

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 38, Number 1

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, November 21, 1974

City Council Discusses Playground Problems

by Barbara Likowski

Concerned over the lack of playgrounds in several areas of the city, a group of citizens petitioned city council at its meeting on November 18. Council also listened to Mrs. Rhea Cohen concerning the Baltimore-Washington Parkway Study.

Spokeswoman for the playground, Joan Lloyd, 7 Greenknolls, pointed out that when she was growing up in the city there were more playgrounds. Now, she said, there were few and none at all for the children of Northway-Lakewood and Boxwood areas in the city except the playground at the Lake-Park. This is too far away for most children during the week and crowded with non-residents on the weekends, she noted.

Mrs. Lloyd mentioned three possible areas where space was available and playgrounds needed: near the entrance to Boxwood Village, behind Fayette Place, and the area between the Jaycees building and St. Hugh's. She felt the latter area was "ideal" because of the large numbers of children passing by on their way to the center. Others in the audience echoed her sentiments.

Ben Goldfaden added that although money was forthcoming for a good organized sports program, there should also be money available for younger children.

City manager James Giese stated that he believed the Jaycees-St. Hugh's area was large enough for a tot lot, but that he believed trees would have to be cut down to accommodate a playground for older children. Most of the petitioners favored a playground for children ages 8-14.

Noting that the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) had recommended to the council that a playground not be located in that area, PRAB chairman Joseph Wilkinson reiterated the fact that the playground would not be in a neighborhood area and added that there was already too much concentration in the Braden field area. He felt that a playground would service more youngsters in a neighborhood. Wilkinson was supported by PRAB members Mrs. Mary Clarke and Ronald Ott. Mrs. Clarke voiced fears about children playing in an area isolated from adults.

Mrs. Cohen, who also preferred a neighborhood playground, urged that if a playground were built in that area, it not be at the expense of the trees and that equipment be made of naturalistic materials.

The motion made by councilman Thomas X. White to locate a playground for 8 to 14 year olds in the Jaycees-St. Hugh's area passed unanimously, although council members Charles Schwan and Gil Weidenfeld indicated a preference for more study on the matter.

A second group of residents, many of them members of the Aquatic Boosters club, urged council to act on the recommendation of PRAB that the city manager investigate the possibility of adding a turning wall to the city pool. Council directed the city manager to get cost estimates.

B-W Parkway

In other business, Rhea Cohen presented council with information on the possible widening of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway thereby turning it into a super expressway with "parkway characteristics". She suggested that council take a series of steps to

assure that the public is not "locked out of the decision making process" 1, refrain from awarding contracts until the final environmental impact statements have been prepared and final decisions have been made; 2, halt the Parkway study until provisions have been made for timely citizen participation and a conscientious public information program; and 3, provide the city of Greenbelt copies of the consultants' contracts and any other materials available detailing the study.

Council decided to contact the state highway administration and ask for processes as open as possible and for the opportunity to comment on and make suggestions concerning what should be investigated.

The city expects to be eligible for a new public employment program, using federal funds, similar to the PEP program under which the city has two employees. The proposal, accepted by council, would authorize up to 4 positions for building maintenance, policeman, parks crew and public works. The city would then be obligated to absorb at least 50% of the positions at the time federal funding is terminated, June 30, 1975. The new program is designed to help combat unemployment. Applicants must reside in an area of the county whose unemployment rate is at least 6.5%.

Appointments

Council designated Thomas White as its representative to the newly organized Metropolitan-Washington Water Resources Planning Board.

Committee appointments were as follows: Wayne Spong, PRAB, expiring in May, 1976; Katherine Keene, Bicentennial Committee; Jim Cassels, COG Land Use Policy Committee; Monsignor O'Donnell, Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB). Robert Hardy was appointed the new chairman of CRAB.

Scouts Spot, Fight Fire

Members of Boy Scout Troop #746 expected to be home from a weekend camping trip in Amberson Valley, Pa. early last Sun. afternoon, but didn't make it back to Greenbelt until 6 p.m. Prior to leaving, the boys spotted smoke on a steep hill and, upon investigation, found an acre of land ablaze.

The boys and their leaders fought the fire until the fire department and rangers arrived. Fire department officials lauded their efforts and said that the trench the troop dug around the affected area helped contain the fire.

Al Cousin is the troop's scoutmaster with Jim Hanna, Mike Chiville, Mark Hanvok and Al Felsher serving as assistants. John Noel is the Senior patrol leader, and troop members are Mark and Paul Felsher, Jamie Sinden, Scott Thompson, Clint Boushell, Joey Ross, Eric Winkler, Steve Rousseau, Matt Durantine, Mike King, Pat Clerkin, Phil Hanvok, Tom Hanvok, Garv Cousin, Alex Likowski, Garry Hibbs and Pete Bracken.

Holiday Refuse Collection

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Thursday, Nov. 28, residents who have newspapers collected on Thursday will not receive paper collection this week. It is requested that the papers be saved for collection the following week. This change in the refuse schedule is effective for this week only.

Public Transportation Costly For Greenbelt

It will cost the Greenbelt taxpayer \$165,000 a year (equivalent to 27 cents on the tax rate) to operate initially a publicly-owned bus system to serve Greenbelt's internal needs. This was the message conveyed by the transit report prepared for the city by Wilbur Smith and Associates and released last week. This estimate excludes initial capital costs of \$245,100. Federal and State funds are available to meet up to 95% of the capital costs, but are not available for operating costs.

The system visualized by the report calls for a fixed-route bus system during peak hours supplemented by a dial-a-ride system during off hours. A fleet of 4 buses would serve the presently developed areas of Greenbelt. The basic route would be circular in nature traveling along Crescent near Boxwood Village, up Hillside road through North End, then along Ridge to Gardenway, past the Center and out Southway Road to Beltway Plaza, Springhill Lake, and then back to Kenilworth Ave. toward Lakeside North apartments. Deviations could include a route around the western end of Crescent road where it meets Ridge Road and a route through Boxwood Village.

A passenger charge of 25c a ride is visualized along the fixed portion of the route and 35c for deviations from this route. Special passes would be made available for school children and aged and handicapped persons. According to the study's figures, passenger fares would cover only 20 percent of total operating expenses.

The report discussed alternatives but came to the conclusion that their costs would be even higher. Using fixed-route service only, while providing frequency and regularity of service, would produce a greater operating deficit per passenger than the above system suggested. An exclusive dial-a-ride system, while particularly attractive because it can produce door-to-door service for children and aged persons, would cost more in terms of passenger trips per vehicular mile.

Also mentioned was the use of a taxi or jitney service. The main advantage of this is the elimination of capitalization costs, but operating costs are estimated to be higher than the other alternatives.

The above proposal for a fleet of 4 buses involves elimination of WMATA's present internal service in Greenbelt. Instead transfer passes would be provided for the WMATA buses going downtown or cross-county.

The report suggested that consideration might be given to one city-owned external bus route between Greenbelt and the University of Maryland. In addition, the report explored the possibilities of improving WMATA service, but cautioned that such modifications may not produce as high a level of internal service to Greenbelt as that of a city-owned system. The latter, the report said, would permit city flexibility to meet special needs.

NEED TO GO TO MEMBERS

GHI Cuts \$80,000 From Budget But Increase Still Over 10%

by Al Skolnik

Despite cuts of \$80,000, the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. board of directors on Nov. 14 ended up with a 1975 operating budget some \$460,000 above the current 1974 budget. In percentage terms, the increase is close to 20 percent, though in terms of total monthly charges (which include amortization payments), the increase is 17 percent.

According to GHI by-laws, any increase in operating charges of 10 percent or more must be approved by the membership at a special membership meeting. The board expects to call such a meeting the first or second week in December and will meet on Nov. 21 to make such a final decision on the date and on the budget that will be presented to the membership.

As it stands now, the major items contributing to the \$460,000 increase are as follows:

- (1) \$92,200 Real estate taxes
- (2) \$52,800 Fuel oil
- (3) \$58,600 "Balloon payment"
- (4) \$13,900 Electricity costs
- (5) \$ 9,000 Termite control
- (6) \$63,700 Trim paint program
- (7) \$44,000 Cost-of-living increase
- (8) \$36,000 Roof work
- (9) \$21,400 Materials
- (10) \$40,000 New maintenance personnel
- (11) \$30,500 Contingency reserves

Uncontrollable Items

About \$250,000 of this increase is considered by the board to be uncontrollable, covering such items as taxes, fuel oil costs, costs of labor, electricity, and material, and interest and principal payments on debts. Even here, some board members were concerned that the corporation was cutting its estimates too thin.

For example, the real estate tax bill for the coming year 1975 is estimated at \$588,800. In 1974, the members were charged \$496,000 for taxes and were confronted with an

News Review Deadline

Next week's issue of the News Review will be published on Wednesday, because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The deadline for submission of articles and advertising will be Monday night instead of the usual Tuesday.

Kreimer Speaks At Library

Prince Georges County Board of Education board member Lesley Kreimer invites Greenbelters to meet with her on Mon., Nov. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Library.

Mrs. Kreimer said that she wanted to discuss matters of interest and listen to the concerns of parents relative to the school system.

Francis White to Appear On "Crossfire," Sunday

"The Commuter Parking Ban in Washington" is the topic under discussion on Paul Barry's "Crossfire" on Sun., Nov. 24, on TV Channel 7 at 6:30 p.m. Appearing on the program will be Prince Georges County Councilmember Francis White of Greenbelt, who opposes the ban which will go into effect Dec. 14.

AA MEETINGS

A closed Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting will be held every Thursday evening at 8:30 p.m. in the St. Hugh's School Library. The only requirement for membership is the desire to stop drinking.

WHAT GOES ON

Fri., Nov. 22, 8 p.m. Duplicate Bridge, Youth Center
Sun., Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m. Duplicate Bridge, Springhill Lake Community Building
Thurs., Nov. 28, 10:30 a.m. Interfaith Service, Greenbelt Community Church

actual tax bill of \$557,500. The 1975 tax estimate assumes no increase in city taxes and a 7-cent increase in county taxes.

GHI director Steve Polaschik thought this estimate a risky proposition, especially in light of the fact that the corporation has no tax reserves (actually is \$39,000 in the red). However, the majority was hopeful that GHI would get a favorable decision on its appeal of the 1971 tax assessment.

Fuel Oil Costs

Another example involves fuel oil costs. The corporation charged members \$647,200 for fuel oil in 1974, but will actually be spending \$680,000, despite the fact that it consumed 270,000 fewer gallons. The 1975 budget estimates expenditures of \$700,000 based on no increase in fuel consumption.

Directors Hugh O'Donnell and Ted Byerly supported this figure on the grounds that the energy-saving program adopted recently by GHI should continue to cut consumption. Directors Polaschik and Don Volk, however, noted that the 1974 winter was one of the mildest in history and argued that the savings due to conservation measures was being overstated. It was also noted that the heating reserves are over \$100,000 in the red.

Trim Paint Program

Board disagreement also arose over several other items in the budget. Byerly led a move to cut the \$63,700 trim paint program out of the budget. Last year the trim paint program was financed completely through reserves for the frames and the program was eliminated entirely for the bricks. He picked up some support from directors Joe Comproni and Volk — the latter wanted to see the program become a member responsibility.

The majority, however, felt that it would be difficult to transfer this responsibility to the membership in light of the mutual ownership contract which places the responsibility on the corporation to maintain the structures. Director Virginia Moryadas observed that many elderly and women members could not do such painting themselves. O'Donnell said that it would be much more costly for individual members to contract with outside painters. He reported that he had obtained bids for trim painting his home which were hundreds of dollars higher than what GHI was able to do it for on a mass basis.

Other Items

The majority of the board also resisted efforts by Byerly to cut out parking court repairs, but it did go along with efforts by Byerly and Comproni to restrict the number of new maintenance employees. Management had originally asked for six new engineering and related technicians in the heating and maintenance departments. The board finally agreed to add \$40,000 for new employees which GHI's engineers had urged as necessary if the corporation was to take maximum advantage of its new energy-saving renovations and engage in a substantial preventive maintenance program.

The board was also unanimous in approving a cost-of-living increase which would guarantee each staff employee an increase after taxes of about \$500 per year.

To help relieve the burden on monthly charges, the board voted to increase certain fees charged for services. These included raising the membership fee from \$220 to \$240, the credit check charge from \$10 to \$15, the commissions on resales from 4½% to 5%, and the charge for transfers in contract by \$5. These increases are expected to bring in \$7,000 in 1975.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$8.00 per year. Advertising and news articles may be mailed (Box 68, Greenbelt); deposited in our box at the Twin Pines Office or delivered to the editorial office in the basement of 15 Parkway (474-4131), open after 8 p.m. Tuesday. Deadline is 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

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Boys and Girls Club

by Fred Ford

Soccer - The 16 years and under girls team beat Adephi 2-0 last Sun. Sue McCloskey booted in both the goals. Boys 10 years and under routed College Park 3-2 and the 13 and under girls tied Lanham. A very successful day!

Harvest Bowl - Our 11 years and under girls soccer team won their first bowl game 2-0 at the Berwyn Heights Harvest Bowl Saturday. Lisa Kellaher and Terri Hawk scored one point each.

Obstacle Course Trophy Winners were Tom Noel and Beth Osborne for the 12 to 14 age group; Chris Collins and Saskia Vanderzon in the 9 to 11 division.

Basketball Sign-up - Call Mrs. Mary Ford, 474-8343, to sign-up for this season.

Win Over Cape St. Claire

The 75 lb. team, coached by Buddy Pettit, was invited to participate in the Turkey Bowl in Cape St. Claire, Md. The guys defeated the Cape 7-0. The touchdown was scored by Marco Buteau. One of the assistant coaches for Cape St. Claire is Perry Bonner who was Head Coach (65 lb.) and Commissioner of Football for Greenbelt last year. Trophies were awarded to the best offensive player, Marco Buteau, and the best defensive player, John Keller. Next Sat., the 75 lb. team will go to Silver Hill to participate in their Turkey Bowl.

At the Library

"A Look at Marriage" will be the topic for a book discussion at Greenbelt Library, Tuesday, November 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. For details call 345-5800.

Three books, which view the current marriage scene, **Open Marriage**, by Nena and George O'Neill, **Becoming Partners** by William J. Lederer and **Mirages of Marriage** by Carl R. Rogers will be compared.

THANKS

To the Editor:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank my many Greenbelt friends for the sympathy shown to me over the passing of my wife Sarah. My gratitude also to the Greenbelt Rescue Squad and to Rev. Kenneth Buker who conducted the service with a full complement of Greenbelt Lions at the bier of my wife.

Henry Fisher

Baptist Church Offers Film

The Gospel Road starring Johnny Cash will be shown Sat., Dec. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Baptist Church. The film is a unique blend of scripture-based narrative, an abundant supply of specially written songs, and a series of in-depth character portrayals, with Israel as the mixing bowl.

YOUNG JUDEANS SERVICE

The Young Judeans of the Mishkan Torah will conduct a special service, which will include Hassidic melodies and customs, on Fri., Nov. 22 at 8:30 p.m.



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John T. Leslie

Dr. John I. Leslie Jr., 51, 56-E Crescent, died on Nov. 18 after a long illness. He had been active in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church and served on the GHI Audit Committee.

A resident of Greenbelt for 16 years, he is survived by his wife Dorothea and two children Jill May and John I. Leslie III, parents Margaret and John Leslie Sr. sister Betty Pannone and brother Dale Leslie.

Dr. Leslie was an Information Specialist at the Bureau of Veterinary Medicine of Food & Drug Administration. Services were held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Tuesday, with interment on Wednesday in Salisbury, Penna.

Gail H. Lee

Gail H. Lee, 35, a librarian at North End School for two years, died on Nov. 16 of cancer. She was on a year-long maternity leave from North End Elementary School when her disease was discovered three months ago. Mrs. Lee graduated with a degree in English from Southern Illinois University and earned a master's degree in library science at the University of Iowa.

She is survived by her husband, Dr. Richard W. Lee, assistant professor of journalism at the University of Maryland, and two sons Thomas Jennings, 6, and Douglas William, 1, all of the home at 2703 Muskogee St., Adelphi.

Sarah B. Fisher

Sarah B. Fisher, a resident of Greenbelt for some 14 years, passed away of a heart condition on Sunday, Nov. 10. Mrs. Fisher had been ill since April, when her son passed away. She was the wife of Henry Fisher, and leaves a daughter, grand children and a great grandchild.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Ladies of Charity of St. Hugh's Church will have their annual Christmas bazaar this Saturday from 10:30 a.m. - 7:50 p.m. and Sunday from 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. There will be homemade articles, baked goods and Christmas surprises. All proceeds from the Bazaar go for the needy, elderly and the ill. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

Property Reassessment Notices Due Out Nov. 25

"Thanksgiving" won't be what's on the minds of about 158,000 Prince Georges County property owners when they receive reassessment notices to be mailed Nov. 25. As a result of a 1973 Anne Arundel County Circuit Court decision, all properties must be assessed annually.

In December 1973, Gov. Marvin Mandel directed the department to assess property at 50 percent of current value, rather than 60 percent.

As a result of the court order and Mandel's directive, future real property assessments should be more uniform.

According to county Supervisor of Assessments Harry S. Shipp, a higher assessment doesn't necessarily mean higher taxes and he pointed to an extensive appeal process that is open to every property owner.

Shipp advises citizens to look at the assessment and compare it with the market value of the property. Market value, as determined by the Department, is the result of a study of sales of comparable properties to determine a fair average sales price.

"If the assessor's figure is no more than half of the market value, the chances of a successful appeal are very slight," Shipp says. "But an assessment that exceeds the 50 percent point has an excellent chance of being reduced."

The appeal process is a simple one and no fee is involved. The first step is a face-to-face meeting between the local assessor and the citizen. If the matter is not ironed out on that level, the next step is the Property Tax Assessment Appeal Board - a group of local citizens appointed by state and local governments. A further avenue of appeal is the Maryland Tax Court.

McNally - Horst

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McNally of Greenbelt announce the marriage of their daughter, Marybeth, to Bernie Horst, son of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Horst of Hyattsville.

The ceremony was held at St. Hugh's Church on June 13 and was performed by the bride's uncle, Rev. Terrence McNally, OFM, who was assisted by the Rev. Robert Amey, assistant pastor of St. Hugh's.

Marybeth was attended by her sister, Cathy, as maid of honor. Her bridesmaids were Maureen Fitzgerald, Patti Shiply, and her niece, Kelly, was a junior bridesmaid. Flower girls were Tracy & Jenny McNally and Kim Horst.

Charles Packett was best man, and ushers were Peter Barbera and the groom's brother, Robert Horst, with the bride's nephew, Michael McNally, serving as junior usher.

Over 200 guests attended the reception at the Quality Inn, College Park. The couple reside in Beltsville, Md.

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Rev. William R. Murry, Interim Minister

Nov. 24—11 a.m. Worship Service and Church School.
Nov. 28—10:30 a.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Service.

GOOD NEWS

Contrary to the T.V. and the newspapers there is a lot of good news today. The good news includes the truth that God loves you.

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474-4040

Sunday Worship Services	11:00 am & 7:00 pm
Bible Study for all ages (Sunday)	9:45 am
Wednesday Night Service	7:30 pm
Special Thanksgiving Day Service	10:00 am

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Worship Service - 11:00 A.M.

Nursery through Kindergarten at 11:00 A.M.
Church School (Nursery through Adults) 9:30 A.M.

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Community Church

Hillside and Crescent Rds.

Thursday, November 28, 1974 - 10:30 A.M.

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YARD SALE: Sat. 10 to 3 p.m., 35-B Ridge Rd.

LOST: Short-haired, black male cat, approx. 6 mos. old. Child misses very much. Reward. Call 345-6885.

FOUND: One small, red Junior tri-cycle Found near St. Hugh's school. Call 474-7427 to identify.

FOUND: Medium size female dog. Looks part German Shepherd. Black & white with four white paws. Please call 345-8809 to identify.

GREENBELT NURSERY SCHOOL, a parent co-operative, has vacancies for 3 or 4 year olds, morning or afternoon. For information call 345-1612.


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PERHAPS you are already familiar with the exciting happenings at the "University Boutique." We now have Danskins in many varied styles and colors, such as Hunter green, redwood, wine, velvet brown, skyblue among others - also tights in matching colors. Upstairs at 7404½ Baltimore Ave., College Pk. 277-5521.

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TYPEWRITER REPAIR, home calls day or night. Electric, standard, port. 42 yrs. exp. Call 474-7397.

HOLIDAY LETTERS, Youth available for typing, mimeographing holiday letters. Contact Greenbelt CARES Youth Service Bureau at 345-3456.

FOR SALE: Sizes 14, 16 women's winter coats, suede car coat, beige car coat, hooded raincoat. Call 474-8307.

Our Neighbors

Elaine Skolnik - 474-6060

Navy Seaman Recruit William R. Deck Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Deck, 151 Westway was graduated from recruit training at the Naval Training Center in Great Lakes, Illinois.

Congratulations to the following Parkdale students who received Commendation awards for attaining outstanding scores on the PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Test: Ellen Kessler, Carla Smith, Nancy Weintraub, Mitchell Parker, Michael Sucher, Stephen Duck and James Williams


Our deepest sympathy to Dorothea Leslie and children, 56-E Crescent, on the death of her husband and their father Jack.

Condolences to Henry Fisher on the death of his wife Sarah.

The unidentified youth in the front page photo in last week's News Review is Brad Garfinkel, son of Scout Master Jerry Garfinkel of Springhill Lake. Brad was assisting Mayor Richard Piskol "digging in" at the ground breaking ceremony for the city's new recreation building at Springhill Lake.

Traditional Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Members and friends of four religious groups in Greenbelt will gather for the traditional interfaith service on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 28, at 10:30 a.m. This year the service will be held at Greenbelt Community Church and will be opened by the Rev. William R. Murry with a message of greeting. Rabbi Kenneth Berger of Mishkan Torah will deliver a Thanksgiving Message on the theme "Feast or Famine." Father Amey of St. Hugh's Catholic Church and the Rev. Clifton D. Cunningham of Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will each lead a part of the service. A combined choir will provide the music.

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FREE: To good home: 11 wk. old puppy (female) wire terrier mixed, lovable, good with children, house broken. Call 474-1508.

WILL RAKE leaves & other yard work. Call Mon.-Fri. 3:30, Sat.-Sun. 10:00. Call 474-6983.

BABYSITTING: Your child, my home, 1½ yrs. & up. Call 345-2064.

CHILD CARE: Daytime, 1 or 2 children, in Greenbelt. Call 474-2656 after 5 p.m.

DOORMAN WANTED: For details and interview call Mr. Peake 577-1607 eves.

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Panthers Covet State Title

Parkdale High School would like to capture the Maryland AA State Title this Sat. when the football team plays Perry Hall at Parkdale at 1 p.m. The "Panthers" have won four county titles in five years, and clinched the opportunity to compete for the state title last Sat. when they beat Montgomery county's champion team, Churchill, in a semi-final game 27-7. Parkdale goes into Saturday's game with a 9-2 record. Tom Rae coaches the team.

Greenbelter in Area Play

Mary Beth Wilkinson of Greenbelt is among the student members of the cast who play major supporting roles in "The Prime Of Miss Jean Brodie" which will open Fri., Nov. 22, at Catholic University's Hartke Theatre.

The play runs through Dec. 8, with performances Tues. through Sat. evenings at 8 p.m., matinees on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 529-3333.

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