 15, 1937

Council Sets Up Hospital Fund

The first definite steps toward the realization of a Municipal hospital for Greenbelt were taken by the Town Council at its final meeting of the year last Friday, when it adopted unanimously a resolution which authorized the town treasurer to set up a special Hospital Fund, and which set aside for this fund the \$2,000 remaining unspent from the town's 1938 funds.

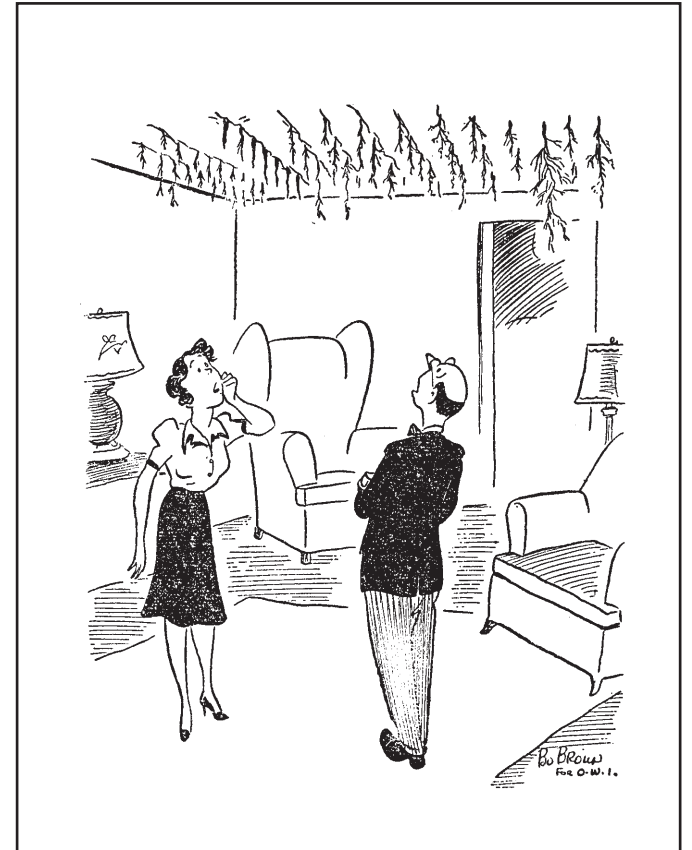
— January 5, 1939

New Grocery Store to Open Here Soon

Co-op Gas Station Starts Operations

— November 24, 1937

A Green Roof in 1943?



"When the Hoopers started their Victory Garden I told 'em they'd need more soil."

— March 26, 1943

Congratulations to the Greenbelt News Review



For 75 Years of Dedicated Service to the citizens of Greenbelt, For capturing the spirit of independence and respect for the individual inherent in the people of Greenbelt, For keeping us so well-informed, and, For being such an integral part of what has made the City of Greenbelt Great For 75 Years!



The Lions Club of Greenbelt
Jordan Choper, President



Volunteers Needed
Call 301-474-8964

Greenbelt American Legion
Post 136

Founded 1938

Auxiliary Unit 136 JAL Squadron 136

Celebrating 75 years of service to the
Community, state & nation in 2013

Congratulations to the News Review on your 75th Anniversary

greenbeltmdpost136.org

6900 Greenbelt Road

Greenbelt, MD 20770

301.345.0136

301.345.3313 (F)

GREENBELT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Wishes the
Greenbelt News Review
Happy 75th Anniversary
and thanks you
for keeping Greenbelters
informed.

112 Centerway

Greenbelt, MD 20770

301-474-5900

1930-40s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s +
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• Published without a name from July 29 to Sept. 16, 1954; 15 new names suggested • Changes its name to Greenbelt News Review in September 1954
 • Goes to subscription – \$3 per year – for two years only • Community-wide fund drive successfully run by Elaine Skolnik

The Sale of Greenbelt

– Banner Headline, June 8, 1950

Five-Man Dissident Group Demands 1200 GVHC Members Make Terms

– March 9, 1950

Editorial

We're Not Amused

The insulting effrontery and false innuendo with which the 5 members of the embryonic me-too housing group pitch their take-it-or-leave-it "compromise" offer at the 1200 members of the Greenbelt Veterans Housing Corporation leave the reasonable reader gasping.

– March 9, 1950

Third Housing Group Enters Field, Proposes Continuation of Rents

– May 5, 1950

Negotiations to Be Resumed On Sale of Greenbelt to Residents

Mike Salzman, president of the Greenbelt Veterans Housing Corporation, has received word from John Taylor Egan, Commissioner for Public Housing Administration, that the housing agency is ready to "resume negotiations" for the sale of Greenbelt. The sale of Greenbelt was withdrawn for a period of time because of the Korean War.

– May 17, 1951

Editorial

Let's Face It

Negotiations for the sale of Greenbelt to the Greenbelt Veterans Housing Corporation are progressing swiftly – for some residents, too swiftly. Last week's meeting of GVHC members disclosed an alarming lack of information about mutual housing and its advantages. There are still doubts that PHA will sell, there is suspicion about GVHC motives, and there is a prevalent fear of being rushed into something undesirable.

– January 31, 1952

Editorial

Flight from the Facts

As the day of decision on the purchase of Greenbelt approaches, several facts are taking shape through the rather hysterical atmosphere which has characterized the public reaction

We believe that all residents who want to buy should be guaranteed their right to buy mutually, without interference from those who do not want to buy – and who must still adjust, like it or no, to the changes confronting them.

– April 3, 1952

Editorial

What Price Referendum?

At Monday night's council meeting, Greenbelt's city fathers gave a shining example of why city tax rates are so high

As if they had never been near the Public Housing Administration the previous week, they ignored the PHA commissioner's flat statement that "we propose to (sell the greentowns) as speedily as possible," and voted to hold a referendum – at the expense of the citizens – to see how many of those citizens wished to continue to "rent from PHA."

– May 1, 1952

GVHC Takes Title To Greenbelt

– December 31, 1952

To Veterans Groups Only

Notice is hereby given that the Public Housing Commissioner will, until 5 p.m.

Monday, August 7, 1950 reserve that portion of the Government housing project at

GREENBELT

at the fixed price of \$8,522,350 to a

VETERANS' GROUP

organized on a non-profit basis, as provided in Public Law 65, 81st Congress, approved May 19, 1949.

Public Housing Administration Washington, 25, D.C.

– June 8, 1950

It's been my work and my pleasure.

Mary Lou Williamson

Thanks!

With continuing appreciation for the accurate news and enlightening views of the Greenbelt News Review.

Eve Gresser

I've been reading the News Review (Cooperator) for 66 years and it's very important to me. Congratulations on 75 years.

– Irene Fulton Pavlish

Thank you to the News Review on completing 75 years of faithful, uninterrupted service!

Gratefully,
Rebecca Hober

The 1950s: A Tumultuous Decade

The sale of Greenbelt by the federal government dominated the decade. Through December 1952 the challenge was: how to organize the purchase and how much to buy – the townhomes, the apartments, the commercial center, the hundreds of acres of undeveloped land.

Next came the responsibility of running the city – from setting the tax rate to picking up trash – and operating GVHC.

Threaded through the years was the realization that maintaining the planned community concept would be no simple task.

Editorial

An Open Letter to GCS Board

You have been elected by the membership of our Cooperative to represent us on the Board. Perhaps a few words from us now will forestall some bitterness later.

– March 15, 1951

A Matter of Viewpoint

Dear Editor: I have refrained from writing to the Cooperator because we felt it was unwise to get into idle controversy with people who have ignored and by-passed channels available to Co-op members.

We also wish to state that we believe any paper which claims to be interested in building up the people in the community and the democratic community organizations should be aware of its responsibility and the power of good or evil of the printed word.

– May 10, 1951

GCS-News Review Begin Negotiations

The Greenbelt Consumer Services board of directors last Friday evening heard a plea from the Greenbelt News Review to resume advertising in the local newspaper. Speaking for the News Review, Skolnik's presentation to the GCS board noted the background of "cold war" between the newspaper and the co-op, but dismissed it as ancient history.

– November 29, 1959

GENEROUS JOES



"The Fill Your Belly Deli"

Everyone at Generous Joe's would like to thank the News Review on 75 years of dedicated service to the community!

107 Centerway • 301-474-4998

Happy 75th Anniversary Greenbelt News Review

Greenbelt



Supermarket Pharmacy

Thanks for all your great work!!

News Review Congratulations For your 75 year Anniversary! We appreciate you.
Tom & Lori Moran

In memory of our father, Isadore (Izzy) Parker and his many contributions to the News Review.

Sharon (Parker) O'Keefe
Marsha Parker
Naomi (Parker) Hatch
Mitch Parker
Shelley Parker

For Eleanor (Ellie) Ritchie her superb journalism helped to create a great paper.
Janet Jacobs-Parker
Katherine Keene

1930-40s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s +
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• Paper is sued for \$2 million in 1966; a four-year legal battle ensues • Prince George's County jury awards \$17,500 to developer, finding remarks at a public meeting that were printed in the News Review libelous; award is upheld by the Maryland Court of Appeals

1960s: A Push for Development

The city grew with the opening of a larger fire station (1961), youth center (1961) and the municipal building (1964). Other development included Goddard Space Flight Center (1961), Beltway Plaza (1962), Springhill Lake Apartments (1963), Boxwood Village and Lakeside (1963) and Greenbelt Park (1964).

High-density development pressures caused a firestorm from 1962 to 1966 as Greenbelt fought to save the city's "greentown" design from destruction. How different could Greenbelt have been? Imagine the city's high school at Northway Fields and a shopping center near the Boxwood entrance. Garden apartments were planned for the forest behind Ridge Road and Ridge, Crescent, Eastway and Southway could have been four-lanes. The zoning war led to the 1966 libel suit brought by developer Charles Bresler against the Greenbelt News Review.

Editorial

Where Is Greenbelt Going?

As more and more of the plans for the vacant land in Greenbelt come off the drawing boards, it appears obvious to us that our concept of Greenbelt as a planned community differs widely from that of the developers It is obvious that any further rental apartment and commercial zoning will further unbalance the community.

Yet the developers keep pushing their plans for high-rise and rental apartments . . . (they) boast that this will make Greenbelt the most densely populated area in Prince George's County Has anyone asked whether Greenbelt residents are . . . ready to turn the rest of Greenbelt into commercial strips and rental apartments?

– March 5, 1964

Developer Charles Bresler Files \$2 Million Suit Against News Review

A suit asking \$2,000,000 in damages has been filed by Charles Bresler, local developer, against the Greenbelt News Review and its president Alfred M. Skolnik. The suit quoted excerpts from three news stories, two headlines, three letters to the editor and two editorials over a 9-month period as being printed "without reasonable justification or excuse."

The quoted material for the most part dealt with Bresler's transactions and negotiations with the city council and county school board regarding his land holdings. The suit . . . charges that the newspaper exposed Bresler to "public scorn, hatred, contempt, disgrace and ridicule" and degraded him "in the esteem or opinion of the residents of the City of Greenbelt and the State of Maryland and elsewhere."

– July 28, 1966

Tragic Cave-In At Beltway Plaza

I [was] at the firehouse [for] a call for ambulances to go to the tragic cave-in at the construction site of the new Klein's store at the Beltway shopping center. (Five workers died and 11 were injured.)

– January 3, 1963

Citizens Protest Master Plan

Greenbelters by the hundreds jammed the Center School auditorium to . . . protest against the proposed College Park-Greenbelt Master Plan. From the opening blast by Mayor Smith, who called the plan "this nightmare," there was no doubt about the sentiments of the crowd. A parade of speakers marched to the microphone to denounce the Master Plan, and every denunciation brought stormy applause.

– July 23, 1964

Festival Bars Peace Committee

The Greenbelt Committee for Peace in Viet Nam has been barred from participating in the Labor Day Festival as a result of protests from the local chapters of the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans.

– August 18, 1966

JFK Congratulates Citizens on City's 25th Anniversary

Dear Mr. Mayor,

I understand that June has been proclaimed Charter Month in Greenbelt to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the issuance of the city's charter. Greenbelt has been an innovating force from its earliest days . . . (and) continues to blaze trails in providing for open spaces, recreational resources and community planning

I should like to congratulate the citizens of Greenbelt and to wish them continued success.

Sincerely,
(signed)

John F. Kennedy

– June 21, 1962

letter from White House

Greenbelt Is Youthful City, Census Shows

Greenbelt residents can now determine just how average their families are with respect to size and age composition Of the total Greenbelt population of 7,479 on April 1, 1960, 43.8 percent were under age 18 At the other extreme, Greenbelt had only 2.7 percent of its population aged 65 or older.

– April 6, 1961

First Fallout Shelter Built In GHI Home

A dining room in a residence of Greenbelt has been converted into the first fallout shelter built in the community.

The owner of the cinder-block home, who prefers to remain anonymous, is employed at Goddard Space Flight Center and has felt that the time is now to provide protection for his family against the deadly radiation in the event of a nuclear bomb attack. The dining room was bricked in from the inside.

– October 12, 1961

Churches Welcome Poverty Marchers

About 700 members of the northeastern contingent of the Poor People's Campaign arrived in Greenbelt . . . and were welcomed by volunteers workers at two local churches. The campaigners pulled into town on 25 buses, 15 cars and a truck.

– May 23, 1968

Fire Destroys Co-op Store



On April 11, 1962, a fire started in fluorescent fixtures and destroyed the Co-op store. Eyewitnesses saw a blinding explosion as the loading doors blew out and heard a huge blast as the front windows of the store exploded in the 10-alarm blaze.
– April 16, 1962

No Fireworks

Residents are reminded that this year there will not be fireworks on the Fourth of July. Council decided not to assume the full cost of these fireworks, and when other city organizations failed to express any interest in substantially participating in sharing the cost the decision was made not to have fireworks.

– July 2, 1964

Supreme Court Asked to Review Libel Case

The Greenbelt News Review has filed a writ of certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking for a review of the \$17,500 libel judgment upheld by the Maryland Court of Appeals last May.

– August 7, 1969



Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

*Congratulates the
Greenbelt News Review*

*On 75 Years of
Excellent
Community Service*



*The Labor Day Festival
Committee wishes
the News Review
a newsworthy
75th Anniversary
1937 – 2012*

**St. Hugh of Grenoble
Catholic Church**

*Congratulates the
Greenbelt News Review
for 75 years
of service to the
citizens of Greenbelt*


Congratulations to the Greenbelt News Review on their 75th Anniversary!


There's More Inside at Beltway Plaza... More Events, More Food, More Shopping!

Beltway Plaza Mall is the discount shopping location for fashion, fun, food and events!

Over 100 stores & restaurants including:

- Marshalls • Target • Foot Locker • Burlington Coat Factory
 Academy 8 Stadium Theatres • Joe's Crab Shack • Giant Food
 Silver Diner • Three Brothers Pizza • Wendy's • Gold's Gym
 Shoppers World • Big Lots • Jo-Ann Fabrics • Staples
 Radio Shack • Chipotle • Planet Fitness... and More!
 Coming soon, Jersey Mike's.

Fall Calendar of Events:

Humberto Guzman and his Mariachi Band
 November 25, December 9

Larry Scott One-Man Band - Saturday, 12/1

"Drive Smart for a Cause" - Test Drive a New Lincoln
 Saturday Dec. 8, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Beltway Plaza Treasure Chest - Get your free key
 from Plaza Man or select merchants and
 if it unlocks the BPM Treasure Chest you'll WIN
 Saturdays 11/24 to 12/22, 2:00 to 4:00 pm



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6000 Greenbelt Road,
Greenbelt, MD (301) 345-1500



All about Us . . .

Greenbelt's newspaper was published without a name from July 29 to September 16, 1954, while the staff and community wrestled with choosing a new name.

On Changing Our Name

by Harry M. Zubkoff

The publication of this issue marks an important change in the history of this newspaper – and in the history of this community. For some sixteen years the “Cooperator” has been an institution in Greenbelt, not only on the scene but a vital part of the scene. Every organization in town, every church, every group, every club, every regularly scheduled activity, has, at one time or another had something to do with this paper, if not in direct participation, then by reading accounts of its doings in our pages. Legions of residents and ex-residents have at one time or another served on our volunteer staff. The publication of this issue, therefore, without the “cooperator” banner-head, signals the end of an era.

The truth is, a newspaper is a public service, and we are trying to perform this service as best we can. We believe that a change in name will make it possible to render a greater service to our community by increasing our readership acceptance, and we are asking our readers for their opinions. We are counting on them to express their opinions, not only at the polls, but also in letters to the editor.

In any event, we are embarked upon an experiment, which we believe will have beneficial results. We await your reaction.

– July 29, 1954

The Unthinkable

The News Review has not failed to publish even one of its weekly issues in the more than 44 years of its existence. But yesterday morning we were hit by one of life's unthinkables, and in the first panic it seemed we might have nothing/absolutely nothing – to print this week.

The ritual is that every Tuesday evening all the copy for that week's issues is “put to bed” ready for printing. Wednesday morning a community volunteer takes the entire bundle, in a brown vinyl briefcase, to the printshop in Hyattsville. Our conscientious courier for the past year has been a young man who makes the trip on motorcycle. Yesterday morning he set out as usual, with full briefcase strapped on behind him – and then, the unthinkable happened.

Southbound on Kenilworth Avenue, in rush-hour traffic, the briefcase fell off. By the time our courier could get turned around, the briefcase, and its contents, had disappeared. Despite a day of searches along Kenilworth's shoulders, phone calls to area police jurisdictions and schools, and radio appeals for return of the lost material by late last night the briefcase and its contents were still missing.

All day yesterday the few available members of our volunteer staff worked hurriedly to reconstruct as much as possible of the missing material, and our printer worked late to set the copy and ads. The result is not the paper we had planned. Perhaps the most that can be said is that we haven't let the News Review's record of continuous publication be broken.

We apologize to any of our contributors, our advertisers, or our readers who are inconvenienced in any way as a result of . . . The unthinkable!

– March 25, 1982

Editorial

It's Not Magic

It's Friday in Greenbelt and you find the Greenbelt News Review at your doorstep, in the lobby of your apartment or condominium building, at various public buildings and at private businesses throughout the city. Ever wonder how this locally produced, independent, free newspaper appears week after week, keeping people who live and work in Greenbelt aware of what goes on in our lively town?

Well, it's not magic. Rather, it results week in week out from volunteer efforts of many of your friends and neighbors. News gathering; reporting on city and community events; capturing in print and photography the lives and stories of Greenbelt and its residents; chronicling the vibrant history and culture of our city; providing a vehicle for your letters (celebrating, praising, even condemning); publishing city, business and community notices on events, information and advertising important to the economic health of the community – all these activities make up the weekly cycle of labor performed by dedicated volunteers.

We are the second oldest cooperative in Greenbelt – now celebrating our 70th year. Through all these years, providing a window into the life of the community has been our joy and our commitment. If you would like to take part in this important work, you will find us a welcoming team.

– October 12, 2006

**Greenbelt News Review –
Heartbeat of our city
for 75 years
Congratulations!!
Sandra & David Lange**

Harry Zubkoff – On Becoming Editor

“I didn't know the first thing about running a paper,” said former News Review editor Harry Zubkoff.

“I'd been dropping in at the News Review for a couple of months when the editor resigned, and somehow I found myself in charge. Probably, because everyone else knew better.

“Well, the first Tuesday night I came down to the office I discovered that nobody – but nobody – had showed up. Naturally, this made me feel a little insecure, so I telephoned the ex-editor. She said, “Gee, I wish I could help you but, ha ha. I'm going out.”

“So I worked till 3 a.m. Wednesday night and again I worked till 3 a.m. Thursday, the day the paper came out. Great! Thursday night I got a call from the printer that started off like this: ‘Well, Zubkoff, I understand you're the new editor. Congratulations! When are you going to pay the thousand dollars you owe me?’”

But things moved fast in the next few days. For instance, the telephone company removed our phone because we were three months behind in our bill. Also all the desks and typewriters were moved out of the office.

– December 7, 1950

The Old Curmudgeon



“It's filled with News Review editors and staff.”

– November 20, 1997

Congratulations to the Staff,
Past and Present,
of the News Review on your 75th Anniversary!

Patrick & Linda McAndrew

McCARL DENTAL GROUP

Congratulations Greenbelt News Review! 75 Outstanding Years!

Three (soon to be four) Generations of Dentistry in Greenbelt



Mrs. Jane McCarl, Dr. Clayton McCarl Sr., Mrs. Delpha McCarl,
Dr. James W. McCarl, Mrs. Bette McCarl, Dr. James T. McCarl



Dr. David McCarl, Dr. Monica Mattson, Dr. Jay McCarl,
Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl Jr.

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Remembering Al Skolnik – His Contributions to City

by Sandra Barnes

Rarely does a person come along who, without being an elected official or an employee of a governmental body, influences nearly every important activity in a community. Alfred M. Skolnik, president of the Greenbelt News Review for 18 years, was such a person. Al died suddenly of a heart attack in March of this year . . .

We on the News Review staff cannot celebrate the 40th anniversary of this newspaper without paying tribute to the person

who held the paper together for much of that time, who structured its editorial policies, who put it on a sound financial footing after many years of teetering on the brink of disaster. In many ways, this paper has been able to continue following his death without any perceptible change because the patterns he established are so securely rooted. Together with his wife, Elaine, he lovingly brought forth each issue of the News Review with a consummate dedication to the smallest detail.

– November 24, 1977



PHOTO BY PROSPERO ZEVALLOS

Editors, past and present, of the Greenbelt News Review: (seated, from left) present News Editor Elaine Skolnik, Virginia Beauchamp, present Editor Mary Lou Williamson, Mary Granofsky; (standing) Dorothy Sucher, Harry Zubkoff, Russ Greenbaum, present Assistant Editor Barbara Likowski, Izzy Parker and Ellie Ritchie.

Mary Lou Williamson – A Top Notch Editor

by Sandra A. Lange

Mary Lou Williamson turned 70 this past year, a birthday she proudly shares with Greenbelt and the News Review. Three evenings a week she drives to the Greenbelt Community Center, enters the News Review office, sits down at the editor's desk and proceeds to work some of those days until 1 or 2 in the morning. Controversies swirl around her. Personalities clash. Her demeanor is placid, her voice calm. She edits copy, talks to reporters, settles minor disputes.

It's a job she knows well. She has been doing it for over 40 years. Why has she lasted this long? Fellow staffer and former city manager Jim Giese bluntly commented, "She must like it."

She says, "It is still a thrill to watch the process go from zero to 100 within two days. I read everything two or three times and I still want to read the paper when it comes out," she says.

Williamson enjoys the weekly challenge of producing what she calls a finished product.

– November 29, 2007

Virginia Beauchamp Recollects 50 Years at the News Review

On the first Thursday after we moved to Greenbelt in 1957, I was surprised to discover a copy of the News Review on my doorstep. I knew nothing about the paper or its history, but to find a run-down of current events – perhaps the report of a city council meeting or an issue with GHI – introduced me almost at once to the community.

Now an opportunity for adult conversation and to learn more

about my new community was inviting.

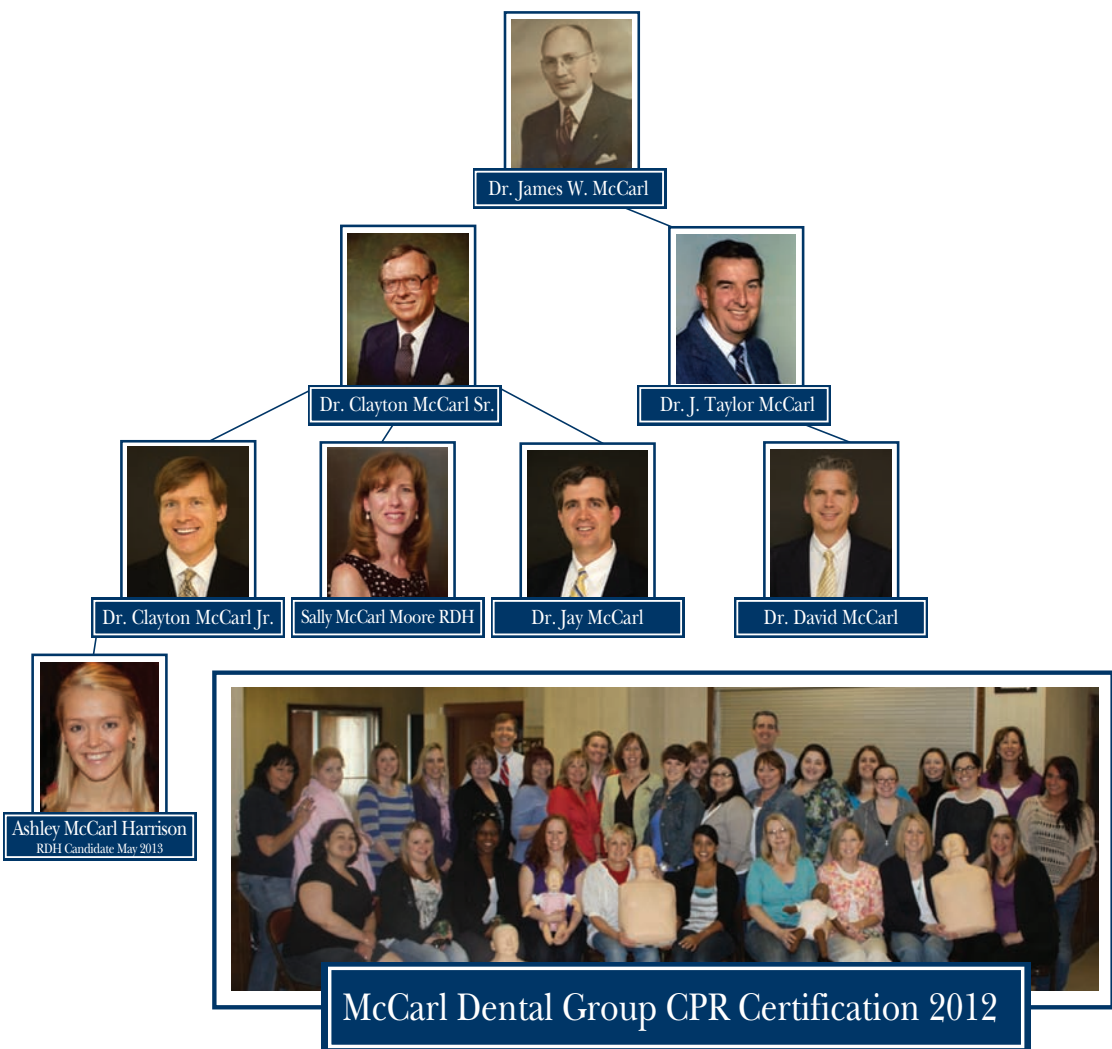
The room [office] occupied by the News Review was used primarily for storage lockers of renters who lived upstairs. The rough wooden lockers were ranged along the wall off the corridor; the opposite wall was hung with electric meters for the apartments upstairs. All four walls were bare concrete blocks, and

the floor was poured concrete. Two small windows on the front wall let in a little light.

As retirees, several of us have more time to give to the paper; but the camaraderie and the commitment to the community have brought in younger members, who contribute in their own ways – with their special talents and their knowledge of this computer age – to keep us going.

– April 23, 2009

The McCarl Dental Family Tree



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Dorothy Sucher's Greenbelt

I came here, a bride of 24, following my man. Back then we did that.

We never really planned to live in Greenbelt, sat down to think was this the best place for us? Schools, socioeconomic mix – was this where we could become the kind of people we aspired to be, or thought we were, or perhaps really were? We came from New York, never dreamed the move was permanent, and all these places seemed the same: "not-New-York." The first people we met lived in Greenbelt. So we bought a house in GHI, a co-op.

For a while I went quietly crazy in my GHI house surrounded by babies, while my husband worked long hours, trying to prove himself in his first job. I pushed the stroller around town. Of course I couldn't drive a car. In New York you don't need one.

Greenbelt's co-ops rescued me, even though as a New Yorker I didn't believe in them. What, people could get along and work together toward a common goal, without even being paid? Ha! For how long? Go fight City Hall! In Greenbelt, fighting City Hall was a favorite sport, but I didn't know that yet, or that I too would learn to play it, and City Hall would respond. I could actually make things happen, not just have opinions.

My first co-op was the nursery school.

Oh, I hated it. What, I have to be a Helping Mother twice a month alongside these dreary suburbanites (others may think New Yorkers are snobs, but was it our fault we lived in the navel of the universe?), I have to carpool, I have to serve on the Board, I have to type up the bylaws? A nightmare.

Then somebody said, "Come

down to the News Review.

Another damn co-op! And provincial? Remember, I was potty-trained on the New York Times. This you call a newspaper? Still, I was writing. Every Thursday night the paper plopped on my doorstep. My name was in print! Before long I was editing copy, I became a police reporter ("Police and Fire Fighters Rescue Cat from Pin Oak"), a columnist, an interviewer, learning as I went along. Then I was Editor, until my next baby was imminent. I kept writing.

I met people, joined groups, worked on projects. More writing. More damn co-ops. Edited newsletters. Tried to write novels – no go. Joined the Women's Movement, raised my consciousness, then my husband's, then other women's – tried anyway. Taught. Lectured. Led groups. Greenbelt was the focus of my life beyond the family, as the University was the focus of my husband's life. Greenbelt was open, not cliquey. If you were interested, willing to work and go to meetings, you were not only accepted, you would be elected president if you weren't careful. In Greenbelt people came to know me as me, not a faculty wife, not any kind of wife, not even as a mother, necessarily. I thrived, for I had to be me. This gift Greenbelt and its co-ops gave me, even before Women's Lib.

By now I've had more lives than a cat and, although in my seventh decade, I'm still a yowling architecture student. Psychotherapist. Novelist. Gardener. Quilter. Museum founder. I've left out a few. Sounds like a writer. Well, that's what I am.

– August 3, 1995

1930-40s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s +

U.S. Supreme Court unanimously reverses libel award against the News Review in historic Freedom of the Press case • Alfred M. Skolnik, president of the News Review for 18 years dies suddenly in 1977 • Journalism students from the University of Maryland serve as interns beginning in 1979

1970s: Law, Construction, Transportation

The 1970s led with the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of the News Review libel judgment followed by the groundbreaking of Metro and Green Ridge House. The dedication and opening of the Greenbelt Library and Eleanor Roosevelt High School with a recommendation to build a pedestrian cross-walk so students would no longer cross the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

Housing highlights included the start of an enormous rehab program in GHI and new residents moving into Greenbriar Condominiums.

The Steering Committee of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival voted not to ask the city for a special exception to the city ordinance that prohibits beer at the Center.

First Greenbriar Residents Move In

The frenzied activity that took place at Greenbriar over the weekend culminated on Tuesday when Greenbelt's newest residents moved into the 1,193-unit condominium development. Some 27 families are expected to move in this week followed by about 75 families within the next month and a half. Nine buildings – about 135 apartment units – have been approved for occupancy by the County Department of Licenses and Permits

– November 24, 1974

New High School Gets New Name

As if the question of Franklin D. Roosevelt Senior High School's concept was not complicated enough, the Prince George's County Board of Education on January 8 took on the matter of changing the name of the new facility. By a vote of 5 to 2, the school will now be known as the Eleanor Roosevelt High School, honoring the 32nd president's wife who took a personal interest in the "green town" begun by her husband in 1935, visiting the city on many occasions.

Board member Maureen Steinecke introduced the resolution after letters by Greenbelters appeared in local press urging that the school be renamed for Mrs. Roosevelt, "a real humanitarian," who was deeply involved in Greenbelt. They also noted women in general would be recognized in a school system where only five county schools – out of 242 – are named for women.

– January 15, 1976

Pressure Builds For Metro Station

The county council on March 2 voted 7 to 3 to send to General Plan a Greenbelt METRO route that would follow with some modification the ARS (Adopted Regional System) alignment with a terminus near Greenbelt Road and the Capital Beltway. This is the route strongly urged on the county by the Greenbelt city council.

– March 11, 1976

Senior Housing Groundbreaking Ceremony Held

More than 50 people gathered at the Ridge Road Center to witness and take part in the ceremonial groundbreaking for Greenbelt's housing for the elderly last Sunday afternoon, December 18. The Rev. Kenneth Buker, a council meeting regular, gave the invocation.

– December 22, 1977

U.S. Supreme Court Reverses News Review Libel Judgment

In a unanimous 8-0 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, May 18, reversed the \$17,500 libel judgment against the Greenbelt News Review awarded to local developer Charles S. Bresler as the result of a Prince George's Circuit Court jury verdict in January 1968. The verdict had been upheld by the Maryland Court of Appeals in May 1969.

The main issue in the case involved the publication by the News Review of remarks made by citizens at two city council meetings in October 1965 which characterized as "blackmail" a proposal of the developer that sought city support for rezoning.

Bresler's attorney, Abraham Chasanow, maintained that the articles imputed to Bresler "the commission of the crime of blackmail" and were published

because the paper bore hostility toward Bresler.

In the decision rendered by Justice Potter Stewart, the court held "that as a matter of constitutional law, the word 'blackmail' in these circumstances was not slander when spoken, and not libel when reported in the Greenbelt News Review." The court referred to the fact that Bresler's negotiations with the city were a subject of substantial concern to all who lived in the community and had evoked substantial controversy and heated debates.

Reports

Justice Stewart agreed with the argument put forward by the newspaper's attorney, Roger A. Clark, that the newspaper was "performing its wholly legitimate function as a community newspaper when it published full reports

of these public debates in its news columns." To hold otherwise, the high court said, "would subvert the most fundamental meaning of a free press."

With respect to the word "blackmail," Stewart said, "it was simply impossible to believe" that the articles could be read as charging Bresler with a crime. "Even the most careless reader," the Justice continued, "must have perceived that the word was no more than rhetorical hyperbole, a vigorous epithet used by those who considered Bresler's negotiating position extremely unreasonable."

Stewart noted that the articles published in the News Review were accurate, full and truthful reports of what had been said at the public hearings before the city council.

– May 21, 1970

Spellman Presses For Parkway Bridge

Concerned that students have been crossing the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to walk to and from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS), Congresswoman Gladys Spellman has been pressing for a pedestrian overpass to solve this serious problem.

At a recent meeting, Slade Caltrider, District Engineer of the State Highway Administration, and Emil Elinsky, Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, recommended building a pedestrian cross-walk over the Parkway.

– December 1, 1977

No Beer at Festival

The Steering Committee of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival voted to prohibit beer sales due to too many problems in previous years.

– September 2, 1976

GHI Members Hail Rehab Start

Robert Embrey, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD) will be the featured speaker at the inauguration ceremonies for the Greenbelt Homes rehabilitation program on Sunday, September 30, at the North End Elementary School. The program will begin at 3 p.m. Local, state, county and federal officials will also join GHI members in kicking off the rehabilitation program.

– September 27, 1979

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Opens

September 7 will be an extra special day for 1,400 students attending the new school on Hanoover Parkway.

– September 2, 1976

New Greenbelt Library Opens

Greenbelt's eagerly-awaited new library opened its doors to the public on Wednesday, April 8, after a dedication ceremony the preceding evening.

– April 9, 1970

Greenbriar Condominiums & Glen Oaks Apartments



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—OAKS

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Greenbelt News Review
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of Keeping the Community Informed.

The City of New Carrollton
Congratulates
the Greenbelt News Review
for 75 Years
of Outstanding Service
of Keeping the
Community Informed



THE FAMILY OF TOM & HELEN WHITE
EXTEND CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW
AND ITS MANY DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS
FOR 75 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING
SERVICE TO GREENBELT

1930-40s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s +
News Review celebrates its 50th anniversary • Most issues are 12 pages; special issues may be 28 pages						

"Twas Only Yesterday"

Greenbelt Pioneers Meet and Dance

The sounds of Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller filled Greenbelt Center School's auditorium Friday night as about 350 pioneers and present residents mingled at the "Twas Only Yesterday" reunion dance.

Sponsored by the Greenbelt Lions and Lion Belles, the dance was one of the weekend activities celebrating the 45th anniversary of the birth of Greenbelt and the 100th anniversary of the birth of the President, Franklin Delano

Roosevelt, under whom the town came into being. In the Center School gymnasium, where all the early dances were held, this gala event brought some of the earliest Greenbelters together again.

– October 7, 1982

Springhill Lake Celebrates 20th

"Springhill Lake is a 'little town' that's all about people living together in harmony," explains Gus Ormond, Executive Vice President of Community Realty. The apartment complex is celebrating its 20th birthday this year, and it has been 20 years of success.

The groundbreaking ceremonies for Springhill Lake occurred on Friday, July 6, 1962 and within a year, 1,000 residents moved into the first section. Five years later, Springhill Lake housed approximately 10,000 people, and now, in 1983, almost half the population of the City of Greenbelt lives in Springhill Lake.

– May 19, 1983

Dedication Ceremony of June 4 For Spellman Trail, Overpass

On Saturday, June 4, the city council of Greenbelt will dedicate a new pedestrian trail and overpass across the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to former Congresswoman Gladys Noon Spellman. This structure will connect the central section of Greenbelt with Greenbriar. In particular, it will provide easy access for students attending Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Dedication ceremonies are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. at the trail beginning at the end of Gardenway near Ridge Road.

Mayor Gil Weidenfeld, in announcing the dedication, noted: "Gladys Spellman worked for the betterment of the citizens of Greenbelt as a member of Congress and as Chairman and Member of the County Commissioners and County Council for 18 years. Congresswoman Spellman has been honored by many others in many ways for her services to this county and this nation, but this will be Greenbelt's own small way of saying 'Thanks' to a magnificent lady and a dedicated public servant."

– May 26, 1983

Fire Does Heavy Damage To St. Hugh's School

St. Hugh's Catholic School was badly damaged by fire early in the morning of December 24. A motorist passing on Crescent Road noticed flames and notified police who alerted the fire department.

Immediately after the news of the fire, the community rallied and offers of help were made. Some people came to help move equipment and to do anything else that was needed. In a hastily called meeting, city council met with church officials and members of the community to try to find ways to help.

Council Votes to Acquire Parcel 1

At its regular meeting on December 21, the Greenbelt City Council set as its goal the acquisition of "all or as much as possible" of Parcel 1, the 102-acre woodland tract in the north part of the city, for city parkland.

– December 31, 1987

Council Sets Up Arts Committee

At its November 14 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council voted to create a city Arts Committee.

After much discussion, council unanimously agreed to adopt the report of the arts task force of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

The city agreed to establish a variety of high-quality arts opportunities, provide high-quality facilities for the performing and visual arts, establish Greenbelt as a "cultural center," ensure adequate funding.

– November 24, 1988

Festivities Honor Eleanor Roosevelt

Although Greenbelt, along with the rest of the nation, will be celebrating the Centennial of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt's October 12 birthday this week, the city will also be celebrating Mrs. Roosevelt's personal involvement with Greenbelt. For it was with her concern and actions that Greenbelt was first started.

– October 11, 1984



**Happy
75th Anniversary
News Review**

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1980s: A Time of Change

The decade of the 1980s was a time of change and revitalization for the city. There were also two big city celebrations – the 45th and 50th birthdays of Greenbelt.

Springhill Lake Apartments celebrated 20 years in 1983. At the time, the complex represented nearly half of all Greenbelt residents.

Change was coming to the city council. In 1984 there was much discussion about whether to televise the city council meeting live.

Developments in Greenbelt East were hot topics as well as whether to build single family homes and town houses on Parcel 1 which is located at the end of Northway extended.

The decade ended with the city purchasing Parcels 1 and 2 for parkland.

Greenbelt East Development Boom Would Pose Grave Traffic Problems

The Greenbelt landscape – especially around the core of the city – has been changing since the late seventies. Office parks, a new shopping center and hotel area already on the scene, with more construction underway and still more planned. Residential development, however, has not matched the feverish commercial office park activity in the city. Except for the Windsor Green-Glen Ora townhouse development in Greenbelt East, where 320 of 650 homes have been completed, as well as several new individually built homes in the core of

the city, residential construction has been at a standstill.

– November 3, 1983



**Happy
Birthday**

From
Linda Ivy

**Hunting Ridge
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Greenbelt News Review
For 75 years of
Keeping the Community Informed**

**Congratulations on
75 years of
Outstanding Community Service
From the Windsor Green Community
www.windsorgreenhoa.org**

**Salute
to the
NEWS
REVIEW
the glue
that holds
Greenbelt
together!**

*Bernie and
Jim Giese*

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Congratulations to the Greenbelt News Review on your 75th Anniversary

The community spirit of Greenbelt is demonstrated by the volunteers and their achievements that continue to make Greenbelt a wonderful place to live.

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**Happy 75th Anniversary
to the Greenbelt News Review
and the all volunteer staff
for your hard work.
God Bless you.
THANKS**

*From Maria, Donna,
Pat, Debbie and Jennifer at*

Maria's Beauty Salon

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1930-40s

1950s

1960s

1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s +

• News Review moves to the Community Center in 1997 • The newspaper ends five decades of printing the paper by the Allen Family Print Shop using their linotype process • Computer technology catches up to the News Review and the old manual typewriters become exhibit pieces

1990s: Fresh Look to a Mature City

Renovation of Roosevelt Center with new landscaping based on the original design, new awnings in green and white paint give a fresh start to the decade. Desperately needed was the careful work done on the Mother and Child statue. The National Park Service salutes Greenbelt as a National Historic Landmark. A new elementary school, newly refurbished Community Center, Metro and a new federal courthouse add a maturity to the city.

Civic Excellence Cited At Dedication of Center

The open house and dedication of Greenbelt's Community Center took place on the warm afternoon of March 16.

William Stratton, chair of the Community Center Task Force, said, "For me, this project is particularly resonant because I can appreciate this building both as an architect and as a citizen of Greenbelt." He called the Community Center an example of "civic excellence," and said that it demonstrated "Greenbelt's amazing ability to continually renew itself."
— March 21, 1996

Historic Landmark Plaque Unveiled at City's 60th Anniversary

"The original town of Greenbelt was the first government-sponsored planned community built on garden city principles and possesses national significance in commemorating the history of the United States of America." Those are the words appearing on the bronze plaque unveiled October 17 at a ceremony recognizing Greenbelt's status as a National Historic Landmark.
— October 23, 1997

Greenbelt Elementary Dedicated As a School for the 21st Century

With one snip of the scissors, Principal Carolyn Goff cut the red, white and blue ribbon that stretched across the stage and Greenbelt Elementary School was officially dedicated. The ceremony celebrated the official opening of the new "state of the art" elementary school with many added features to help students in their learning, such as the science lab, art room and computer lab. After a long and sometimes bitter fight, the community voted by a narrow margin to have the new school built on the old North End School site.
— November 19, 1993

Metro Comes To Greenbelt

A 50-foot line of elected and appointed officials slashed a green ribbon to mark the conclusion of ceremonies opening the Metro Green Line between Fort Totten and Greenbelt. A capacity crowd gathered on the cold, blustery day to hear 15 speakers congratulate each other and extol Metro. County Executive Glendening led the accolades for Congressman Steny Hoyer, who was widely acknowledged as instrumental in completing of this portion of Metro. Senator Sarbanes declared that Metro is a major achievement that demonstrates to the nation a mass transportation system that works.
— December 11, 1993

New Courthouse Dedicated

The new Federal Courthouse in Greenbelt was dedicated today, the first Monday in October, an auspicious occasion every year which marks the opening of the new season of the Supreme Court of the United States. An audience of prominent Maryland politicians, lawyers, business persons and local citizens gathered for an hour-long ceremony.

The site was chosen because of its easy access to both the Metro system and the Capital Beltway.
— October 10, 1993

Two Young Heroes Save GHI Homes

Two Greenbelt teenagers – Tim Grady and Ted Sacra – were credited with probably having saved a four-residence row of frame homes in the 4 Court of Laurel Hill Road from destruction by fire. They used fire extinguishers and a garden hose to fight the blaze until the first fire equipment could reach the scene. Both boys were students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.
— February 1, 1990



PHOTO BY SHARON NATOLI

Eleanor Roosevelt High School students grieve for the murdered 17-year-old Julie Lynn Ferguson at a ceremony in her memory. Ferguson was abducted in 1995 from Greenway Center. This photo won first place for news in the White House Photographers Competition.

Theater Reopens

With its future uncertain, the Greenbelt Theater in the historic center will again open its doors seven days a week, beginning Friday, March 17.
— March 9, 1995

The Old Curmudgeon



"She's using Lancome on the Mother and Desitin on the Child!"

— May 27, 1990

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Happy Birthday
Robert and Sylvia Lewis

1930-40s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s +
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Elaine Skolnik – president of the board from 1977-85 – celebrates 50 years on the staff in 2005 • Virginia Beauchamp – former editor and current staff person – celebrates 50 years on the staff in 2007 • Mary Lou Williamson – editor – celebrates 50 years on the staff in 2012

We Mourn as We Work

This newspaper is being prepared on a day of infamy, September 11, the day of terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. Our staff is numbed, shocked and saddened by the day's events and concerned for the safety and welfare of all those placed in the way of harm. Our hearts go out to all the victims and their loved ones. We pray that our leaders will have the wisdom and the strength to lead us in this time of turmoil and disaster into a safer and more secure world and that all those in the world who believe in peace and the fellowship of man and their leaders will support us in this effort.

Despite our anger and turmoil, we must not let the terrorists take control of us. It is important that we fight to preserve all that is near and dear to our hearts and to maintain and nourish all the institutions of our democracy that we cherish. Small as it is in the scheme of things, the weekly publication of our newspaper represents one of the expressions of our freedom that must be preserved.

– September 13, 2001

Greenbelt's Old Curmudgeon Cartoonist "Izzy" Parker Dies

Greenbelt's Old Curmudgeon, the News Review's cartoonist Isadore ("Izzy") Parker, died Monday, October 11, 2004, at the age of 84, following several years of failing health.

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

Even then he was providing cartoons to illustrate and enliven everyday life in this planned community.

Izzy rejoined the News Review as our official cartoonist in 1977. Since then he has been lampooning local events in Greenbelt as well as national issues that bothered him, drawing a cartoon nearly every week, sometimes from his sick bed.

Although his hands shook so uncontrollably he had difficulty writing his name, he could still manage to draw pictures.

Last year the Greenbelt Museum sponsored a retrospective exhibit of his career in cartooning. The exhibit occupied the museum's display space in the Community Center.

– October 14, 2004

Birner Honored For 50 Years

The Rev. Edward H. Birner, a well-known and respected member of the Greenbelt community, will be honored on Sunday, August 31, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a Lutheran pastor.

His service to Greenbelt reaches far beyond the pulpit. He was the first and long-time chair of the Community Relations Advisory Board and for many years has been a member of the Outstanding Citizen Committee for Greenbelt's Labor Day Festival, a role he still enjoys.

– August 28, 2003

Action Creates Forest Preserve

There were cheers from the crowd that spilled out into the hallway after the council approved placing 225 acres of city land into two "forest preserve areas."

– October 30, 2003

Evening Vigil

On Sunday evening, September 16, as darkness fell, the people of Greenbelt and nearby communities gathered at Buddy Attick Park. After parking, they received candles and gradually the sloping bank was transformed into a glowing quilt of light. With prayer, song, and brief statements, an interfaith service reflected on the September 11 terrorist assault, which brought fear and death to Americans. Many faiths were represented and the speakers addressed our common pain and the need to unite and give solace to those in need.

– September 20, 2001

Post Office Opens

Sundays are days off for U.S. Postal Service workers. But this coming Sunday, August 27, will instead be the day of all days for the new postal facility in Greenbelt – its official grand opening. Between 1 and 4 p.m. the new building at 7600 Ora Glen Drive, just around the corner from Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt East, will officially open its doors to residents, friends and honored guests for a ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of the facility.

– August 24, 2006

City Owns Theater

The Greenbelt News Review has learned that the City of Greenbelt is now the proud owner of the historic Old Greenbelt Theatre located in Roosevelt Center. According to Greenbelt City Solicitor Robert Manzi, settlement on the sale of the theater has been accomplished. Renovation of the facility is expected to begin at summer's end.

– June 26, 2003

2000s: Life, Death and Celebrations

The 2000s represented life and death and celebrations. Greenbelt gave birth to a new postal facility and two new seats on city council, one occupied by Emmett Jordan, making history as the city's first African American to serve.

The tragedy of September 11 also transpired in this decade, along with the death of former editor and Old Curmudgeon cartoonist Isadore ("Izzy") Parker.

Celebrations included the 50-year anniversary of Rev. Edward H. Birner's ordination as a Lutheran pastor.

City council approves two forest preserve areas and purchases of the Old Greenbelt Theater in Roosevelt Center.

Outside Scrutiny Prompts Historic City Council Election

A February 2008 letter from the ACLU and NAACP questioned city election procedures, seeking to make elections "fairer and more inclusive." After numerous executive sessions and nine public meetings, two proposals were presented – to increase council size from five to seven and to change the election date to even-numbered years. After those public hearings, council voted to undertake greater voter outreach, offer early voting by machine, expand absentee voting, increase council size to seven and change elections to even-numbered years. By August 10 the needed ordinances and charter amendments to implement four of the council decisions were enacted. However, the election date change proposal was tabled until after the city election.

All five incumbents plus three others sought council office at the November 3 election. Early voting and absentee voting proceeded smoothly. With a somewhat increased number of citizens voting, all incumbents and two newcomers, Emmett Jordan and Silke Pope, were elected. Jordan, who is African American, received the second largest number of votes, behind Davis. The new council elected Davis once more as mayor and Jordan as mayor pro tem.

– December 31, 2009

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