

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Intercounty Beltway Route Affects Zoning, Road Conditions, Development

By I. J. Parker

More and more the proposed construction of the Intercounty Beltway makes its presence felt in Greenbelt. The latest development concerns the redesigning of the Glenn Dale road Baltimore Parkway interchange, which places all ramps on the Greenbelt side of Glenn Dale road. This is necessary for the proper design of a larger cloverleaf of the Parkway-Beltway interchange several hundred feet south of Glenn Dale road.

The new ramps come close to the wire fence adjoining homes on the Parkway side of Southway and meet this street directly opposite the proposed filling station. This creates a traffic pattern which will cause all planning agencies acute concern.

2 Tracts Involved

As the intercounty beltway approaches Greenbelt it cuts across two tracts of land presently being petitioned for re-zoning. The first, between Edmonston road and the B and O tracks, is requested to be re-zoned "industrial" and the second, at the corner of Edmonston and Greenbelt roads, is hoped to be re-zoned "commercial." At this time, the state roads commission has not purchased or taken option on the land needed for the right-of-way. If the land is re-zoned before such arrangements have been made, the price of the property will increase in value. It is usually a substantial increase—enough to cause some state officials grave concern.

One recent proposal by a state official has been to "freeze" the value of land pending acquisition. Our own city council has discussed this situation and is hesitant at making any recommendation to the park and planning commission regarding zoning changes because of this. An increase in value would mean expenditures by the state roads commission who derive funds from taxes—taxes from citizens in Greenbelt and throughout the state.

If the re-zoning is approved, and increased value to the property is realized it appears that the Pollin interest for the industrial tract, and Warner-Kanter with the commercial will gain a sizeable "windfall" in their purchase of undeveloped Greenbelt land. However, the planning group can put property anticipated for use as right of way into "reservation" for three years; this land becomes untaxable, but available for acquisition in that period.

Greenbelt Road

Why hasn't the state accepted Greenbelt road into its system now that the road is used primarily by motorists going to and from the parkway? The cost of repair has been borne by the city, and the recent weather has made the thoroughfare increasingly dangerous. Until good weather comes, it will continue to receive the "patching" it now gets, which is hardly adequate.

According to comments by the city council, the state wants to take over the road, but wishes to acquire additional right of way on the north side in order to widen the pavement. (Even more traffic is expected after the University lane by-pass and bridge at U.S. 1 are completed.) It is my impression that the state is now waiting to purchase the required Greenbelt road right-of-way and the beltway right-of-way simultaneously, since just one property owner (Warner-Kanter) is involved.

Negotiations with the Interior department to acquire the needed right-of-way on the south side of the road have been fruitless.

The construction of the beltway will take place in the future at an unknown time. It appears, however, that the city must continue to maintain Greenbelt road until then.

The Long View

By Al Long

I am writing this while sitting in the lobby of the Planters Hotel in Chicago (a comfortable third-class hostel favored by Government workers) and watching the Loop crowds walk by. Naturally, I am thinking of Greenbelt—not only because it is home and I wish I were there, but how different it is from a place like Chicago.

It may be true, as our good citizen Dr. Robert Hull points out in his letter to the editor, that a crowd of citizens yapping away at council is not orderly or efficient. The Chicago City Council is undoubtedly more dignified and impressive—but a lot less democratic, and I'll wager not near as honest. Democracy is not a smooth operation and unfortunately has more than its fair share of "... sound and fury, signifying nothing." It keeps officials in line, however, even though it is often a headache and a bore for the lawmakers.

It will be a sad day for Greenbelt when important civic issues fail to bring out spontaneously a group of citizens en masse to jaw away at council. We can always depend on the well organized special interests to present their view in good shape to the council; let's pray that the people never fail to give theirs, even if a little sloppily.

Let's hope too, that we will always have a community newspaper to keep our citizens aware of what is going on. A newspaper, please, that quite often steps on the big toes of the big feet of the big men who would like to run things more quietly and effectively. When big business becomes big monopoly and shies away from a free press, something is rotten in either Denmark or Greenbelt. And that has been the situation in Greenbelt for some time.

It is no secret that Mr. GCS-Monopoly has tried to control the editorial policy of the Cooperator, through its stranglehold on advertisements. Even some GVHC officials have objected pointedly in the same vein when news stories or editorials or columns are unfavorable to their ego.

The principal trouble in Greenbelt is that too many overly fervent cooperators have lost their perspective—they cannot see the woods because of the "twin pine trees."

Legion Liquor Plea Put Off; To Try Again

By Rhea G. Kahn

A public hearing at the county level on the application of American Legion Post 136 for a liquor license will be held in March, it was disclosed last week. The application came up for hearing before the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board of Prince Georges County in Upper Marlboro last Thursday, but the Post had to withdraw it because the accompanying petition was short two qualified signatures on grounds the two signers were not registered county voters in the third precinct of the 21st Election District, which includes Greenbelt. Registration for Greenbelt city elections was inadequate to qualify. Holders of "perpetual uses" in Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation were accepted by the board as property owners.

Local Opposition

High local interest was evident in the fact that two carloads of Greenbelters attended the Thursday morning hearing, including city manager Charles McDonald, GVHC manager Paul Campbell, and four ministers in addition to the Legion representatives. McDonald and Campbell were to present resolutions from the city council and the GVHC board opposing the granting of the license.

Post 136 has already filed a new petition, which it believes contains enough qualified signatures, and this will be considered at the March hearing of the ABC board. Probable date of the hearing is March 15, but exact date and time will be posted on the Legion home and advertised in the Prince Georges Post.

SYMPATHETIC POLICY

Dear Mr. Editor:

In your editorial of February 16 you complain that the organization which owns most of the retail businesses in Greenbelt is not sympathetic to the needs of your newspaper. Did it ever occur to you that the newspaper must also be sympathetic to the needs of the advertiser? That means making every effort to fit his needs as to format, publication date, and circulation coverage. It even means to be sympathetic in editorial policy.

Your particular opinions, Mr. Editor, are not of such supreme importance that all economic considerations, and the opinions of others who have joined together to operate the retail business of this community, should be sacrificed to them.

Just as Mr. Al Long, to whom you give so much of your small space, imagines evil in "monopolies," so you find all good in "independence," which surely is a word that falls short of the highest ideal in community relations. People act pretty queer sometimes when they seize on some good notion and run it into the ground. "Interdependence" commands greater loyalty than does "independence."

I published a community newspaper myself for two years in a free-enterprise community on a free-enterprise basis. You can't tell me that the paper and the advertisers aren't interdependent.

George C. Reeves

New Problems On Gas Station Site Vex City Council; Meet Tonight

By Claude Wimberly

The city council will meet tonight at 8 p.m., to speed up its deliberations on the GLIC petition to the Park and Planning Commission for the re-zoning as commercial, (C-2), the triangular tract fronting on Southway, adjacent to the armory and adjoining the properties of 9 and 10 Courts. Greenbelt Consumer Services has optioned this site from the Warner-Kanter interests and proposes to erect a new gasoline filling station if the rezoning petition is approved by the council, the park and planning commission and the county board of commissioners. Recommendation of the city council will greatly influence the final outcome.

The council discussed a new development which may alter the present conception of the zoning problem, and promises to have far-reaching effects with regard to the proposed "master plan" for zoning, now under development by council. The state roads commission plans some alterations to the ramps affording ingress and egress to the parkway which will affect the possibilities of the site for use as a gasoline station. According to city manager Charles McDonald, he is still awaiting a reply to certain inquiries made of the state roads commission designed to clarify, for him and Council, the intent of the commission as to rights of way, locations of the proposed ramps and other pertinent information which would be of aid to the council.

Mayor Thomas Canning pointed out that the study of this zoning

petition by council, was continually bringing to light additional facts which tended to point up the complexity of the over-all problems and emphasized the need for the 16 special sessions of the council convening during the months of March and April.

Police Thanked

The council voted that an expression of its appreciation be directed to the police officers of the city, who attended classes on their own time and initiative in advanced police work offered by the county police.

Other items under consideration by the council included: Discussion of a proposed amendment to an existing ordinance against littering to cover litter and refuse left by trucks, construction equipment and other vehicles of such nature. It was decided to have the city solicitor, Ralph Powers, study the matter and make recommendations in order that the proposed amendment would fix responsibility for such littering; undertake to establish a policy with respect to sidewalks in the new developments. This item was discussed briefly. McDonald pointed out that Prince Georges county practices with regard to sidewalks was followed in the Lakeside development.

Swimming Pool

Admission charges for the swimming pool was discussed, with the city manager recommending no proposed changes in admissions, but advocating an increase in charges for the instruction courses to two dollars. This is an increase of one dollar over the previous season's fee. Council appeared to feel that this increase was not unreasonable, the courses would still be subsidized by the city even with the increase.

Councilman James Wolfe and Robert Hurst favored a family package plan for admissions and the matter was held over for further consideration.

Famous Track Star Baptist Speaker

Kikuo Moriya, a graduate student at the University of Maryland, will be the guest speaker during the Evening Worship Service of the Greenbelt Baptist Chapel in the Center school Sunday, February 26 at 7 p.m.

Moriya, better known as "Cookie" to his friends, came to America through the influence of Gil Dodds, famous mile champion, when Dodds was running exhibition races in Japan. Moriya enrolled in Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, where Dodds was track coach. During his college days, Moriya proved to be an outstanding distance runner by winning 42 first place events and broke many school records. In 1954, Moriya won the National Collegiate Athletic Association two mile race in 9:21 minutes at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Moriya received his B.S. degree in Physical Education from Wheaton in June, 1955, and is now pursuing a master's degree in Geography before returning to Japan to serve the youth through the Y.M.C.A.

Moriya will relate some of his track experience and compare them to the Christian life as a race to be run.

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Lions Club of Greenbelt

AMBULANCE CLUB DRIVE

The "volunteer rescue squad ambulance club" will conduct its annual fund drive March 18-31. The canvassing will be made by squad members or from the women's auxiliary. The membership fee is \$2 per family per year.

Robert Naehr

Friends and neighbors of former Greenbelt, Robert Naehr, will be saddened to learn of his death February 17. He leaves his wife Kathleen and three children, Richard, Carol, and Peggy who are residing at 10614 Tenbrook Drive, Silver Spring.

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GR 3-2481



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Maryland Grid Coach Main Dad-Son Speaker

Tommy Mont, newly appointed head football coach at Maryland University is the main speaker for the 4th annual Father-Son Banquet to be held March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Mowatt Memorial church, sponsors. The Women's Society will cook and serve the dinner.

Every father of the church is urged to bring his or a neighbor's son.

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INCOME TAX returns prepared in your home—State and Federal. Reasonable. JU 9-6899.

LOST - Pair black ballet slippers, size 12½, in plastic bag at Center school last Tuesday, February 14. Finder please call 8922.

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Mrs. Lastner Named

William R. Reading, chairman of the 1956 Red Cross fund campaign for Prince Georges County chapter has announced the appointment of Mrs. Frank Lastner as chairman of the Greenbelt district. Mrs. Lastner is now organizing her co-workers to raise \$825 in Greenbelt to cover the many activities that directly affect our community.

GCS Contribution To Polio Returned

Robert E. Morrow, controller of Greenbelt Consumer Service disclosed this week that John Manlich, Jr., state representative of the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis has twice returned a \$400 check contributed to the "march of dimes" by 350 employees of GCS. "It is the policy of the National Foundation not to accept funds raised from payroll deductions in which other (charitable) agencies have been included," Manlich stated.

Employees of GCS have the option of authorizing payroll deductions for specific charities, Morrow explained. Trustees of the employee charity fund would meet this week to discuss what to do with the money, Morrow added.

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