This week’s edition of the Greenbelt News Review will be 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 16-page mimeographed publication. They titled their publication the Greenbelt Cooper. 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 business section of the town’s commercial 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 its 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 1970, 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 councilman.”

Early Printing

For over five decades the paper was printed by Marat Moree, 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.

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, Bernice Giese, James Giese

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

Less than 1 Year – Richard Jean

The News Review Staff


25th Anniversary News Review Staff


Editors – 1937 to Present

Donald Cooper – 1939-May 1940; June 1940-Oct 1946

Liman Schwartz – May-August 1940

Chadordes Ford – August-November 1940

Francis Fosnight – November 1940-June 1942

Maldo Mott – June-November 1943

Anne Hull – September 1944-July 1945; February-September 1947

Katherine Ritchie – July 1945-April 1946

Ralph Miller – October 1946; December 1952-March 1953

Edith Nichols – October 1946-February 1947

Sally Meredith – September 1947-October 1948; January-July 1950

Edward Meredith – October 1948-June 1949

Isadore P. Parker – June-December 1949; October 1955-September 1956


Janice Solot – May 1952-October 1954

Barnard King – April-October 1953

Russell Greenbaum – October 1954-January 1955; February 1950; May-September 1952-December 1952

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 Griffrith, Sue Krofchik, Sandra Lange, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Carol Ready, Altoria Bell Ross, Helen Sydavar, Kathleen McFarland, Lou Ann McCann, Larry Hall, Solange Hess, Eileen Farnham and Mary Lou Williamson.
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.

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.

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.

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 co-op 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.

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.

Council Sets Up Hospital Fund
The first definite steps toward the realization of a Municipal hospital for Greenbelt were taken when it adopted unanimously a resolution authorizing the town treasurer to set up a special Hospital Fund, and which set aside for this fund the $2,800 remaining unspent from the town’s 1938 funds.

New Elementary School To Be Built

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.

Lenore Thomas Statue Dedication

Will Be Held on November 12

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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.

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 clear- ance officer.
The Sale of Greenbelt

Five-Man Dissident Group Demands 1200 GVHC Members Make Terms

We're Not Amused

Negotiations to Be Resumed On Sale of Greenbelt to Residents

Let's Face It

Flight from the Facts

What Price Referendum?

GVHC Takes Title To Greenbelt

To Veterans

Groups Only

An Open Letter to GCS Board

flight from the Facts

The 1950s: A Tumultuous Decade

Happy 75th Anniversary

Greenbelt News Review
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 developments 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 “greenbelt” development 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. Creekside 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.

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. It is obvious that any further rental apartment and commercial zoning would still 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

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,

John F. Kennedy

letter from White House – June 21, 1962

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 leading 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 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 this 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

Print this page
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
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- Burlington Coat Factory
- Academy 8 Stadium Theatres
- Joe's Crab Shack
- Giant Food
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- 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:**

1. Humberto Guzman and his Mariachi Band
   - November 25, December 9

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

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

4. 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

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

www.beltwayplazamall.com
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-heading, 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 paragraph 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 printer shop 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 incommoded 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 and 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, 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.

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We are 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.

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

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

Patrick & Linda McAndrew

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.

– November 20, 1997

Congratulations!!

Sandra & David Lange

Greenbelt News Review –
Heartbeat of our city for 75 years

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Greenbelt • 301-474-4144 • 28 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl Jr.

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

Patrick & Linda McAndrew

Patrick & Linda McAndrew

Patrick & Linda McAndrew

Patrick & Linda McAndrew
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—writing, designing, editing, and copy—write the News Review with a consummate dedication to the smallest detail.

—November 24, 1977

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 Greenbelt to work some of those evenings at the editor’s desk and the News Review. Three times a week she 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 de-
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, a local Maryland weekly published by a 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 of its property to allow the construction of a pedestrian crosswalk over the Parkway. Bresler’s attorney, Abraham Chasanoan, 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 concluded that “performing its wholly legitimate function as a community newspaper, the defendant ‘contends that the articles could be read as an effort to subvert the most fundamental liberty – freedom of speech’” (italics added). 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.

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. Given 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.

First Greenbriar Residents Move In

The frenzied activity that took place at Greenbelt 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.

Greenbelt News Review

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 in January 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.

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.

Senior Housing

No Beer at Festival

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.

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 Elmsky, Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, recommended building a pedestrian crosswalk over the Parkway.

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.

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 East 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.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Opens

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

The City of New Carrolton Congratulates the Greenbelt News Review for 75 years of Keeping the Community Informed

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.

Senior Housing

Glen Oaks Apartments

For 75 years of Keeping the Community Informed

New Greenbelt Library Opens

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

GHI Members

The City of New Carrolton 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

Glen Oaks Apartments

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Greenbriar Condominiums & Glen Oaks Apartments

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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

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
“Twas Only Yesterday”

Greenbelt Pioneers Meet and Dance

The sounds of Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller filled the 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 65th 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

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 offered 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.

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

Bernie and Jim Giese

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.

Greenbelt Lake Celebrates 20th

“Greenbelt 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 Greenbelt Lake occurred on Friday, July 6, 1982 and within a year, 1,000 residents moved into the first section. Five years later, Greenbelt Lake housed approximately 10,000 people, and now, in 1983, almost half the population of the City of Greenbelt lives in Greenbelt 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.

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

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

Happy Birthday
From Linda Ivy

News Review celebrates its 50th anniversary • Most issues are 12 pages; special issues may be 28 pages
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 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

Thank You!
Greenbelt News Review for 75 years of uninterrupted service, providing news and information and being a vital part of the vibrant, growing, inclusive community we all cherish.

Happy Birthday
Robert and Sylvia Lewis
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 Greenbelt Sun. He served as editor from June to December 1949. Even then he was providing cartoons to illustrate and enliven every day of 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.

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 28, 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

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 7000 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

Law Offices of David R. Cross
115 Centerway
Roosevelt Center
301-474-5705
Wishing the News Review a Happy 75th Anniversary.

30 Years of Legal Experience

Birner Honored For 50 Years

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– August 28, 2003

The New Deal Calif & FONDCA (Friends of New Deal Calif Arts) express our sincere appreciation and continued support, and would like everyone to join us in singing

HAPPY 75TH ANNIVERSARY TO THE GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW!

New Deal Caf - 113 Centerway
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-3848

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

Outside Scrutiny Prompts Historic City Council Election

A February 8 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 earlier 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

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 50th anniversary of Rev. Edward H. Birner’s ordination as a Lutheran pastor.

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

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

The Greenbelt News Review on 75 Years of Outstanding Service to the Greater Greenbelt Community
CELEBRATING 75th GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW ANNIVERSARY

greenway center

Safeway, Old Navy, Dollar Tree, Ross Dress for Less, PetSmart, LA Fitness and over 3 dozen great stores!

Route 193 in Greenbelt, MD