

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Volckhausen Leaves

"Mister Co-op" is leaving Greenbelt. After many years residence here, Bob Volckhausen and his family move from Greenbelt this month to work in another co-op in Hampton, Virginia.

Bob came here in 1937, a youth endowed with strength of character, endurance and a deep abiding faith in the philosophy of cooperatives. From that time his personal and public life was intimately involved in our community. Here, he lost his mother and aunt. In Greenbelt he met Jane, now his wife. And in Greenbelt were born his children.

Bob was one of the first editors of the "Cooperator". He was active in and helped organize almost every cooperative venture in Greenbelt: the Health Association, Greenbelt Consumer Services, Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation, are a few. His years of service were marked by strife and controversy. A pacifist by religious conviction, Bob encountered strong feelings among many residents during the war years. His equally strong adherence to the basic principles of the cooperative movement engendered hostility among some "big-business" minded cooperators, but inspired others to re-affirm their beliefs in these basic principles.

One citizen declared at last Friday's reception in Bob's honor in the Community church—"Bob was the yeast in our civic life; he caused a lot of fermenting and churning, but in the end you got a wonderful loaf of that staff of life."

Bob's role in Greenbelt was displayed most clearly at a meeting of the Greenbelt Citizens Association, not long ago. A documentary film "The City" was shown, which included many scenes of Greenbelt in its early days. The film emphasized the good planning, the open spaces, the children at play, the general feeling of freedom and harmony with nature. At the close, to an already impressed group of citizens, Bob said simply and quietly, "I think this shows us the great responsibility we have as citizens of Greenbelt."

This was Bob's chief role in Greenbelt: he reminded us of our responsibilities.

To The Editor

After living 10 years in Greenbelt, I am compelled to write my first "Letter to the Editor".

It is a letter of protest against the City Council and the GVHC board for passing resolutions against the Fulbright Bill concerning government control of natural gas.

In the same week that these bodies equivocated concerning the rezoning of a plot of land for commercial purposes when it had been made very apparent to them that the citizens most concerned were strongly against such action (this concerned a number of citizens directly and all citizens indirectly), these same bodies passed resolutions concerning a controversial political issue which directly affects not one citizen of Greenbelt as a resident of the city.

The Fulbright Bill is a controversial proposal involving a "philosophy of government" issue. Even if passage of the bill should result in higher costs of natural gas to consumers (a supposition difficult to prove), is it a concern of our City Council and GVHC since there are no natural gas consumers living in Greenbelt? By another stretch of the imagination, suppose passage of the bill would indirectly cause an increase in costs of other utilities (even more difficult to prove). Do such doubtful suppositions provide proper basis for members of these bodies to pass resolutions either for or against such a controversial bill without obtaining the views of the citizens and members they represent?

I am basing this letter on the articles in the January 19th issue concerning these two actions. Since the item concerning the Fulbright Bill was very brief, perhaps information was omitted which would make passage of the resolutions appear plausible. As the articles stand, however, it makes one wonder why such resolutions were proposed and why our Council members and GVHC directors voted, apparently unanimously, for them. As a public service, I think the News Review should publish the content of the resolutions and the names of the officials to whom they were sent. This would provide additional information for the public and would also permit individual citizens to write to these same officials disavowing the resolutions as not representing accurately the views of all the citizens of Greenbelt and GVHC.

Harold F. Hufendick
(Editors note-) We agree with Hufendick's protest. GVHC and the city council were within their responsibilities to consider the zoning problem, but wandered far afield by acting on the gas bill. According to our information the GVHC board was reluctant to discuss any of the problems; then reversed themselves and considered all. The city council acted on the request of a council member, without much discussion. As it was explained, the bill (if passed) would mean higher rates for gas and oil, which we purchase as residents and citizens. For this reason, both groups agreed to oppose the bill and to notify proper officials of their action.

Our Neighbors

Elaine Skolnick - 7586

It's a girl for the Charles McCormack, Jr., 35-H Ridge. Little Dolores Taylor weighed in at 6 lbs. 11 oz. on January 5. She has a sister, Holly, and a brother, Chucky.

Happy birthday to Diane Louise Stansburge, 21-D Ridge, who celebrated her third birthday Monday. Brother Robin was a year old January 5.

It was a lucky Friday the 13th for Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Morse, 12-A Crescent. Their first child, Anita Isabelle, was born that day weighing 6 pounds, 5 ounces.

Helen Marie Mayhew, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Mayhew, 13-Q Hillside, is their sixth child. Her three brothers and two sisters all go to St. Hugh's school. Helene Marie was born January 16, and weighed 6 pounds.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kidwell, Jr., 54-K Ridge, announce the birth of their fourth child, Kathleen, who weighed 6 pounds 7 ounces when she was born January 14.

The News Review staff is holding an open house-farewell for Miriam and Morris Solomon, who are planning to leave soon for Cleveland, Ohio. It will be held at the home of Manny and Helen Dondy, 6-K Ridge, from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, January 28. All friends and former staff members who wish to attend are welcome.

The fifth child, a boy, of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Nolls, 34-M Ridge, was born January 20. Named David, he weighed 6 pounds 11 ounces.

Chasanow, Rev. Hull Discuss Center At GCA

The future of the Greenbelt shopping center will be discussed by the Rev. Robert Hull and Abe Chasanow at the next Greenbelt Citizens Association meeting Tuesday, January 31.

Hull is a member of the board of directors of the Greenbelt Consumer Services. GCS owns the food store but rents the other Greenbelt stores and gas station from the Gilbert Realty Co. of Philadelphia. Chasanow represents the Gilbert interests in Greenbelt. GCS and the Gilbert group have been unable to agree on terms for renewing the leases, which expire later this year. GCS also has been planning to relocate most of its facilities, because of this impasse.

The hassle over the proposed rezoning of a triangular tract on Southway, 75 feet from a residence in the 10 Court, to commercial C-2 so that the GCS gas station may be relocated there, will also be discussed.

GCA will elect a director to fill the vacancy on its board caused by president Bob Volckhausen's leaving Greenbelt soon.

The meeting will be held in the Center school social room, 8:30 p.m.

Scoutmaster Need As Walden Resigns

Scout Troop 202, sponsored by the Greenbelt Community Church, is in need of a new Scoutmaster Mack Walden, present Scoutmaster for the troop is resigning this position/effective February 1, due to the pressure of other duties.

A Scoutmaster is needed immediately. Any person with prior training in this field, or one who is particularly interested in boys and scouting activities is particularly needed. Emory Harman, chairman of the troop committee, asks anyone who is interested to contact him at 23-B Ridge, GR 3-6367.

Credit Union's 'Most Successful' Year; Elect Officers, 3½% Dividend Set

At the annual membership meeting of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, Wednesday, January 18, the reports of president Carl Eubank, and treasurer Joseph Comproni, revealed that the credit union's business during the past year had been more successful than any like period since its organization in 1937.

The credit union is the oldest non-profit organization in Greenbelt, created for the purpose of serving its members by providing a means for investment of funds, as well as making loans to its members for productive purposes. The credit union has made loans amounting to over a million dollars since its organization.

The treasurer's report showed that there are now over 72,000 shares in the credit union and that the amount of loans for the past year's business amounted to over \$90,000—the largest yearly amount of loans to date.

The board recommended a 3½% dividend payment for the past year and the membership voted unanimously for acceptance of this recommendation.

New Officers

Following the reports, elections were held for the board of directors, credit committee and supervisory committee. Elected to the board were Ben Rosenzweig, Carl Eubank and Al Folkman. Joseph Comproni, Joseph Fitzmaurice, Frank Perazoli and Joseph O'Neil are serving their second year of a 2-year term. The credit committee, composed of James Beck and Bernard Sisco, will be assisted by Waldo Tastet, who was elected for a 2-year term. Re-elected to the supervisory committee were Mrs. Theresa Schumaker and Edward Link, with Ed. Kaighn serving a second year of a 2-year term.

Mrs. Theresa Schumaker was appointed chairman of the Educational Committee for a 1-year term.

It is quite noteworthy that all of last year's officers were re-elected, thereby showing the high esteem and great confidence which the membership holds for their officers, one credit union official observed.

The credit union reminds members that their books should be mailed or brought to the office so that the current dividend may be entered.

Police Crack Wave Of Juvenile Crime

By Claude Wimberly

City manager Charles MacDonald announced this week that astute police work on the part of the local force, under the leadership of officer John H. Williams, assisted by officer Marshall Zoellner, had solved the wave of petty thievery and vandalism that had plagued police since before Christmas.

The three juveniles responsible have been apprehended and will be turned over to the juvenile authorities.

First Break

The officers were hampered in their investigations due to the laxity of victims reporting these thefts. The first break in the case came when one of the youngsters was apprehended while attempting to steal a rifle from the Olmstead Arms Company in Beltsville. Following this lead, officer Williams and other members of local police, took the youngsters into custody, and after much questioning and further investigation, tied them to the wave of broken windows in schools, homes and automobiles and to the theft of articles valued at more than \$500, most of which was recovered.

Much of the loot was obtained from jewelry, drug and hardware stores in nearby College Park, Langley and Riverdale. Some of the recovered items were from the North End store in Greenbelt.

Report Emphasized

MacDonald emphasized that failure of citizens to report these thefts and acts of vandalism hampered police to such an extent that these youths were enabled to operate unchecked for a much longer time than would have been possible if the victims had cooperated fully with police.

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Editor
Isadore Parker, 8922

Vol. 20

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No. 25

SPECIAL

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or

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GVHC Candidates For Board Announced

Sixteen candidates for the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation board of directors and three candidates for the audit committee have been nominated by the Elections and Nominations Committee.

For Board (9 members): Percy H. Andros, Ralph A. Bartholomew, Glenn A. Black, Bruce L. Bowman, Ed A. Burgoon, Mrs. Helen Dondy, Russell S. Greenbaum, Robert P. Halpin, Arthur Hatton, Mrs. Ann

Jarvis, Hans Jorgensen, Frank A. Kriby, Frank J. Lastner, Al Long, Mrs. Margaret Mullady, and John W. Phariss.

For Audit (3 members): Theodore L. Dalbow, James Robert Keene, and Frank J. LaParle.

CANCER FILM

The Women's group of the JCC will meet Thursday, February 2, at the JCC building. An informative color film "Cancer Detection of the Breast" will be shown at 9:30 p.m. All women in Greenbelt are invited to attend.

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Sunday, January 29, 1956

11:00 a.m. — Rev. Fred M. Horton
Missionary to Japan

7:00 p.m. — Hon. O. K. Armstrong
Former Congressman from Missouri
Recently returned from Orient

Thursday, February 2, 1956

7:30 p.m. — Mrs. Ioleta McElhaney
Missionary to Cherokee children

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHAPEL

Center School

Local Piano Prodigy To Give Recital

Martin Berkovsky, local 12-year old pianist, will give a recital at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Preparatory Department, 21 E. Mt. Vernon Place in Baltimore, Sunday, February 5, at 4 p.m. The recital privilege was won in an annual competition at the school. Sharing the program is a young lady violinist, also a winner in the competition. All Greenbelters are invited.

Martin has held a scholarship in piano and harmony at Peabody for almost three years, after having first studied with Mrs. Lee Mirabella of Greenbelt for three years. Well known locally, Martin has played at numerous social functions here and has appeared several times on TV in Washington.

Recently, he gave an informal recital at the "Homelands" estate of Paul Harlan in Churchville, Maryland. About 30 guests were present, many prominent in musical circles in Baltimore. One of the selections played was Mendelssohn's Piano Concerto in G Minor (First Movement) with second piano accompaniment.

Martin attends Greenbelt junior high and is interested in motors, outdoors and swimming. He lives at 5-A Ridge with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Berkovsky.

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