

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 39, Number 48 GREENBELT, MARYLAND Thursday, October 14, 1976

Council Approves Remaining Capital Improvement Items

by Al Skolnik

City council at its Monday, October 4 meeting, gave approval to the rest of its capital improvement budget for fiscal year 1977. This is the budget that is financed through an allocated 3 cents of the tax rate each year.

The items approved included (1) \$1,800 for a 4-foot asphalt pavement of Crescent Road bike and pathway from Lastner Lane to Hillside Road; (2) \$2,000 for modernization and extension of fire alarm system for city buildings to connect to fire board and to enable other buildings to be included; (3) \$9,000 for construction of Southway Road sidewalk on east side from entrance map to Ridge Road; and (4) \$1,200 for bike path on the east side of Lakecrest Drive between Greenbelt Rd. and the Lake Park.

With respect to item (1), council noted that there are not enough funds at present to carry out the recommendation of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board for a 6-foot wide Class 2 bicycle trail.

With respect to item (4), the total cost of the project is \$7,500 (includes also curb and gutter and shoulder work between Lakecrest Circle and Greenbelt Road). The city is contemplating using some additional revenue sharing funds voted by Congress last week to complete the project.

Revenue-Sharing

City manager James Giese said that the city will probably receive about \$40,000 in revenue sharing funds. Council will hold a committee-of-the-whole meeting on Wednesday, October 27 to consider the use of such funds and the capital improvement budget underwritten by the 1969 \$950,000 bond issue.

The latter budget calls for expenditures of \$334,000 for land purchase in parcels 1 and 2 and \$250,000 for the construction of an addition to the Municipal Building. In addition, there is continued demand for the construction of additional ball fields. PRAB issued a report last week (#8-76) in which it reiterated its recommendation for improvement of parcel 7 as an activity field and the need for an overall development plan for ball fields throughout the city. Giese said that he is counting on revenue-sharing funds to finance ball field development at the landfill and behind the Public Works building.

Art Fair

Council approved expenditure of \$155 for a Bicentennial Committee supported Art Fair, to be held in November at Beltway Plaza. The Art Fair is directed toward the youth at junior and senior high schools. The Greenbelt Baha'i Community will sponsor the event and provide the leg work.

Some opposition was expressed to city support for a church-sponsored event, but the majority of council felt that the event being sponsored was too far removed from a religious activity to breach the separation of church and state principle.

Council also approved the preparation of city certificates of appreciation for all individuals and groups who participated in Bicentennial activities and the expenditure of \$350 for a historical marker dealing with Walker Tooping Castle.

Waiver

Council approved a waiver of a city requirement for a 40-foot width paved street for Shady Oaks Terrace in Windsor Green. Instead, a 36-foot width will be permitted, which is the county standard. The waiver was approved because the street will be a dead end and more off-street parking will be provided in Windsor Green than is required to meet the needs in other town house projects.

Parking Restrictions

The council introduced for first reading an ordinance that would limit parking to one-hour in the west parking lot on either side of the lane next to the Medical Center (except for those spaces already restricted for medical purposes). The restriction would be in effect between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

SHL Industrial Area

The city's Advisory Planning Board submitted Report #177 dealing with a preliminary plan for the Springhill Lake industrial tract. The plan proposed subdivision of the tract into four parcels comprising 50.7 acres exclusive of flood easements plus a 70-foot right of way.

APB approved the plan but recommended that no construction occur until adequate public sewage is available. It also suggested that METRO plans for a station in the area could have an impact on the tract.

Other Matters

The council received the resignation of Gene Clark from the APB because of his moving from the city. . . . The council received word that the county council is backing down from its opposition to a connector road between I-95 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway . . .

Amnesty Committee Meets

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Amnesty Committee will be at 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19 in the meeting room at the Greenbelt Public Library.

Everyone is invited — especially those who signed the amnesty petition at the Labor Day Festival.

There will be a report on the visit of a delegation of five persons to the office of Congresswoman Gladys Spellman on Sept. 28, for the purpose of presenting her with the signed petitions. Suggestions as to planning visits to Senator Mathias and other elected officials will be appreciated.

As about one-fifth of the persons signing the petition live outside of Greenbelt, the possibility of forming amnesty committees in nearby communities will be explored.

AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

Monday,

October 18, 1976

8:00 P.M.

I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Meditation
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 4, 1976
5. Additions to Agenda by Councilmen and Manager

II. COMMUNICATIONS

6. Petitions and Requests
7. Administrative Reports
8. Committee Reports

III. OLD BUSINESS

9. An Ordinance to Amend Section 11-42, "Parking Time Limitations" of the Greenbelt City Code, to Restrict Parking to One Hour Between 8:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. in Certain Spaces in the West Parking Lot of the Greenbelt Commercial Center — Second Reading
10. Advisory Planning Board Report 177 — Inner Walkway System As It Relates to Housing for Elderly
11. Advisory Planning Board Report #179 — Preliminary Plan of Subdivision, Springhill Lake Industrial Tract
12. Elderly Housing Advisory Board
13. Purchase of Open Space

IV. NEW BUSINESS

14. Legislation — 1261-1976, State Secondary and Primary Highway Improvements
15. Resignation from COG Human Resources Citizens Advisory Committee
16. Application for Public Works Program Grant
17. Housing for the Elderly — Types of Ownership

V. MISCELLANEOUS

TRANSFERS TO ROOSEVELT

School Board Enmeshed Again In Legal Tangle

by Elaine Skolnik

When is tipping of racial balances in school districts caused by demographic factors and when is it caused by school board action?

This is the quandary the Prince Georges Board of Education found itself in on Thursday, October 7 when it considered the request of 34 Fairmont Heights Senior High School students for transfers to the new Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School.

Open Enrollment Requirements

On February 26, 1976 when the school board adopted attendance policies for Roosevelt, it specified that 400 student spaces (213 permitted the first year) would be reserved in the comprehensive portion of the school for transfers from other schools on a first-come, first-served basis. The originators of this open enrollment policy were generally thought to be seeking a means of circumventing the consequences of desegregation, since the board as early as November 1970 had agreed to allow students to transfer provided they could justify such transfers in terms of individual academic needs, health, economic hardship, or personal adjustment.

Because of fear that such an unrestricted open enrollment policy might be legally challenged, the majority of the board at the February 26 meeting added a stipulation that no transfers could be made if they tipped racial balances in violation of the Warr-Steinecke resolution of May 26, 1975.

This resolution provided that no new school will open below 10 percent black or above 50 percent black, and that no new school will be permitted to tip other schools beyond these percentages (at least for the first year).

Transfer Requests

When the original transfer requests of 45 Fairmont Heights students — a predominantly white group — came up at the July 9, 1976 meeting, the board voted to uphold Superintendent Edward J. Feeney's decision to bar the transfers. The vote came on the advice of school board attorney Paul M. Nussbaum that allowing the transfers could lead to reopening of the court case which brought about court-ordered busing in Prince Georges county beginning in January 1973. He said there was no precedent in court addressed to the question as to whether or not approval of transfers which would further tip or compound the racial balance would be liable to court action.

At the August 26, 1976 board meeting, the board decided to look at the September 30 enrollment at Fairmont Heights and determine at that time if the figures would permit the transfers without pushing the percentage of black students at Fairmont over the 50 percent mark.

Racial Balance Tipped

The September 30 enrollment figures now show that black students at Fairmont make up 51.6 percent of the school's enrollment (663 blacks, 621 white). At the October 7 meeting, board members Nicholas R. Eny, Kathleen M. Barker, A. James Golato and Sue V. Mills argued that they were now free to permit the transfers to Roosevelt since the tilting occurred as the result of natural population shifts.

But the other five members of the board — Maureen K. Steinecke,

Lesley Kreimer, Chester E. Whiting, Jesse J. Warr, and Norman H. Saunders — argued that the transfers might lead to a new desegregation suit based on the argument that the board is contributing to the resegregation of the schools.

Under the guidelines set down by the U.S. Supreme Court, while a school board is mandated to assure that all schools in the county have an initial racial balance falling within established limits, the board does not have to constantly readjust school populations to maintain a proper balance. If, however, such tipping is construed by the courts to be caused by board action, the school system could again be faced with court-ordered busing.

The Prince Georges county public schools were released from the supervision of the U. S. District Court in Baltimore in December 1974 (final order last March). The majority of the school board have been reluctant to take any action that could invite a Federal judge back into the management of the schools here.

October 7 Meeting

The October 7 meeting was a repeat of earlier board meetings relating to Roosevelt — stormy and filled with bitter debate and confusion. At the end of the meeting nobody could figure out what happened. Acting board attorney Richard Eckstrand was asked to review the transcript of the meeting since the results of the complex parliamentary moves between the two sides was not clear.

Board members disagreed among themselves as to the net result of the evening's consideration of the matter.

Eny, Mills, Golato and Barker claimed that the transfers should be allowed because the board failed to pass a resolution blocking them. Warr, Steinecke, Kreimer, Whiting and Saunders argued that the transfers are still held in check by previous actions of the board.

Some board members blame School Superintendent Edward J. Feeney and board attorneys for indecision. Eny, who has led the push for the transfers, said he will ask the board to "take action" against Feeney unless the superintendent agrees to the transfers by October 11. The staff did not want to make a recommendation in the matter arguing that they did not know what the consequences would be.

In the meantime the fate of the 30 white and 4 black Fairmont Heights students is not known. School officials hope for a decision by the latter part of the week.

Enrollment Figures

September enrollment figures for Roosevelt show that only slightly more than half of the 213 students who were permitted to enroll for the 1977-78 school year from outside of Roosevelt's attendance area showed up in September. In the main, those failing to attend returned to their former schools because they had no transportation during the early weeks of school. Under the open enrollment policy, the county does not provide transportation unless space becomes available on school buses.

The total enrollment in the comprehensive portion of the school is 800 tenth and eleventh graders (315 black, 491 white) of which 698 students (259 black, 439 white) are assigned from fixed attendance areas and 108 (56 black, 52 white) from other parts of the county.

The technology program at Roosevelt has 550 ninth, tenth and eleventh graders (485 white, 65 black). Eventually there will be 700 students. Next year there will be a senior class in both components.

Dem. Club Meets at 7:15

Due to a conflict of speaking commitments, Congresswoman Gladys Noon Spellman will be unable to address the Roosevelt Democratic Club on October 15 at the time previously announced. However, Mrs. Spellman will be able to address the club on that date at an earlier time. Therefore, the meeting will begin promptly at 7:15 at the Greenbriar Community Center.

A representative of Rep. Paul Sarbanes will present Cong. Sarbanes' viewpoints on the campaign issues immediately following Mrs. Spellman's portion of the program. State Sen. Edward T. Conroy will introduce Mrs. Spellman. Questions to the candidates and their representatives will be welcomed. All Greenbelters are invited. A social hour and refreshments will follow.

WANTED

Responsible boys and girls wishing to deliver the News Review every Thursday evening, please call 474-6060. Nominal pay.

Vacancies on Advisory Boards and Committees

The City Council is inviting interested citizens to submit a resume for consideration by the Council in filling present and future vacancies on the following boards and committees:

- Advisory Planning Board
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Council of Governments Citizens Advisory Committees —
Public Safety and
Human Resources

Further information may be obtained at the City Offices, 474-3870, Gudrun H. Mills, City Clerk

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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Volume 39, Number 48

Thursday, October 14, 1976



— Photo by Bill Bernhards

Katherine Braddock -- Miss Greenbelt

by Frances Hromulak

Katherine Braddock wears the crown and green velvet cape as Miss Greenbelt 1976 at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

Kathy is the 16 year old daughter of Keith and Lestine Braddock, residents of Springhill Lake. She is currently a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. As Miss Greenbelt, Kathy won a \$700 full modeling scholarship to Barbizon and a \$55 glamour case from Fashion Two-Twenty. Kathy was sponsored by Greenbriar Condominiums.

Connie Becraft, first runner-up, is the 16 year old daughter of Douglas and Shirley Becraft. Connie, who is also Miss Photogenic, is a member of Parkdale's senior class. She was sponsored by Twin Pines. Connie received a scholarship from Wendy Ward.

Theresa O'Donnell, second runner-up and Miss Congeniality, is the 19 year old daughter of Loretta O'Donnell. A 1975 graduate of Parkdale Senior High School, Teri was also "Miss Kava."

Third runner-up was Jackie Lee, sixteen years old and the daughter of Ruth Lee. Jackie is currently a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She was sponsored by Kash Realtor.

Deborah Patton was fourth runner-up. She is the 17 year old daughter of Mary Patton. Debbie, a senior at Parkdale this fall, was sponsored by Springhill Lake Community center.

U. Md. Shuttle Change

Effective Mon., Oct. 18 the U. of Md shuttle bus will operate one bus on each run through old Greenbelt and Springhill Lake. The second bus will run through Springhill Lake only.

Starting times from Lakecrest Dr. and Lakeside Dr. will be 7:07, 7:47, 8:27, 9:07, 9:47, and 10:27 a.m. Return runs will leave the university at 2:10, 2:50, 3:30, 4:10, and 4:50 p.m.

Police Blotter

Investigation is continuing on the recent rape incident. Possible suspects are being interviewed. Detective Ernest Brumley said he appreciates the public response to the department's request for information regarding the composite drawing of the attacker published recently in the News Review. Information may be given to Brumley at 474-5454 and will be held in the strictest confidence.

Parents are again advised to warn children against accepting rides from strangers. An apparent attempted abduction occurred recently involving a juvenile female who was walking home from a local elementary school. A look-out has been placed for a male subject who tried to lure her into his auto.

A 17-year-old Springhill Lake maintenance employee was also apprehended and released to his parents on the charge of daytime burglary.

A 20 year old local male was arrested on a charge of larceny under \$100 for a theft from a local market.

Among the recent breakings and enterings one occurred on Crescent Road and one in Springhill Lake.

A 17-year-old DuVal student was arrested and charged with assault and battery following an altercation between the youth and a teacher at Roosevelt High School. He was trespassing.

A juvenile was apprehended for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Further investigation revealed that the youth was responsible for taking 20 additional automobiles from Greenbelt residents. All were returned to their owners.

Two cases of indecent exposure were reported this week. Several women were stopped and asked directions by a subject in a vehicle who then exposed himself to them. The subject, a 31 year old resident of Silver Spring, was charged. A lookout has been issued for a subject who exposed himself to a woman in the restroom of the building in which she is employed.

In cooperation with the Metropolitan Police Department two citizens band radios were recovered that had been stolen in Greenbelt less than 24 hours previously. Charges have been placed against two residents of the District in this case.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Mr. BEN ROSENZWEIG, President of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, and Mr. JOSEPH D. COMPRONI, Manager, have called to the attention of the City Council that the week of October 18-24, 1976 is generally being celebrated throughout the United States, Canada and the remainder of the free world, as International Credit Union Week, during which members of the Credit Unions are honored, and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that our Greenbelt Community has just reason to be proud of our local Credit Union which has worked for the benefit of our Community for the past 39 years and which is unquestionably a factor in the City's progress and

WHEREAS, the City Council considers it fitting and proper that public cognizance be taken of this fine group during the 39th Anniversary Year of the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gil Weidenfeld, Mayor of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, by authority vested in me by the Council and the citizens of Greenbelt, do hereby designate and proclaim the week of October 18-24, 1976 as

International Credit Union Week in Greenbelt

and express Council's appreciation to the men and women who have worked so diligently in the interest of the Credit Union and the development of our City, and wish them continued success in the future.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to be affixed this 14th day of October, 1976.

Gil Weidenfeld, Mayor
 City of Greenbelt, Maryland

ATTEST: Gudrun H. Mills, City Clerk

Anna G. Vorce

Anna G. Vorce, age 82, died on October 10 in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania where she resided with her daughter Mrs. Roseann Redmond for the past three years. A 20 year resident of Greenbelt, Mrs. Vorce was active in the Greenbelt Golden Age Club and St. Hugh's Catholic Church.

Mrs. Vorce is survived by her daughters Genevieve Arnett, Margaret Strimel, Mary V. Wilson, Mrs. Redmond, sons James W and John C. Vorce; she was the sister of Nora Bendish and sister-in-law of Roy Vorce. Surviving also are 35 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

MOWATT MEMORIAL
 United Methodist Church
 Church School 9:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11 a.m.
 October 17 - SERMON -
 "CONDEMNED TO GOOD-
 NESS" - Rev. Cunningham
 Rev. Clifton D. Cunningham,
 Pastor
 474-3381 40 Ridge Rd. 474-9410

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



6905 Greenbelt Rd.
 Worship Services
 8:30 and 11:15 A.M.
 Sunday School 9:50 A.M.
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 9:00 - 11:30 A.M.
 Phone 345-5111
 Edward H. Birner, Pastor

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474-4212

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 Mid-week Service (Wed) 7:30 pm

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

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

(United Church of Christ)

Hillside and Crescent Roads - Phone 474-6171 (mornings)

Sun., 11 a.m. - Worship Service and Church School
 (Infant Care at 2-B Hillside)

Rev. Sherry Taylor and Rev. Harry Taylor, Ministers

CATHOLIC FAITH INFORMATION SERIES

Tues. evening 8 p.m. St. Hugh's Rectory Meeting Room

For Catholics who would like to know more about the Catholic Faith and non-Catholics interested in becoming Catholics.

Instruction by Msgr. William F. O'Donnell

For further information call St. Hugh's Rectory - 474-4322

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