The amicable for the meeting for the larger community last week encompassing the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) could not have been more different from the corresponding tone at that earlier public meeting when the plan had been agreed by officials from nearby agencies, such as the State Highway Administration, the National Capital Planning Commission, the EPA, and the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

Following the public outcry, however, the city of Greendale contacted Congressman Steny Hoyer, with copies to U.S. Senators Paul Sarbanes and Birch Bayh and Congressman Albert Wynn, expressing concern. In early April 2 last year, Mayor Judith Davis described the process as “one where the public is being told what is going to happen, not one which has solicited public input for purposes of influencing the outcome.”

Apparent chagrin, disastrous officials went back to the literal drawing board and redesigned their 20-year master plan to redevelop and modernize the facility — this time with Soil Conservation Road moved to the east, where it will intersect with Good Luck Road.

This decision has slowed down by more than a year the calendar for reaching approval from the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), a necessary first-step in beginning the redevelopment process. According to Kim Toufeckis, project manager for the facilities master plan, it will be submitted to the NCPC on September 5. Members of the public are therefore invited to make comments, in written form, at any time until September 3.

The new master plan consists of three parts, Toufeckis said. These comprise the facilities master plan, the transportation management plan, and the environmental impact statement. All three are set forth in a draft proposal, a copy of which is available for public review in the Greenbelt Library.

June Meeting

Unlike the earlier meeting, in which over 120 people crowded in the auditorium at Goddard Visitor Center, the August 6 meeting was scheduled at DuVal High School. This change of venue became mandatory because of stepped-up security at GSFC since September 11.

Slightly fewer than 60 people turned out this time and the mood was more positive. The decision had been made to move the Soil Conservation Road bypass route to the east. Large display posters set up on easels showed before-and-after views of different aspects of the proposed designs.

Only sketchy drawings, however, depicted four possible variations that lead alongside a separate entrance, i.e., one into a hallway at the GSFC campus.

The amount which Hoyer requested and got full funding for in each of the BARC research projects. He has vowed to continue to fight any future attempts to terminate funding for BARC research. This is the only temperate area where bees operate, and if you are going to consolidate, it

Saw BEES, page 12

Part II

Three Greenbelt Towns Today: Same Concept, Diverse Paths

by Jordan Choper

When the government said Greendale, the village government hired the original town planner and kept him on board. He finished the total plan over a period of many years. So Greendale is the only greenbelt town to be completely planned by the original planner. Greendale’s development, in contrast, was not controlled by our own government and the way it grew did not reflect the original concept of the city.

When the government did sell the three towns, they used a different method of liquidation in Greendale and Greenbelt from what occurred in Greenbelt. In Greenbelt the residents formed a cooperative — which is now Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated — that controlled the town from the government in basically one piece. Most of the original apartment buildings were purchased by others. In the other two towns, the government held a lottery as to who would become the owner of a particular building. Hence, even though some people may have lived in a unit for over 10 years, if they lost the lottery they became the tenant of some one else who became their neighbor and landlord. Owners did not have to live in the home that they won, nor was there a limitation on owning more than one home or building. A large percentage of the occupants thereby became tenants and much of the housing stock became rental units. In Greenhills this has led to a situation where the village is now buying up some of the rental units, and, according to a few of the residents, the unspoken plan is to keep some of the units and demolish those which need much more repair, rebuilding on the site with single family homes which will be owner occupied.

The units which the Village of Greenhills is purchasing are row homes of frame design. They are larger than our frame homes and they have two service entrances, i.e., one into a hallway that leads alongside a separate living room to a kitchen and dining room on the garden side of the unit. A staircase with a landing connects the hallway to the apartments. The second service en-
Letters to the Editor

Firefighters Removed

Attention everyone who lives and works in the Greenbelt area. On July 1, the Prince George’s County removed its paid firefighters and emergency medical service staff from the Branchville, Cottage City and Ritchie firehouses with no notice to the citizens or elected officials in these communities. This leaves the volunteers there now covering these hours 24 hours a day. It can just as swiftly and coldly happen to you. Take a moment to voice your displeasure to County Executive Wayne Curry at 301-952-4131 and Fire Chief Ron Blackwell at 301-952-4723 about their lack of concern for the safety of your families and your community. As we come up on the anniversary of September 11, a day when so many firefighters lost their lives in the line of duty, remember that the firefighters at Company 35 in Greenbelt, as well as those at Branchville were burning the fire at the Pentagon. At a time when we should be showing gratitude for their sacrifice and dedication to us, the county executive and his administration have already done them and compromised your safety. The volunteers have always been there for you. Now in their time of need, it is our turn to be there for them.

David Downs

Contacts Suggested At School Board

At the start of the new school year, the Prince George’s County School Board underwent a major transition as an entire school board representing county districts to an appointed-at-large school board. The transition opens up many questions and one of them is “Who do you call” when you have a problem. The Greenbelt Advisory Committee for the Improvement of Education (ACE) recently asked this question of the school board members who live in Greenbelt and represent the county at large. One suggestion is that people call the school board member who chairs the committee concerning the issue in question. Therefore, ACE has distributed the following list of committee assignments and suggests parents and community members contact the committee chair when they have a question or concern.

- Technology Committee: Beatrice Tignor
- Legislative Committee: Howard Stone
- Planning and Policy Committee: John Pakos
- Instruction/Accountability Committee: Abby Crowley
- Student Appeals Committee: Charlene Dukes
- Personnel Committee: Charlene Dukes
- Finance, Budget & Audit Committee: Robert Duncan
- Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee: Joe Morales
- Master Plan Committee: Judy Mickens-Murray
- Business Roundtable, Partnerships & Communications Committee: Dean Sirje

In addition, Dr. Iris Metts, Prince George’s County Schools CEO, has indicated that she is the point person to contact on transportation and school bus problems or issues. The phone number to call is 301-952-6008.

School board members can be contacted through the county school’s website www.pgcps.org by clicking on their name or by calling 301-952-6110 or 951-6114. When in doubt people can always contact all the school board members Chair Beatrice Tignor or the CEO Iris Metts.

Leta M. Macb

Correction

In the August 8 “Our Neighbors,” we misidentified Richard Gagnon’s name. We regret the error.

Emerson Testerman

Firefighters to Rally in Branchville

As 1 p.m. on Saturday, August 25, the mayors of Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights, New Carrollton, and Colmar Manor will lead a rally to protest the recent loss of paid firefighters at the Branchville, Cottage City/Colmar Manor, and Ritchie firehouses. The rally will be held at Branchville Volunteer Fire Company at 4905 Branchville Road.

College Park. This decision by the Prince George’s Fire Department to redeploy paid firefighters to other areas of the county reduces the level of fire and emergency medical services to Greenbelt and nearby communities. The mayors have invited all the county executive candidates to the rally to address the issue and outline how they would resolve the problem.

Greenbelt News Review

Voter Registration Deadline Is Tuesday

Citizens wishing to vote in the upcoming Maryland primary election must be registered to vote no later than Tuesday, August 20.

Voter registration applications are available at all Motor Vehicle Administration branches, state Department of Health offices, local Department of Social Services branches, Offices on Aging, and Division of Rehabilitation Services branches. Citizens may also obtain a voter registration application at a marriage license bureau, community colleges, post offices, public libraries, and their local boards of Elections. Residents can also obtain a voter registration application going on-line to the website www.electionsmaryland.com or by calling the Maryland Board of Elections toll-free at 1-800-222-VOTE (8683) 24 hours a day.

Other important 2002 Maryland Election Calendar dates include:

- Tuesday, September 10 – Primary Election Day;
- Tuesday, October 15 – Last day to register to vote before the general election;
- Tuesday, November 5 – General Election Day.

Beauchamp, Page at Book Signing

Greenbelters Virginia Walcott Brasch and Washington Post reporter Lisa Frazier Page will be featured at a book signing and reception from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on August 22 at the Largo-Kettering Community Library. The event, described as a networking occasion, is sponsored by the office of Dorothy Bailey, a member of the Prince George’s County Council, the Prince George’s County Department of Health and Human Services and of Family Services, and Women in Network (WIN).

Beauchamp is coordinating editor of a newly published edition of a 1529 translation of a major work on women and their role in society, “The Instruction of a Christian Woman” by the Spanish author Juan Luis Vives. Page’s book, “The Pact,” describes three inner-city high school boys who agreed to support each other for as long as it would take for them to become doctors.

The reception is open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Those planning to attend are asked to call Charisse Armistead at 301-985-3532 by August 19.

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In the August 8 “Our Neighbors,” we misidentified Richard Gagnon’s name. We regret the error.

Emerson Testerman
Pre-Festival Fundraising

There will be a PTSA planning meeting on Saturday, August 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Cafeteria. The meeting will be followed by the astounding Group Therapy (starting at 1 p.m.) with the Good Life Theatre, and great kids’ entertainment (starting at 3 p.m.) with the Good Life Theatre. The ending performance on Friday night is the enjoyable John Hill, Jr. Blues who play great blues, original tunes are invited to view a movie on Tuesday, August 20 at 1 p.m. in the Turfwood Elementary and Green Ridge Elementary satellite locations at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt Park Camping Ground and in the festival program. All Greenbelt residents interested in writing are invited to attend.

City Notes

The week of August 5 the biggest events were: The New College Festival of Landscaping and young trees throughout the city and removed the remaining wall, shrubs and soil along the side of the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Used timbers were transported to a facility which accepts old timbers. The crew also continued repair the park of the State of Greenbelt Center. The marquee entertainment for ticket seller positions. There will be one more bake sale to be held on August 24 at Dining Hall #2 of the Community Center.

PTSA to Discuss Plans for Future

There will be a PTSA planning meeting on Tuesday, August 20 at 7 p.m. in the Turfwood Elementary School cafeteria conference room. The next night, August 21, will be a Night, August 20 at 1 p.m. in the Turfwood Elementary and Green Ridge Elementary satellite locations at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Greenbelt Park Camping Ground and in the festival program. All Greenbelt residents interested in writing are invited to attend.

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Formative Experiences

Page 4

came to Greenbelt in 1944. Al-
died at age 88 on July 16, 2002,
horseshoes at the Beltsville Farm.
Ray Bochert remembers pitching
Miller’s music. Many played on
Road when it snowed, ice skating
grounds, sledding down Ridge
seum about enjoying the play-
pay his telephone bill until spring
Behnke’s Nursery, then one small
by the C & P Telephone Com-
ceptura who age 17 by representatives of the
Christy also remembered how she
have always treasured,” she said.
. . . I had a wonderful growing

among her favorite memories are
paying 25 cents to go to the Green-
here she en-
joyed the newswells, previews and
double feature movies; getting
kicked out of the theater for pop-
ging a loud popcorn bag just as
an usher walked down the aisle;
having to play with over 20 girls
that forced her dad to spend
the night sleeping in his car.
Another time “two boys . . .
extended one of our girl class-
ment of Greenbelt High just as
he was the principal was showing vis-
itors around our school grounds.
Wow, did he ever stomp into our science classroom
right after that and we all got it
done. . . I had a wonderful growing
up and it is something that I have always treasured,” she said.

Christy also remembered how she was recruited for her first job at
age 17 by representatives of the
Central Intelligence Agency who
came to the old Greenbelt High School.
Another pioneer, Bob Som-
ners, remembers being recruited by
the C & P Telephone Com-
pany. One of his first assign-
ments was a new lineman in the
fall of 1942 was to go out to
Behnke’s Nursery, then one small
grounds on 131 Ridge Road,
now living in Davison Springs, Ken.
worked at the Greenbelt Theater as an
55 cents an hour un-
til he enlisted in the Navy in 1945.
Many pioneers tell the Mu-
es about enjoying the play-
steads, sledding down Ridge Road
was not owned, ice skating on the
lake, meeting their friends at the
“Drop Inn” (forerunner of the
Youth Club) at night, swim-
ing at the Greenbelt pool every
day in the summer, javelin-
throwing to Tommy Dorsey’s and
Glen Miller’s music. Many played
on basketball and softball teams.
Rey Cooney remembers pitching
horses at the Beltsville Farm.

The Friends of the Greenbelt Museum often receive letters from
pioneer family members who have moved away. Recently Jane
Ellen (Johnson) Christy wrote to
us from her home in Lawrence-
ville, Ga. She and her parents, Lw and Genevieve Johnson, lived
at 5-F Ridge Road. In the 1940s, her father was head of the
Washington Congregational Print-
division and her mother ran the
lunch counter at the drug store (now the C & P Restaurant).

Chrifty vividly remembers one summer’s night when some
boys played a trick on her and
her friend Esther Wolfe by send-
ing them a paper bag and string
to catch the snakes. We laughed
about that for a long time,” she wrote.

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The bridge across the stream valley in the middle of Greenbelt, Wisc., connects the inner walkway system to the shopping center.

The same plans were used for both the Greenbelt and Greenhills’ swimming pool bath houses. Since then, both have been substantially modified to be the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center and Greenhills’ pool administration building.

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TOWNS continued from page 1

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Greenbelt Consumer Co-op Ad
**POLICE BLOTTER**

**Robbery**

6500 block Springhill Drive, August 6, 12:01 a.m., a man approached by a man carrying a black handgun. The suspect stabbed the victim in the back with the gun.

**Assault**

6200 block Breenwood Drive, August 6, 12:30 a.m., a black male resident, 21, was arrested and charged with two counts of first degree assault and related offenses. Officers responded to a report of a disturbance where the male was armed with a knife. Witnesses said the suspect had just left, and police found him nearby. A victim said the suspect had threatened to kill him and the victim was stabbed in the stomach.

**Trespassing**

TGI Friday restaurant, August 3, 9:33 p.m., a suspect with a baggie containing marijuana was released on citation pending trial.

**Drug Arrests**

7500 block Hanover Parkway, August 2, 4:14 p.m., after a traffic stop, two D.C. men, 18 and 29, were arrested and charged with possession of (crack) cocaine and intent to distribute as well as other charges. One of the men tried to flee the area on foot, but was caught by a short chase. While attempting to swallow a baggie containing several packages of suspected crack cocaine, he assaulted a second officer who arrived to assist in the arrest. A passenger in the suspected vehicle was arrested for interfering with the arrest of the first suspect. Both men were released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

**Vehicle Crimes**

The following vehicles were reported stolen: a blue 1999 Dodge Caravan, Md. tags M251372, August 4 from the 6200 block Greenbelt Road; a 2000 Dodge Intrepid four-door, August 4 from the 9000 block of Edmonston Road, was recovered the next day by the owner in the 6000 block Springhill Drive; a red 1995 Dodge Neon four-door, August 5, from the 9000 block of Greenbelt Road; a 1987 Suzuki Esteem, August 5, from the 7000 block Hanover Parkway; recovered the next day by the owner in the 6000 block Springhill Drive; a blue 1988 Toyota Camry four-door, Va. tags WD 10548, August 5, from the 6000 block Springhill Drive; a blue 1982 Honda Accord station wagon, Md. tags JBY 6211, August 5, from the 6000 block Springhill Drive; a blue 1994 Honda Accord station wagon, Md. tags JBY 6211, August 5, from the 6000 block Springhill Drive.

**Bank Robbed**

The Columbia Bank on Greenway Center Drive in Greenbelt East was robbed during the morning of August 5. At about 10 a.m. the robber entered the bank and produced a handgun. He ordered the manager to take money from each of the tellers and put the money into a bag. After taking the money the robber fled, getting into a vehicle described as a white box-type van driven by an accomplice.

**ACT Deadline Looms for High School Seniors**

The next ACT Assessment was administered on September 28. College-bound high school students must register for the col-

7600 block Columbia Pike, August 10, 1993, was dropped at the Target store. The suspect is described as a black male, 18 years old, wearing a black, 5’7”, thin, wearing a red and blue shirt and a black shorts.

**Vandalism**

6 Court Ridge Road, August 4, 10:06 p.m., a man was arrested and charged with the living room window of a residence.

**Domestic Disturbance**

St. Hugh’s School, August 6, 11:21 a.m., someone threw a ball at a classroom window.

**Break-in**

2200 block Springhill Drive, August 5, 12:12 a.m., a yellow Honda moped was taken from the parking lot. A man described as a black male, 17 years old, wearing a grey hoodie, was seen getting on the moped and driving away.

**Burglary**

6800 block Springhill Drive, August 6, 3:17 p.m., the victim was wearing dark clothing; no information on the second suspect.

**Starting the Day**

At 10:07 a.m. 9300 block Edmonston Road, August 7, 9:16 a.m., a man had broken into an unsecured shed.

**Area of Kenilworth Avenue**

3000 block Kenilworth Avenue, 10:20 a.m., a man was approached by a man carrying a 12-speed bicycle and a purple Metropolitan Police in southeast D.C.; a 1987 Buick Electra four-door, August 5, from the 2 Court Ridge Road; a white 1993 Cadillac Seville four-door, had been reported stolen. The juvenile was released to the guardian and the older suspect was released on citation pending a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

**In targeted areas from and attempted thefts were reported in the following areas: 9000 block of Springhill Drive, 100 block Springhill Lane; 400 block Ridge Road (two incidents), 9000 block Hanover Parkway (two incidents); area of Laurel Hill and Hilltop Drive; 100 block Greenbelt; 9000 block Springhill Drive; 9000 block Edmonston Road; 7 Court Square; 58000 block Chesapeake Woods Terrace; 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive; 5900 block College Parkway; 7 Lakeside Drive; 7000 block Walter Drive.

**Columbia Bank Robbed**

The Columbia Bank on Greenway Center Drive in Greenbelt East was robbed during the morning of August 5. At about 10 a.m. the robber entered the bank and produced a handgun. He ordered the manager to take money from each of the tellers and put the money into a bag. After taking the money the robber fled, getting into a vehicle described as a white box-type van driven by an accomplice.

The description of the robber provided by the Greenbelt police is a black male, age 26 to 35, 5’10” in height, 200 pounds, with an “Afro” style haircut, an unblemished beard and mustache and wearing a grey turtleneck T-shirt, blue jeans and sneakers. There is no description for the driver of the van.

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**Thursday, August 15, 2002**
A Review

"Marvin’s Room" Challenges GAC

by Virginia Beauchamp

We never get to see Marvin’s room, which provides the title for the play currently on the boards at the Greenbelt Arts Center, but we can glimpse its occupant through a translucent window at center stage rear. Or rather, we can see his head in silhouette from behind as he lies in bed and hear his garbled croaks and groans. He has had a stroke and from time to time wakes up from troubled sleep. He is never the center of action, but his presence in part explains the other characters and what they do.

Most important is the daughter who cares for him — the slight, unmarried Bessie. Then there’s her sister, Aunt Ruth, who lives in the home and does her confused and confusing best to help. Later in the play another daughter, Lee, who had left home, and avoided the exigencies of family life 20 years earlier, now returns with two young sons in tow. Lee returns, not to help out with her father, but to offer a bone marrow transplant for her sister, recently diagnosed with leukemia. The two boys are standbys for a possible bone marrow match. Bessie’s diagnosis occurs at a visit to a doctor in the play’s first act.

It is apparent that the GAC team of actors has put in much time in rehearsal. Under Sheila Crossley-Cox’s skilled direction, they have produced uniformly fine performances. Susan Harper as Bessie is believably the sweet and thoughtful center of this otherwise dysfunctional household. Noema Omar as Ruth offers an effective, often comic portrayal of the wayward interloper, likable though dizzy, aunty. Young Carl Wilson handles his role as sister’s second son with practiced competence, though his speaking role is small.

Gripping from the role of Bessie, the two major speaking parts belong to Fran Calhoon as sister Lee and John Hefner as her troubled and confrontational teenage son Hank. Their idiosyncrasies are absolutely believable, though uncomfortable to overhear. How both are affected and thoughtful center of this otherwise dysfunctional household. Y in the well-intentioned, likable, often comic, portrayal of Bessie’s regular doctor, who carries out the medical protocol, is an off-stage entry, and the results are reported, as they would be in the examination room with the substitute doctor, holding out her arm for a blood sample. Nor, in a later scene, learn that a bone marrow sample will be taken.

Structurally the play should begin with Bessie and her home circumstances, through which we begin to understand her character. Then it should lead us into knowledge of her medical crisis. All this could be accomplished in a single scene with a single set. Perhaps the second scene in such a conception would switch us to Ohio, where Lee and her sons are introduced, and where they first learn the news from Bessie. By Act 2 they have moved to Bessie’s home (read Marvin’s place) in Florida, where mother and son are eventually both transformed. GAC is to be commended for taking on this challenging play by Scott McPherson. Over the years they have premiered and commissioned a fair number of new works. For the author this still seems to be a work in progress.

Performances will continue on Fridays and Saturdays through August 24 at 8 p.m. There will be a matinee on Sunday, August 18 at 2 p.m.

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sins. At the same time it ben-
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Where: GHI Boardroom
When: Thursday, August 29, 2002
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