

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 46, Number 3 P.O. Box 68, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 Thursday, Dec. 9, 1982

## Greenbelt Looks to Future Possibilities

by Bill Rowland

Thirty years ago the Federal government sold Greenbelt into private ownership. What was then a little town out in the woods is now in the view of many residents, a little town almost lost among close-packed apartments, towering office buildings, sprawling shopping centers, and a web of congested highways. Yet there's more to come.

The "more to come" was at the heart of the city council's discussions with its Advisory Planning Board (APB) in a work session on November 23. For over a decade, the official guideline controlling development within the city has been the 1970 Greenbelt-College Park Master Plan, developed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and adopted by the Prince Georges County Council. M-NCPPC is now nearing completion of a several-year project to draft a new master plan for the area.

Concurrently, in response to a 1979 request by the city council, APB has made its own lengthy review of the 1970 master plan

against the realities of the 1980's and the city's hopes for the years ahead. During the work session the board presented its detailed recommendations to council. These recommendations will give council its starting positions from which to promote and protect Greenbelt's interests as the new master plan moves from first draft to final adoption during the next two or more years.

Overall planning goals for Greenbelt's future as proposed by APB include the desirability of having more single-family detached homes built in areas of new residential development, improving and maintaining existing housing and environmental qualities, acquiring and maintaining green space, keeping commercial activities limited to designated areas, achieving park-like settings for office areas, and preventing additional industrial activities.

Under the topic of "Living Areas," APB's report addresses a number of issues, including the expected impact of Metrorail and the need for noise-abatement procedures along the Beltway. The bulk of attention, however, is focused on APB recommendations for rezoning of 10 vacant parcels, now zoned for residential uses and totalling about 381 acres. These proposed changes in some cases reflect the belief of the APB majority that the city needs more single-family free-standing housing. In other cases, APB wants parcels

brought into zoning conformance with their surrounding neighborhoods.

The "Open Space" heading includes a recommendation that Greenbelt Homes, Inc., be asked to dedicate two to three acres of vacant land near Plateau Place to allow expansion of now-inadequate recreation facilities in the city's north end.

The "Circulation and Transportation" part of the APB report includes a long list of recommendations, ranging from the need for adequate roadway access to Metrorail's Greenbelt terminus and opposition to an intercounty connector highway, to expansion of the city's pedestrian-bicycle path system.

On the subject of "Commercial Areas," APB reflects its concerns about the most appropriate zoning for seven vacant parcels, totalling 184 acres, now designated for commercial use. The board particularly recommends that the present industrial-use zoning be removed from two parcels near Beltway Plaza, and from the large parcel west of Springhill Lake reserved for the proposed Metrorail complex.

Some of the sharper issues that may face the council during its further consideration of the APB proposals, and then during the protracted give-and-take with citizens, developers, M-NCPPC, and the county council as the new master plan moves from initial draft to final form, began to surface during the work session. These are among such possible areas of conflict:

—The recommended planning goal most likely to arouse debate will be the one urging that future residential construction in the city be concentrated on pro-

See MASTER PLAN, p. 4, col. 1

## Tip for Shoppers

The Greenbelt police remind all citizens to be sure to lock their cars while parked in parking lots and to secure packages in the trunk of the car while Christmas shopping. If packages are taken to the car in the middle of a shopping expedition, shoppers are urged to lock the packages in the trunk and to move the car to a different location before shopping is resumed. This procedure minimizes the chances of a thief locating a trunk load of packages.

## City Program Asks Live Tree Donation

This holiday season a new program is being undertaken by the City of Greenbelt and its Parks Division to help keep the city green. Residents who buy a live tree for their Christmas tree can donate the tree to the city and it will be planted in one of the city's parks. The tree will then become a lasting gift to the community and a contribution to Greenbelt's greenspace. Donations to the City of Greenbelt are tax deductible.

For those persons interested in participating in this program, the City's Park Superintendent recommends the purchase of the following trees for this program as they will survive well in Greenbelt's climate: white pine, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Scotch pine or Canadian hemlock. After Christmas, the trees will be collected by the City's Parks Division and planted in a city park. Records will be kept so that contributors can later identify their trees.

Anyone interested in this program or wanting more information may call 474-8004.

## Council Sets Procedure To File for Vacancy

Greenbelt's four-man city council, its ranks depleted by the departure of former mayor (now County Councilman) Richard Castaldi, outlined procedures for filling the vacancy at the regular council meeting on December 6. By provision of the city charter the new council representative will be appointed by the four incumbent council members.

According to procedures outlined Monday night, the council will hold a public hearing on January 4 where all candidates will be given an opportunity to speak and supporters of the candidates will also be heard.

Mayor Gil Weidenfeld emphasized that the process should be as open as possible. The newly-appointed mayor pro tem, Richard Pilski, voiced his opinion that the post should be filled as expeditiously as possible in order that a full council could deal with any important business which may come up.

Weidenfeld urged all candidates for the council vacancy to submit resumes before the public hearing so that each council member will have time to study them. However, candidates are not required to submit resumes before the hearing nor are they required to appear at the hearing. The record will be held open for 48 hours after the hearing to accommodate anyone who might have been prevented from being present on January 4.



Richard Castaldi raises his right hand to be sworn in as County Council member on Monday, December 6. His delighted parents, Marie and Edward Castaldi, stand at his side. With them but not shown here is Ann Gordon who served as Richard's campaign manager and will be his administrative aide.

The ceremony took place outside the starkly modern County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro with School House Pond, its wild ducks and geese providing the perfect backdrop in a county that is still a mixture of rural and urban. The warm, sunny day was considered a good omen for the mostly new nine-member council and the new county executive. — photo by J. Henson

## City Council Supports Child Care Center; Honors Spellman

by Marion Glick

The Greenbelt City Council on November 22 recommended the county grant a special zoning exception allowing Elizabeth A. Sonneveldt to operate a before and after school child care facility in her Lakeside Drive home.

The proposal for the exception had received tentative approval for recommendation from council on November 8. Council waited to hear from the community about the proposal before taking a final vote.

"A vast majority of letters have been favorable," Gil Weidenfeld, mayor pro tem, said.

In January the proposal will go to the Prince Georges County Zoning Hearing Examiner for a recommendation to the County Council, which makes the final decision.

City Council placed two conditions on the proposal before approving its recommendation. The conditions limit the number of cars dropping off or picking up children in the Sonneveldt's driveway to two at one time. Also, the city will recommend

that the zoning exception apply to the property only while the Sonneveldts live there.

During council's discussion of the proposal, Weidenfeld served in Mayor Richard Castaldi's position. Castaldi excused himself for possible conflict of interest. He will be serving on County Council, which will vote on the proposal next year.

### Spellman Overpass

In another matter, council approved a resolution honoring Gladys Noon Spellman, former U.S. Congresswoman and Prince Georges County councilwoman.

This winter, a pedestrian trail and a new overpass across the Baltimore-Washington Parkway will be dedicated in Spellman's honor. Spellman was instrumental in getting approval for the overpass's construction.

Now under construction, the overpass and trail should be completed by January, according to James K. Giese, Greenbelt city manager.


Also, council gave approval to the Greenbelt Babe Ruth Team to use the city's name. Council's approval is not a sponsorship of the baseball team.

The team, for youths aged 16 to 18, is an independent member of the Prince Georges County Babe Ruth League. During the past season the team was sponsored by the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club.

Council postponed a tentative 1983 legislative program for a council work session. The program must be adopted before Council meets with Maryland General Assembly members from Greenbelt's district.

At a previous meeting, council:

—Appointed Veda Ward and Joseph Isaacs to fill vacancies on the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.



**NOTICE OF VACANCY  
ON  
CITY COUNCIL**

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND IS SEEKING APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO FILL AN EXISTING VACANCY, WITH A TERM EXPIRING IN SEPTEMBER, 1983.**

**COUNCIL INTENDS TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING JANUARY 4, 1983 TO RECEIVE PRESENTATIONS BY AND IN BEHALF OF INTERESTED CITIZENS. INTERESTED CITIZENS (WHO MUST BE QUALIFIED REGISTERED VOTERS) ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESUME OR CURRICULUM VITAE PRIOR TO THE PUBLIC HEARING TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND 25 CRESCENT ROAD GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770.**

**GUDRUN H. MILLS  
City Clerk**



# Citizens for Greenbelt Meeting Covers Metro, Crime, Zoning

by Ruth Kastner

A lively and informative Citizens for Greenbelt (CFG) meeting took place on Wednesday, November 17 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Among the issues discussed were transportation, crime prevention and zoning. The featured speaker was Metro Government Relations Officer Gerald Gough, who gave members an update on the progress of the Metro Green Line, which ends in Greenbelt.

Much of the route, he reported, is in final design, exceptions being the Calvert Hills section of College Park, where residents oppose construction of the line, and the area between Fort Totten and the D.C. line, where citizens want a deeper tunnel than is currently planned.

Gough also commented on declining R-15 Metrobus ridership, which he thought may have been due to buses being somewhat erratic toward late summer and early fall. However, he felt that this problem has been brought under control.

In the business segment of the meeting, Transportation Committee chairman Irene Hensel commented that the T-16 Metrobus no longer goes into Greenway Shopping Center and that many residents find the parking lot hazardous and difficult to enter and exit. A spokeswoman for Greenway, Patrice Kahane, replied that the parking lot has been unable to bear the load of a Metrobus without damage, so the service has been discontinued. As for the entrance/exit problem, Kahane reported that an application for a second left turn lane out of the lot had been turned down, but may be approved in the future if necessary alterations can be made. Members also asked whether anything could be done about traffic tie-ups in front of Wendy's; Kahane responded that as yet no good solution has been found.

## Crime Prevention

President Dorothy Baluch reported that the Health and Safety Committee has been concerned with crime prevention and expressed the need to support the Neighborhood Watch program being developed by the city's Crime Prevention Committee. Also of concern was the need to repair the sidewalks in the Greenbelt Center Mall. Councilman Tom White pointed out that the difficulty in accomplishing these improvements was that the mall is not city property. Councilman Gil Weidenfeld suggest-

ed that CFG send a letter to the owner, George Christacos, asking for his cooperation with repair plans.

## Zoning

Zoning Committee chairman Barry Schlesinger gave an update on the possibility of government sale of some of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) property. Letters had been sent to Senators Charles (Mac) Mathias and Paul Sarbanes and Congressman Steny Hoyer objecting to the sale of BARC land. Mathias advised

that an effective means of resisting such a sale was simply a lot of public outcry by area residents; this approach has worked in other areas facing the same problem. Schlesinger also reported on the proposed rezoning of the Ivy Lane area on the north side of the Beltway from garden apartments to office building. The Zoning Hearing Examiner has recommended the rezoning, Schlesinger said. White and Weidenfeld informed the group that City Council agrees with the recommendation since city approval of the rezoning could facilitate the funding and construction of the Cherrywood Lane overpass to the future Greenbelt Metro Station. They noted that the owner of the property, Springhill Lake Association, has a rec-

ord of quality development as well as a good working relationship with the City of Greenbelt. All agreed that provisions should be made for adequate road service and the preservation of the Greenbelt Cemetery.

Baluch reported that membership in CFG was on the rise with a current total of 103, and that much of the credit goes to membership committee chairman Eunice Coxon, who has worked very hard to recruit new members. Three new members joined that night.

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## CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF MEETING

Greenbelt City Council will meet on Monday, December 13 at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Room of the Municipal Building to discuss a Greenbelt Museum Board. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

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- Smoke Detectors — \$15.00
- 9 Volt Batteries (for smoke detectors) — \$2.00
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- Mildew Stain Killer — Free
- Storage Sheds (holds two 30-gallon trash cans) — \$56.00

The Member Services Office (474-6644) has information about discounts through the United Buying Service and area merchants. Discounts are available on such items as the following:

- Automobiles & Trucks
- Furniture & Appliances
- Paint & Wall Coverings
- Insurance
- Printing
- Travel

**MASTER PLAN cont. fr. p. 1**  
viding more single-family detached homes.

—The level of residential density to be permitted on the 110 acres of privately owned vacant land between GHI and the Parkway continues to hang over the council — and the community — as a serious concern. Adequate traffic access to that land also poses major planning difficulties. Another residential-use tract troubling to the city is the 29-acre Parcel 15 between Greenbelt Lake and the Beltway.

—The future ownership and uses of several key parcels of vacant Board of Education land no longer needed for school construction will be critical issues.

—A major annoyance for council is the inclusion of Langley Park as a part of the planning area that formerly encompassed only College Park and Greenbelt. The city had earlier protested, without success, the county council's decision to add Langley Park.

Little mentioned, but surely in the minds of all who attended this work session, was the realization that Mayor Richard Castaldi would not be the presiding officer when the city council again takes up the subject of the master plan. Castaldi's official concern with the plan is as a member of the new county council.

**Local Man Acquitted In Shooting Incident**

Anthony J. Zavosky, a D.C. policeman who was indicted for the February 17 slaying of James Brown, long-time Springhill Lake maintenance man, was acquitted of all charges last week by Calvert County Circuit Judge Perry G. Bowen, Jr.

Brown was shot when he entered Zavosky's townhouse at 9160 Springhill Lane to perform routine maintenance. According to Sgt. Ernest W. Brumley of the Greenbelt Police Department, who was in charge of the police investigation, Zavosky said that he had been sleeping after working the night shift when he was awakened. Startled, he believed he had been awakened by an intruder.

Zavosky was indicted for first degree murder by a Prince Georges County grand jury. A motion for dismissal of that charge was granted by Bowen on Dec. 2. The next day the judge found Zavosky not guilty of the lesser charges of manslaughter and use of a handgun in commission of a felony.

The trial was moved to Calvert County at the request of the defendant's lawyers on grounds that publicity given the slaying in Prince Georges County might influence the outcome.



**GHI BOARD MEETING**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

Thursday  
December 16, 1982  
8:00 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Membership Applications
3. Visitors & Members
4. Manager
  - a. Window Maintenance
  - b. Boiler Plants
 GHIDC Meeting - Weatherstripping
5. Committees
  - a. A.&E. Recommendations on Shed Regulations
6. President
7. Board Members

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# By All Means See It--Utopia Offering, "I Remember Mama"

by Rema Boscov

It would be hard for any production to ruin "I Remember Mama."

The one playing at the Greenbelt Cultural Arts Center didn't.

Angela Schreiber has directed a pleasing rendition of this classic by John Van Druten about an immigrant Norwegian family in San Francisco in the early 1900's.

Heartwarming. That's the word usually applied to plays like this. Van Druten, an observer of human nature, presents an array of characters, some with defined and limiting traits—a bossy aunt, a kind son, a timid suitor—and some more fully developed.

Marie Tousignant presents a Mama who is warm, loving, giving, and not about to let the world defeat her. Bob O'Malley gives us an Uncle Chris who is tough, boisterous, domineering and at the same time generous, caring and fun. The children, primarily stereotypes—Van Druten himself classifies them as "the stubborn one," "the kind one," and "the dramatic one"—do take on lifesize proportions as they interact with the numerous other stereotypic characters.

This play thrives on stereotype. The large number of characters hangs together because we are only asked to recognize limited traits. This is no deep psychological study: "What Makes Mama Tick." Here is a family album come to life. Not everybody smiles in family portraits. But everybody counts. Heartwarming.

This play has many things going for it. Van Druten, interspersing serious and comic scenes, emphasizes those changes by directing that they be acted on different sections of the stage. Lighting becomes important and

effective. "I Remember Mama" does not drag.

The Utopia Theater with its limitations — a shallow stage, no curtains—presents a challenge to directors who work there. Ordinarily the hospital scenes would take place in front of closed travelers, not within the household setting. "I've had to let the audience rely upon imagination," Schreiber says. No problem. And it's fun. You feel you are part of the deception.

Casting for this production is, for the most part, good, with acting from excellent to mediocre. Tousignant, O'Malley and Beyrent, as Nels, have played these parts before and they fill their roles gracefully, comfortably and competently. Katrin, played by Janet Schreiber, is a role which is both internal and external to the play. She exists primarily as storyteller with a limited characterization.

"If she doesn't tell the story properly the whole thing falls to pieces," Angela Schreiber says. "For that reason it's an extremely difficult part to capture." Though she does a fine job of interweaving her internal and external roles, the quaver in her high-pitched voice makes her dramatic part seem overly dramatic. Nevertheless, Janet Schreiber Cripe's Katrin is a strong one.

By far the star performance is given by Judy Holland as timid Aunt Trina. Her experience and comfort on the stage, her warmth, her superb talent

as a comic actress, bring a genuine full-bodied persona to this otherwise limited role. When Holland is on, she isn't playing Aunt Trina; she is Aunt Trina. Her performance alone is worth your attendance.

The role of younger daughter Dagmar is a shared one, with players taking turns on performance dates. Schreiber has done this "to give three little girls an opportunity to work in the show. I think community theater should be part of that," she says. And she adds, "All of my Dagmars are good." Laura Shields certainly was last Friday night. As was Kelly Hall, playing her older sister Christine, and Colin Mendenhall as cousin Arne. In contrast, some of the adult players seemed less at ease on the stage. But no matter. This play is a strong one and, on the whole, this cast is good.

Some scenes in this play are a joy to remember. Picture extremely timid Thorkelson (Loren Ziller), Trina's suitor, soliciting a dowry from the menacing Uncle Chris, dangling by his shirt collar, held high off the ground by Uncle Chris's fists. Uncle Chris teaching his neph-

ew to swear will delight you. And his deathbed scene will bring you peace—and tears.

Tom Schreiber's set is homey, even inviting, with touches of authentic Norwegian ornaments. Beautiful costumes, scene changes, laced with snatches of Grieg, and a live cat give distinction to this production.

"I Remember Mama" is fine for the whole family. In fact, it's good for the whole family. If you don't want to keep the youngsters up late, see it on Dec. 13 or Jan. 9 at 2:30 p.m. Equally fine as adult entertainment, you can see it evenings at 8:15 on Dec. 11, 12, Jan. 7, 8, 14 and 15.

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### OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES



From time to time, vacancies occur on city advisory boards and committees to which appointments are made by the City Council. The City Council is welcoming applications from citizens wishing to be considered for present or future appointments to the following:

- ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD
- \* PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
- \* COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD
- EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD
- \* BOARD OF ELECTIONS
- \* GREENBELT CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

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NOTE: \* Indicates existing vacancy.

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## GHI Board Passes Budget

by Mary Lou Williamson

The 1983 budget approved by the Board of Directors at its regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 2, included the \$40,000 cut management was asked to make in the budget. The total now is just under \$4 million, rather than just over.

Taking their cues from opinions expressed by the majority of the board, management cut two positions from the maintenance staff. They have also cut back publication of the Newsletter which will appear only four times during 1983 instead of six. The maintenance jobs eliminated were described as two proposed positions for grounds work. It is, of course, positions in the heating department that are being eliminated with the conversion to electric heat. Apparently at least some of the heating engineers are to be reassigned to other work within the maintenance department.

Discussion of the specifics, which two employees would lose their jobs, came during a brief executive session requested by Don Volk. When the Board reconvened in open session, Volk, still very unhappy, announced he would vote against the budget. "I don't like to do that," he said, "I never have before."

Janet Cantwell moved the adoption of the amended budget, Frank Gervasi seconded. Voting against the budget were Volk, and Wayne Williams. Jim Smith did not vote. Thus the board members maintained the same division that had produced the \$40,000 cut request at the special board meeting held two days earlier.

Management actually cut \$52,000 from the budget. Comptroller Don McGinn estimates the failure of the TRIM amendment means GHI will pay \$12,000 less in county taxes than he had made provision for in case the amendment had been approved by the voters in November.

## Drunk Driving Awareness

A program to develop awareness of the risks and dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol and other drugs will be presented at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Tuesday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. The program will be presented by Stayin' Alive, a team of local residents trained to participate in the state's "Alcohol and Other Drugs School/Community Pre-

## Program at Roosevelt H.S.

vention/Intervention" project. Stayin' Alive operates in northern Prince Georges County in the communities served by Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

The December 14 program marks National Drunk and Drugged Driving Awareness Week. Members of SADD (Students Against Drunk Driving), in an effort to decrease the number of their friends and peers

involved in alcohol and drug related crashes, instigated the celebration of this week in Prince Georges County. The program will include a film "Until I Get Caught," a panel discussion by parents and students and presentations by distinguished guests. Experienced resource personnel will be available to meet with parents and students in small groups or on an individual basis.



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Dancing at 9 p.m.

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