

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 39, Number 2

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, November 27, 1975

Greenbriar Sewage Plant Nears Abandonment

by Elaine Skolnik

The Greenbriar condominium development popped into the news again this week with notice that today (Wednesday, November 26), the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) is hearing a request filed by developer Alan Kay for abandonment of the interim sewage treatment plant, located on the Greenbriar tract. The request is among 14 to be considered by WSSC for immediate connection to the permanent regional Western Branch treatment plant without waiting for its expansion to 15 million gallons a day (mgd).

Originally, expansion was slated for July 1975, but construction strikes and other problems have delayed completion of the project to July 1976. In the meantime, the introduction of chemical treatment at the Western Branch plant has increased the plant's capacity from 5 mgd. to 8 mgd. About 80% of the increase has been earmarked for residential developments.

It is expected that the Greenbriar project will be allowed to abandon its treatment plant and connect permanently to the public system since it is the only one of the 14 projects ready for immediate connection.

Both the city of Greenbelt and the Prince Georges Environment Coalition have urged the transfer of Greenbriar waste water into the public system. The city pointed out that the occupancy of the project was a fraction of both the ultimate total (1193 units) and the design capacity of the plant. In October the plant, which has a capacity of 200,000 gallons a day, discharged an average of 44,000 gallons of effluent into the stream on each of 21 days of that month. About 350 apartments are presently occupied.

According to WSSC and the State Water Resources Administration, the plant is operating satisfactorily and is "maintaining an extremely high quality effluent." Test results have been well within the permit's allowable limits. The costs of constructing the plant and operation have been borne by the developer.

Kay is also requesting for reasons of economy that WSSC not construct a new pumping station but permit Greenbriar to operate at its expense the existing pumping facility. The proposed \$175,000 pumping station, which is in the Ten Year Water and Sewer Plan, would be designed to also serve undeveloped property in the area, including Parcel 2 (area between Ridge Road and Baltimore-Washington Parkway) and a portion of the Board of Education property on the east side of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Reportedly, Kay would be required to pay about 75% of the construction costs of the pumping station. It is unclear at this time whether WSSC or other developers would assume the remaining costs.

The city of Greenbelt has requested that WSSC postpone a final decision on the pumping station until the city council has had an opportunity to meet with WSSC and to absorb the full implications of the proposal.

Free Toy Exchange

Adults are invited to a free toy exchange, sponsored by Greenbelt CARES Youth Services Bureau, on Tuesdays at the Ridge Road Center from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. This program was initiated to help families to save money during the holiday season by exchanging usable toys, games and books within the community. Donations of toys will be accepted or save toys for the exchange. For additional information contact Greenbelt CARES at 345-3456.

25th THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE

The 25th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service, sponsored by four religious organizations in Greenbelt, will be held at the Mishkan Torah Congregation, Ridge and Westway Roads on Thursday, November 27 at 10:30 a.m.

Msgr. William O'Donnell of St. Hugh's Catholic Church will give the meditation. The Rev. Clifton D. Cunningham of Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church, the Revs. Harry and Sherry Taylor of Community Church, and Rabbi Kenneth Berger of Mishkan Torah will participate. Special music at the traditional morning service will be sung by the joint choir of the three churches. Persons of all faiths are invited to attend.

FDR High School: What Will It Be?

Conversion of the new Franklin Delano Roosevelt Senior High School (FDR) to a career-technological high school will be discussed by the Prince Georges County Board of Education on Monday, December 1. The meeting will be held in the board chambers in Upper Marlboro from 3 to 5 p.m. with the evening session starting at 7:30 p.m.

At the Nov. 13 board meeting Board member Nicholas Eny proposed the utilization of FDR as a career technology center as an alternative use commencing with the school year 1976-77. Eny requested that cost estimates for conversion be presented at the December 1 meeting. He also asked that a survey be taken of students in the eighth grades and above to determine the degree of interest and need for such a school.

School officials pointed out that the school had not been designed for such specialized and distinctive programs. Additionally, gathering the necessary information for conversion, drawing up the required plans, and applying for funding, would require many months of preparation.

FDR is about 92% complete. The entire building is enclosed and all interior work will be finished by late spring. This would allow for a full shakedown period before the opening of school next September.

For more information concerning this agenda item call 627-4800.

BETHUNE PTSA

Mary Bethune Jr. High PTSA will meet Tues. Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. A vocational education program will feature students from Bladensburg and Laurel senior high schools. Mary Bethune students will close the evening with a musical program.

Principal Thomas Myrick says parent volunteers are needed in many areas — drug committee, discipline committee, reading program, PTSA, clerical help in office, etc. Call the school if interested: 773-3206.

NOTICE

THE FIRST REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING IN
DECEMBER HAS BEEN POSTPONED FROM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1975

TO

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1975

Gudrun H. Mills, City Clerk

DEC. 17 SET FOR GHI MEMBERS' MEETING

by Al Skolnik

A special membership meeting on Wednesday, December 17, at the Center School will be held to discuss Greenbelt Homes, Inc. capital improvements. The GHI board called the meeting in response to a petition signed by 104 members requesting that the membership vote on borrowing funds for the capital improvement program.

However, the GHI attorney has advised that such a vote would only be advisory in nature and could not be binding on the board, since the board has authority to borrow money and the funds for repayment (about \$35,000 the first year) are already included in the 1976 budget. According to the GHI bylaws, the board has responsibility for adopting the budget, which is not subject to membership approval unless it equals 10 percent or more of operating costs. The 1976 budget adopted by the board two weeks ago calls for an increase of 9.9 percent.

Monthly Charge Increase?

The board felt, however, that the convening of a special mem-

bership meeting would provide an opportunity to test membership sentiment on a number of subjects. Several members have expressed concern that the reserves are in a perilously low state. At the end of 1974, the brick home reserves amounted to \$92,573 and the frame homes were in the red \$39,456.

It was pointed out that despite the \$545,000 capital improvement budget, there are several major items not included in the budget that will need replacement in the next 10 to 20 years for which no funds are being set aside. For example, the slate roofs on the brick attic homes, the galvanized iron pipes that carry water in the frame homes, and the remaining three large steam plants.

The majority of the board therefore suggested an increase in monthly charges of 1-2 percent (in addition to the 9.9 percent increase already voted) to build up reserves for future capital expenditures. They felt that the largest share should go to the brick home reserves (and be charged against the brick homeowners), since the brick homeowners this year are scheduled for only a 4 percent increase in monthly charges (compared to 12 percent for the frame homeowners).

Directors Mary Clarke and Jim Wright opposed requesting an increase in monthly charges at this time because of the fiscal burden but the majority (with director James Foster abstaining) felt that the members should at least be given the option of voting on the question of improving the corporation's reserves.

GNMA Deferral Funds

The board also decided to take advantage of the special membership meeting to seek approval of the disbursement of the remaining Government National Mortgage Association deferred mortgage principal payments. Approximately \$42,597 is still uncommitted, plus \$17,900 previously authorized by the membership for ultrasonic oil-water emulsifiers — a project which is being deferred because of inability of manufacturer to meet deadlines.

The project now getting the highest priority is converting the heating system of the frame homes served by #23 plant on Laurel Hill Road from steam to a variable temperature hot water system. The 2-year project is estimated to cost between \$165,000 to \$170,000. The first year cost of about \$80,000 would be met in part by the GNMA mortgage funds and the rest would be borrowed.

If this pilot project is successful, it will set the pattern for conversion of the remaining plants in the North End. It has been generally agreed that the only way to break the cycle of escalating frame home monthly charges is to eliminate the rapidly deteriorating steam heat plants.

The proposed project would abandon the use of the long steam tunnels. Small, row-size packaged oil fired burners would be installed. Oil tanks would be shared by 3 or 4 rows. Estimated fuel savings from the project is expected to pay back the cost within 5 years.

Other Business

The board approved the erection of a free-standing shed on the garden side of 51 Ridge court provided it is well-screened and meets other standards. . . . The board approved the bid of Lumberman's Mutual Casualty Company for a 3-year boiler insurance. . . . The board approved the granting of a holiday to GHI employees the day after Christmas. . . . George Craft has been named Director of Maintenance to succeed Nicholas Dunlap. . . . The board will meet on December 11 and 18 next month.

Meet With Leo Green

State Delegate Leo Green, continuing his series of open meetings with citizens, will meet with his Greenbelt constituents Sat., Nov. 29 at the Greenbelt Municipal Building from 10 a.m. until noon.

Any citizen is invited to the meeting to discuss individual interests and concerns about state legislation and/or legislative procedures.

"I hope such meetings will contribute to closing the credibility gap between citizens and elected officials," Green said. Some people find it difficult to stand up at large gatherings or official meetings and voice their concerns. I think smaller, more informal sessions can be beneficial to both citizen and politician."

MacCarthy's Exhibit At Greenbelt Library

Miriam MacCarthy, University Square resident, is exhibiting a group of her paintings at the library. Alongside each painting is a sonnet, describing or commenting on the subject of the work, written by her husband, Neil.

The MacCarthys have a country home near the mouth of the Rappahannock River. Much of their work reflects a love and concern for the beauty and delicate balance of the vital coastal wetlands and the Chesapeake Bay.

Miriam began painting several years ago as a hobby. She is now rated as a professional by the Rappahannock Art League.

Greenbelt's Library

The library's Christmas tree needs trimming. Children, ages 6-12, are invited to make ornaments to decorate the tree on Tues., Dec. 2, from 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. Children 3 to 5 are asked to attend on Thurs., Dec. 4, from 1:30 until 3:00 p.m.

Drop-in stories continue on Thurs., Dec. 11 and 18 at 2 p.m. Dec. 18 will feature special holiday stories. Admission is free. For details call 345-5800.

Greenbelt Homemakers

A demonstration on making "Doorstop Bottle Dolls" will be held at the library on Wed., Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. Materials needed: 32 oz. soft drink bottle filled half with sand; 3" styrofoam ball; glue; size 10 work sock; fabric; thread and rug yarn for hair. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 474-1706.

Festival of Lights

The annual Festival of Lights will begin with the Crafts show at the Youth Center on Dec. 5 (7-10 p.m.), Dec. 6 & 7 (1-5 p.m.) The children's room will be open only on Sat. and Sun. Many other events are scheduled. Caroling will take place either on Dec. 20 or Dec. 21, but a leader is needed. If anyone is interested call the Recreation Dept. 474-6878.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$5.00 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.

Volume 33, Number 2

Thursday, November 27, 1975

Facts of Elderly Housing

To the Editor:

A decent respect for the intelligence of our neighbors requires us, when communicating with them, to present truthful and accurate facts for their consideration. Lately there have been many loose, inaccurate, and highly emotionalized stories circulated around Greenbelt concerning senior citizens housing.

The facts probably should be repeated at this time, even though they have been widely publicized during the last 6 months.

1. The entire program is subsidized by Federal housing assistance payments under Section 8 of the 1974 Housing Act, at no additional cost to local taxpayers. Included are costs of the building, the land, (including the cost of the land to replace parkland used by the city for the building), furnishings, maintenance, repairs, administration, mortgage and loan payments, interest and other costs. No additional taxes will be incurred for Greenbelt taxpayers.

2. Many other communities around us have taken advantage of similar programs for the benefit of their senior citizens - even though they lacked many of the advantages of this newest program. For example Attick Towers on Route 193 and Rhode Island Ave. by the city of College Park. Other nearby projects are in Takoma Park, Cottage City, Silver Spring, Rockville and Sandy Spring. Hundreds of such projects are in successful operation across the entire U.S.

3. The senior citizens home will provide a substantial improvement in living standards, especially for our lower income senior citizens. For example, a senior citizen with a total monthly income of \$200 who may now be paying \$135 monthly rent, and forced to eat and live on the \$65 left, would pay \$50 monthly rent (25% of total income) and have \$150 left to eat and live on. However, there are no limitations on income, either high or low.

4. We already pay in our regular Federal income taxes for these federally subsidized programs for the entire U.S. For us to reject a senior citizens home for Greenbelt, would be saying in effect that we are perfectly willing to pay to improve the lot of other senior citizens across the U.S. as long as our own local citizens are kept out of the benefits. That would be getting a mighty poor local value for our federal tax money.

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 Realtors 868-1666 til 9 p.m.

News Review Congratulations

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Greenbelt News Review on the Anniversary of their 38th year of continuous publication. I believe this landmark is not only a tribute to the untiring work and dedication of the newspaper staff but also to the citizens of Greenbelt.

Although I have not always agreed with various positions the Greenbelt News Review has taken on many issues, I have nevertheless always found the reporting to be both fair and accurate. It is only through this fair and accurate reporting that the citizenry can objectively evaluate the issues that concern their City.

May I again congratulate the Greenbelt News Review and wish them many more years of continued success.

Greenbriar Associates
 Alan I. Kay

Christmas Mail Deadlines

Postmaster Emory A. Harman today urged all residents to mail as early as possible and observe the following suggested holiday mailing dates: Nov. 27, Parcel Airlift Mail (PAL) to armed forces in Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Also to armed forces in Antarctica, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Okinawa, Philippines Taiwan and Thailand; Nov. 30, all surface parcels to Alaska and Hawaii; Dec. 1 PAL mail to armed forces in Canada, Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland and the Azores; and Dec. 2, airmail greetings and parcels to armed forces in South and Central America Ethiopia, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Antarctica, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand and Okinawa; and International surface parcels to Canada and Mexico.

5. The senior citizen project will provide much needed employment, especially in the building trades; and after completion, permanent jobs, full time and part time for Greenbelt residents. It would be a decided financial asset to the Greenbelt community.

6. Greenbelt already has excellent youth, recreational, library, church, schools, and other facilities. The addition of a senior citizens home would round out Greenbelt as a complete model community with special programs for all major segments of the population.

Senior citizens are certainly a major, and in the past, neglected, part of our population. All in all, it presents a wonderful opportunity to improve our community and contribute substantially to the quality of life for our senior citizens at no additional cost to local taxpayers. Common sense says we should accept it.

Greenbelt Senior Citizens Housing Committee
 Anthony M. Madden, Chairman

Thanksgiving

To the Editor:

In sure and certain hope of his resurrection to Eternal Life, the family of Paul Vincent Henry acknowledges with deep appreciation the numerous kindnesses received during the past weeks and the many expressions of sympathy from so many people - from so many places. He died in Florida, September 28, 1975 and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on October 10 with full military honors after a memorial burial mass at Fort Meyer Chapel.

Mary Daly Henry

Mishkan Torah News

Cantor Donald Weisman of the Mishkan Torah will speak on the first night of Hanukah, Fri. Nov. 28, at 8:30 p.m. He will relate his experiences with the U.J.A. Mission to Israel and the Concentration Camps of Eastern Europe. Everyone is invited.

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Thankful People

A

Service of Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day

10:00 a.m.

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Sunday Services: 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

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Take time for your family . . .

Take time to read . . .

Take time to say "thank you", also

Take time to worship God.

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Bible Study for all ages (Sun) 9:45 am

Sunday Worship 11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Mid-week Service (Wed) 7:30 pm

For bus transportation, call church office 8:30-12:30 weekdays

Bah'ai Faith

Do you believe mankind will die out?

You are invited to hear a talk by Richard M. Witter - noted Bah'ai teacher and futurist. Subject: Bah'ai Faith as it relates to a futurist.

Tues., Dec. 2 - 8:00 p.m.

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Greenbelt

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Church School 9:30 A.M. (For ALL Ages)

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TO GHI MEMBERS

Report #12 on GNMA Deferral monies to be Used for Heat Conservation Programs

Total Funds Available	\$318,764
Less: Authorized Payments to Date	176,492
Balance of Funds	142,272
Interest Earned on Funds	\$9,899
Less: Cost of Notices	144
Total as above	\$152,027

Location: Equitable Trust Company

Certificates of Deposit \$150,000

Savings 2,027

Total as above \$152,027

Repayment Funds:

Collected thru November 1975 \$102,011

Interest Earned on Funds 3,010

Total as above \$105,021

Location: Peoples National Bank

Certificates of Deposit \$104,500

Savings 521

Total as above \$105,021

November 24, 1975

James R. Foster
 Treasurer

CLASSIFIED

\$1.50 for a 10-word minimum, 10c for each additional word. Submit ads in writing, accompanied by cash payment, either to the News Review office at 15 Parkway before 10 p.m. of the Tuesday preceding publication, or to the Twin Pines Savings and Loan office. There is no charge for advertising items that are found.

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WANTED TO BUY - reliable used automobile, reasonable. Sheets. Tel: 474-6881.

YARD SALE - Nov. 29-30, 10:30-5. 13-F Ridge rd. Bargains galore.

FOUND: tan and white cat. North End area. Call 474-1706.

INTERIOR PAINTING - you buy the paint, we do all the work. Most reasonable prices around. Call 345-1108 for estimate.

REMODELING - kitchens, your choice of cabinets. Bathrooms - all or part. Wall and floor tile, vanities. Carpentry work of all kinds from repairs to renovations. Also painting. Free est. Licensed and insured - with local references. Phone 345-3850.

FOR SALE: Complete living room set - sofa, loveseat, chair in gold/green print, coffee table, 2 end tables, 2 lamps. Originally \$1200, now \$600. Will break up set. Call 474-2499.

SEAMSTRESS WANTED - Call 474-0785 about dress making.

FOR SALE: Aria Electric Guitar with case. \$50. Call 474-7129 after 5 p.m.

FOUND - Small female, orange & white cat. brown collar w/silver studs - 345-7916.

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Kendall, son of Mrs. Bertha Kendall, 58-A Ridge, was awarded his fourth Good Conduct Medal in Mainz, Germany. The medal is given to those who distinguish themselves through exemplary conduct, efficiency and fidelity during active military service. Kendall entered the army in 1958.

Glad to see Katherine Keene up and around again after a recent automobile accident. She was spared serious injuries because she was wearing her seatbelt.

We hope that Mrs. Mary Henry, Eastway, will soon be feeling better. She had been hospitalized and is recuperating at home.

Greenbelt Transmissions

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All That You Ever Wanted To Know About Solar Heat

by Sid Kastner

An interesting talk on the realities of, and prospects for, solar heating for the homeowner was given last Wednesday evening at the Greenbelt Library by Harry Kriemelmeyer, an engineer who is presently a director of facilities at the University of Maryland. Kriemelmeyer gave a talk from the point of view of someone who is preparing to install such a system in his own home. In view of present Greenbelt interest in solar heating, attested to by the rooftop structure presently going up on GHI's 2 Court on Southway, a summary of Kriemelmeyer's points may be useful to the reader.

Before considering solar heat, the homeowner is advised to improve insulation so as to cut down on heat loss. Heat is lost in three ways: radiation through windows, conduction through walls and floor, and convective loss (warm air rising to the ceiling). The cavities in walls, between partitions, let cold air come down in them and should be stopped up. In a typical house, Kriemelmeyer estimated that an outlay of about \$500 in insulation could permanently save one third of the heating energy, if the house is inadequately insulated to start with.

How Many BTU's?

It takes 46,500 BTU's of energy per hour to keep an average house at 70°F when the outside temperature is zero, with a 25 mile per hour wind blowing (one BTU or British Thermal Unit is the energy required to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree F). So an important question is, how many BTU's do you get for an outlay of one dollar, from the various kinds of fuel? The answers are that oil yields about 210,000 BTU's per dollar; gas yields 240,000 BTU's per dollar; and electricity, at present prices, gives only 75,000 BTU's per dollar. Solar heating can yield from about 100,000 BTU's per dollar, for a factory-built installation to about 200,000 BTU's per dollar for a home-built system; the cost in this case is not for fuel (the sun's energy is free, of course) but for capital outlay on the installation, averaged over a twenty year lifetime.

The amount of energy, in BTU's, received from the sun on a square foot of horizontal surface is known exactly for any latitude on the earth, and for any time of year. Here in Greenbelt it is about 800 BTU's per day in January, and rises to 2,700 BTU's per day in June. This variation is due to the well-known fact that the earth's north pole is tilted away from the sun in winter and toward it in summer, so that the sun is lower in the (northern hemisphere) sky in winter.

Conditions

Thus, ideally panels to receive solar heat should vary their angle accordingly during the year, but in practice an angle of about 52 degrees to the horizontal is a good compromise. Kriemelmeyer noted that there is nothing magic about this particular angle - five degrees either way makes little difference - nor do the panels have to face directly south. He stressed that the homeowner should go to as little expense as possible in erecting the panels, i.e. minimize unnecessary structural work. He also stated that the weight of a typical solar installation is no more than that of a new set of roof shingles, so that most roofs are already strong enough to bear the weight. He agreed however, with a member of the audience, that any building code requirements would have to be observed.

Savings

In a sample system for a house that consumes 354,000 BTU's per day, 400 square feet of solar panels are needed to save about 50% of the total heating cost through a winter; during January, they will provide only 25% of the heating requirement, but between February and December they can provide 75% of it. The present furnace is thus needed as a backup. Also, to store two days worth of the solar-generated heat, one needs a tank holding about 1800 gallons of water. The total cost of such a solar-heating installation comes to about \$6,000 (the tank alone costs about \$1,500).

This cost, it should be noted, is for a professionally built system. It could be lowered by more than a factor of two if the homeowner puts the system together himself.

Solar heating is still more feasible to provide part of the cost of domestic hot water (without heating the house). A system which gives 64,000 BTU's per day (about 100 gallons of hot water per day) costs only about \$700, using 64 square feet of panel; in this case the solar energy is used to pre-heat the existing hot water system.

Pros and Cons

Kriemelmeyer, after giving more details of the control mechanism (thermostats, etc.) required for an actual working installation, summed up the advantages and disadvantages of solar heating as it exists at present:

1. No complex technology is needed.
2. There are some problems with materials.
3. There are engineering and cost decisions to make.
4. One needs to match the system to an already existing house, or integrate the system into a new house.
5. Systems that include air conditioning are still in the developmental stage.
6. Be cautious about buying attractive-looking packaged installations.

He ended by again urging the homeowner to first insulate properly, and offered an extra suggestion for people who own a clothes-dryer which is vented outside; if the dryer is vented directly into the house in winter, through a good lint-catching filter, both the heat and moisture of the dryer will be saved.

Center School PTA

The Center School PTA will meet at John Carroll Elementary School on Wed., Dec. 3 at 7:30 p.m. The program will include presentations on speech, reading guidance, etc. Anyone needing a ride call 474-2073.



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WOOD you believe that we can fire up your imagination with an opportunity to own a beautiful, much improved 2 bedroom end frame townhouse. Owner has purchased another home, and says "sell this place" at only \$16,500.

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