

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## Gary Ford Benefit Movie--Tonight

by Ann Lieb

"What if he were your son? What if Gary Ford, 7, who has been slumbering for the past seven months in a bed at Prince Georges General Hospital, was your child? Neighbors and friends of the Ford family have doubtless asked themselves this question, for they are sponsoring a benefit movie at the Greenbelt Theatre on May 1, with all proceeds to go toward the specialized medical care which Gary requires.

Why the question? Why the benefit movie? Well . . . once upon a time . . . in fact, it was mid-day Sunday, September 15, 1957, a shiny day, just such as would naturally stimulate a youngster to seek adventure. Young Gary, son of Mary and Fred K. Ford, 55-M Ridge, decided that gathering acorns from a tall tree in a nearby court was just about the most interesting thing at hand to do, especially since his mother was at church and he didn't have to ask her permission. All children know and most adults remember the childhood pleasure of shaking acorns from a tree and all the wonderful things you can do with the shiny brown treasures. Gary skillfully climbed 30 feet up that tree in no time at all and had acquired a goodly supply of the acorns when along came a fiercely buzzing bee. Heaven knows that bee had no business flying so high, but who knows . . . perhaps finding no flower nectar so late in the season, it was seeking higher sources. It's quite likely the bee meant Gary no harm, but, even as you and I, Gary was frightened by the menacing buzz, and tried too hastily to climb from his perilous perch, lost his grip and plunged to hard earth and insensibility.

Four good Samaritans, members of the local Rescue Squad team, Joe D'Agostino, Jack Laws, Dick Corbin, and Ralph Miller, carefully picked up the injured child and drove with him to Prince Georges Hospital, administering oxygen enroute as they had been trained. "He's in God's hands," was all the brain surgeon could tell Gary's mother as she hovered outside the Emergency Room. Examination showed the child suffered from a broken jaw and pelvis and a torn brain.

For a while there was hope that the boy would regain consciousness almost any time, but, to date, he has remained a "sleeping beauty," all unaware of the day-to-day events which involve his mother and father, his 9 year old brother Ricky and 5 year old sister Crystal; completely oblivious that over half a year has rolled over his unconscious head, that he has slept through two seasons, almost a complete school term, his 7th birthday, and two major holidays. He is ignorant of the fact that his broken bones have mended, that he has survived a pneumonia attack and kidney infection. Neither does Gary realize that strange adults, medical employees and special nurses have ministered to him night and day since that fateful Sunday last September, and that these costly services had to be provided by hospitalization insurance, family loans, United Givers Fund and the Welfare Department. He is unaware of the financial pressure this has brought to bear on his parents, who also expect a new baby this summer and who are hard pressed to continue on the father's postman's wage, the many medical obligations.

Meanwhile Greenbelt residents, whose prayers have certainly been with Gary all the while, have translated their sympathy into a united effort called the Gary Ford Fund. They will initiate action by sponsoring a benefit showing of the movie, "A Man Called Peter," to be shown at the Greenbelt Theatre on May 1, with performances beginning at 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. Charles Walton, theatre manager, generously offered his theatre for that even-

ing. Tickets are available and may be purchased by sending \$1 for each ticket in a self addressed envelope to The Gary Ford Fund, Greenbelt, Md. Local service organizations are also selling the tickets door to door. The film title is particularly appropriate. 2000 years ago "a man called Peter" acted as spokesman for his Master, a man called Jesus, and after his Master's death, went of the answer to prayer . . . a big financial lift for the medical burden on his family. The price of the admission will deal a double bonus for the purchasers: excellent and with a genuine "Love Thy Neighbor" deed.



## We Are Cooperating

by Virginia Beauchamp

Good weather last Saturday brought hundreds of Greenbelt residents out of doors with rakes, lawn mowers, and shovels, turning up such piles of debris and accumulations of leaves that the pick-up crew for Greenbelt's spring Clean-Up campaign had more to do than it could handle. This crew consisted of six men with the leaf gathering truck and two other trucks supplied by the city and a man and truck supplied by Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

In addition to clean-up of private yards and homes, various projects have already been accomplished in the spirit of the campaign. Several of the churches have been conducting clean-up and beautification programs, the city maintenance department has repainted the trash cans for use in the municipal center, and Scout troop 202 has cleaned up were distributed to children in belt Lake. Several Cub Scout dens have made "litterbags" for their fathers to use in the car.

Local schools have also participated. Robert Mogel, Chairman of the Clean-Up drive, arranged for the Civil Defense film, "The House in the Middle," to be shown at all the schools. Color sheets on clean-up were distributed to children in the lower grades, and all children were given lapel tabs. Clean-up activities conducted in and around the schools are also reflected in numerous poster displays.

Other displays around the city also advertise the campaign. Many residents last Saturday saw the old fire truck being stored here for the State Fire Association Museum as it made the rounds of Greenbelt. Decorated with clean-up banners, it provided transportation for Chairman Mogel and Tom Snoddy, who were taking pictures of clean-up activities for photographic displays. A series of posters is already on display in the windows of the vacant store next to the police station. The Ben Franklin Store is specially featuring clean-up, paint-up, fix-up items; and several other stores are displaying posters.

Most homes and yards seem to be well taken care of now, Mogel pointed out, noting the weekend's activity. He went on to urge that further work be done by groups to eliminate eyesores in the vicinity of their homes. Piles of trash have been allowed to accumulate for many years in some areas behind homes, Mogel stated. Emphasizing that the municipal government does not have sufficient manpower to dig out such accumulation, he urged that joint action of neighbors be utilized instead.

## North End PTA Meets

The North End P.T.A. will hold its final membership meeting of the school year this Tuesday evening, May 6, at 8:15 p.m. New business will include election and installation of officers for next season and voting on by-law revisions. The nominating committee has submitted the following slate: President: Joe Wilkinson, Vice President: Mrs. Mary Ellen Lentz, Secretary: Mrs. Muriel King, Treasurer: Don LeFever, Historian: Bill Yates. Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

The principal speaker of the evening will be Miss Emma Bowman, Prince Georges County Supervisor of Elementary School Education, who will discuss the school grading system. All parents are invited to ask questions on any phase of their children's report cards which they wish clarified.

As usual the meeting will be preceded by visits to the classrooms (8 to 8:15 p.m.) and followed by refreshments.

## Breashears Acting Manager of GHI; Plans For Development Reviewed

by Al Skolnik

Major John O. Walker is expected to be absent from his post as general manager of Greenbelt Homes, Inc., for a period of 6-8 weeks, following a major operation this week at Alexandria Hospital. Walker, who has been suffering from a gall bladder ailment, has been in the hospital since April 21 for observation and tests. At last Friday's regular meeting of the GHI board of directors, Comptroller Roy Breashears was authorized to act as general manager in Walker's absence.

### Land Development

The board received some further details regarding the development of the vacant land recently sold by Warner-Kanter, Inc., to J. A. Buchanan and Sons. The latter, who will be operating under the name of Independent Construction Co., expects to develop about 70 lots in the area formerly known as the Green Valley subdivision, located off Crescent rd. adjacent to the Woodland Hills cooperative housing development. Model homes are expected to be constructed by June first.

The problem in connection with the new development was brought to the attention of the board by city manager Charles McDonald. Greenhorne and O'Mara, surveying engineers, have reported that the terrain does not permit a very satisfactory juncture of Hillside rd. and the proposed Greenhill rd., which is to run off Crescent rd. through the subdivision. Because of the slope of the land, the two roads would join at an apex which is not considered desirable for safety and other reasons. One alternative is leveling the terrain, which would effect the elevation of the homes in the 19-21 court of Hillside. Another alternative is not to attempt any juncture of the two roads but simply to make Greenhill rd. a dead end. Board members Hans Jorgensen and Frank Kriby and GHI superintendent Dave Kane were asked by GHI president Ed Burgoon to evaluate these alternatives and to bring back to the board recommendations which could be passed on to the city.

One other land item of interest to board members was the news that Warner-Kanter had been awarded \$121,000 for the 79 acres condemned by the State as part of the right-of-way needed in connection with the widening of Greenbelt rd. from the new Kenilworth blvd. to Glenn Dale rd. The State Roads Commission had originally offered \$108,000 but was turned down.

### Assignment of Contracts

Mrs. Helen Ditman, GHI attorney, has been asked by the board to investigate the rights of the corporation relative to those of other lending institutions in cases of default where mutual ownership contracts have been assigned to such institutions as security for loans.

The question arose in connection with an application by a GHI member for a loan from First Mutual Investment Company to consolidate old debts. While the ostensible purpose of the FMIC plan is to assist in the financing of down payments and home improvements, the board did not want to cut off a source of credit to a legitimately distressed member who otherwise might be forced to rely on a loan shark. At the same time, the board did not want to accede to any action that would weaken the position of the corporation in securing redress in case of nonpayment of monthly charges.

### Disability Insurance

The board heard an analysis of a disability insurance plan proposed by Continental Casualty Co. of Chicago, Ill., for GHI members. For a premium charge of 3.5 percent of monthly charges, a member unable to pursue his normal line of work because of a disability lasting longer than 15 days would have his monthly charges paid for the period of his disability or for 5 years, whichever is less.

The plan would be purely optional on the part of a member, but would require at least 20 percent membership participation to go into effect. Members age 65 and over would not be eligible. The Continental Co. proposed to send out letters of inquiry to GHI members to determine the appeal of such a plan.

Before giving its consent to these inquiries, the board directed a committee of three, consisting of Percy Andros, chairman, Lloyd Moore, and George Eshbaugh to investigate the merits of the plan. The board was also informed that a local agent would have to be designated to service the plan, and the committee was asked to look into this also.

## Garden Tour Postponed

Postponed last Sunday because of the rain, the Greenbelt Woman's Club House and Garden Tour will be held this Sunday, May 4, from 2 to 5. Tickets at 50c per person will be available at the Co-op Store on Friday night from 5 to 9, and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased at any home Sunday afternoon.

The following homes will be open: 7-G Crescent - garden; 2-A Crescent - added family room; 6-A Ridge - modern kitchen, parquet floor; 6-B Ridge - kitchen, built-in attic ladder, attic storage space; 6-M Ridge - modern kitchen; 6-N Ridge - family room by enclosing porch; 4-H Southway - patio and garden; 8-A Southway - enclosed porch; 16-K Ridge - kitchen; 23-P Ridge - garden; 2-Q Gardenway - interior decoration; 35-H Ridge - downstairs bath installed; 45-E Ridge - interior decoration; 28 Woodland Way - new home; 10-E Plateau - built in air conditioner; breakfast nook made from closet space.

Guides will be in the Center Sunday afternoon to help with directions if needed. But there will be no conducted tour. Patrons will be welcome at any of the homes on an individual basis.

## Recreation Review

By Warren Leddick

**MEN'S GYM:** Will end on Thursday, May 8.

**ROLLER HOCKEY:** Hockey on Roller Skates, a new program, is now in progress with four teams playing each Wednesday evening at Center School at 7:30 p.m.

**SKATING LESSONS:** Beginning tomorrow night at Center School from 7-8 p.m. Waltz and dance instructions on roller skates will be given by Mrs. Grego.

**BABE RUTH LEAGUE:** Registration will continue Saturday morning from 10-12 a.m. at the recreation office for those boys who missed last week. Boys 13, 14 and 15 are eligible.

**HAY RIDE:** The Youth Center will hold a hay ride on Saturday. The open truck will leave the School at 8 p.m. You must sign and pay your 25 cents at the recreation office before 12 p.m. Saturday.

## WHAT GOES ON

Thursday, May 1-7 and 9 p.m. Gary Ford Benefit Movie.  
Friday, May 2-8:45 p.m. Duplicate bridge game, Social Room, Center School.  
8 p.m. Churchmen's Club, Greenbelt Community Church.  
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration for pre-school children, North End and Center Schools.  
Sunday, May 4-2 to 5 p.m. House and Garden Tour.  
8 p.m. Rev. Braund addresses Board of Deacons, Community Church.  
Monday, May 5-8 p.m. City council meets, city offices.  
Tuesday, May 6-8 p.m. Center School PTA meeting.

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Delivered each week to every home in Greenbelt

Editor - Harry Zubkoff (GR 3-5801)  
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## TerryBraundSpeaker

The Social Action Committee of the Board of Deacons of Community Church will have as guest speaker the former pastor of the Church, the Rev. Eric T. Braund, who is now Regional Director of the National Conference of Christians and

Jews in Philadelphia. He will speak on phases of the work that the National Conference does.

The meeting will be held in the Church Sunday, May 4, at 8 p.m., with discussion following the talk and refreshments in the Social Hall. Anyone who is interested in this field of work is invited to attend.

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## PLATT SPEAKER AT JCC

Mr. Elihu Platt, Assistant Solicitor for the National Labor Relations Board, will speak at the Installation Meeting at the Prince George's Jewish Community Center on Saturday, May 3, at 8:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

## RESOLUTION

Be It Resolved

That we, in Prince George's County,  
Support Community Efforts to:

1. Establish a local facility for short-term psychiatric hospital care.
2. Expand the existing Mental Health Clinic to meet the real needs of the County.
3. Establish a treatment center for alcoholics.
4. Prepare a directory of psychiatric referral for publication and local distribution for Prince George's County Residents.
5. Increase Marriage Counselling and Family Guidance Services.
6. Support a more enlightened legislative program to accomplish -
  - a) Improved commitment procedures.
  - b) Adequate hospital treatment and care.

Authorized by the Executive Board

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
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