

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 53, Number 23 P.O. Box 68, Greenbelt, Maryland 20768 Thurs., April 26, 1990

Recreation Department Budget Request Highlights Wide Variety of Programs

by Diane Oberg

The city's recreation department operates a wide variety of programs for residents including day camps, classes, concerts, sport teams and tournaments, trips, and senior programs, as well as providing support for other community groups. On Wednesday, April 11 the Greenbelt City Council and officials of the Recreation Department met in a worksession to discuss the department's budget for the 1991 and 1992 fiscal years.

The parks and recreation budget proposed by City Manager James K. Giese totals \$1.6 million for the 1990/91 fiscal year, a 3.3 percent increase over the current year's budget. The city estimates that actual expenditures in FY90 will total \$1,387,300, 9.1% below authorized levels. The savings were distributed across all budget areas. As a result, the budget proposal for FY91 represents a 13.7 percent increase over estimated expenditures for FY90. Since responsibility for the city's parks rests with the Public Works Department, the parks budget was not discussed in depth at this work session. A much larger increase is projected for the 1991/92 budget year, when the indoor pool is expected to open. Expenditures are projected to rise to \$2.1 million, a 32.7 percent increase over the 1991 budget.

Much of the work session discussion focused on pool issues. For the current fiscal year, council authorized \$75,700 for the outdoor pool. The city estimates that \$72,700 will actually be spent. A 5.2 percent increase, to \$79,700 is requested for 1990/91, while the 1991/92 budget request jumps 460 percent to \$446,400.

One uncertainty in the pool budget is whether pool fees will generate sufficient revenue to cover operating costs without a subsidy from general city revenues. In the current budget, \$1,200 of general city revenues were required to balance the budget. (A net profit of \$1,300 had been projected.) With the recently approved increase in pool fees, the city projects that revenues will cover costs.

The 1991/92 budget presents a much different picture. With the

opening of the indoor pool, which Giese now expects no earlier than September 1991, revenues are projected to increase 222 percent. However, a 460 percent increase in costs is projected, requiring a subsidy from general city revenues of \$192,400. The increased costs reflect the change from a summer-only pool operating 100 days a year to a 365-day operation requiring full time staffing. The cost and revenue estimates are based upon the experiences of other area pools. Recreation supervisor George Rogala said that the department hopes not to need the full subsidy provided in the budget.

The 1992 budget calls for hiring three full time pool staffers and part-time help equivalent to 9.1 full time employees. The budget reflects only costs directly related to operating the pool, such as pool staff, insurance and maintenance. It does not include the costs of financing renovation of the outdoor pool or construction of the indoor pool, or the cost of recreation staff not directly assigned to the pool.

Mayor pro tem Thomas X. White was concerned about the low revenues projected for the indoor pool, as compared with the revenues generated by the outdoor pool. Assistant Recreation Director Harry James noted that the indoor pool will be a year-round operation requiring additional staff. He cited a national study estimating that approximately 13 percent of the people using an outdoor pool will use an indoor pool. Recreation director Hank Irving said that by providing additional services, such as a health spa, and by proper marketing, the city may be able to increase the number of passes sold.

There is a fundamental conflict, according to Irving, between profitability and the ability of citizens to use the pool. He said that the city can make the pool profitable by seeking more rental business. However, this approach will reduce the amount of time the pool is open for use by residents. Giese cautioned that council will also face a conflict it "will not like" between organized users of the pool and those pool users who want to drop in at any time. Further, he said that the indoor pool will accommodate fewer people at one time since indoor pool users generally want to swim, while many outdoor users just splash in the water to cool off.

Administration Budget

The Recreation Administration account covers salaries and expenses of the director, assistant director, recreation supervisors and office staffers. Until the indoor pool opens, this account is the largest contributor to recreation department expenses. The budget proposes a 4.9% increase for FY90 (12.4% over estimated FY90 expenditures). The major new requests in this account are

for a staff car (\$12,000) and a part time office assistant.

Irving had requested \$5,000 for a study of the feasibility of combining the parks department (currently part of the Public Works) and the recreation department. Giese did not include this request in his budget. He noted that Public Works Director George Smith expects to retire with the year and that it would be best to include his successor in the decision. Irving accepted this logic, saying that if he were in the new director's shoes, he would appreciate being involved.

Rec Centers

A slight decrease (2.7%) to \$196,200 is proposed in the Youth Center budget. This represents an 11.5% increase over estimated FY90 expenditures. An 8% increase (10.4% over estimated expenditures) to \$155,700 is proposed for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The department hopes to establish new youth programs at both centers, including after-school programs for elementary age children in cooperation with Center and Springhill Lake schools. The department also wants to provide

Local Man Arrested For Abducting Girl

by Mary Lou Williamson

Stephen Robert Hechelmann, 34, of 204 Lakeside Drive, was arrested about 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, for abducting a six-year-old girl. He had approached her and asked if she wanted a ride on his bicycle. He then grabbed the girl and fled on the bike down Ridge Road toward Southway, according to Greenbelt police spokesman Pfc. David A. Buerger.

The girl's sister and a friend told the mother who called police. Five officers responded in separate cars: Lt. Kenneth Stair, Sgt. John Lann, Cpl. James Parker, Pfc. Alan Caho and Officer Richard Sullivan. They began to check area streets and parks.

Family members and neighbors also fanned out to look, seeking help from everyone they saw. A 10-year-old boy stopped to ask dentists Jay and Clayton McCarl, 28 Ridge Road, if they had seen a man riding a bike with a little girl on his shoulders. They hadn't. But on his drive home, Jay McCarl spotted the two at Ridge Road and Westway and followed them to the parking lot behind the Youth Center. With a baseball game underway, Braden Field was packed with people. McCarl was able to identify the two to Cpl. Parker who was searching that area. The girl was unharmed.

Parker apprehended Hechelmann and took him to the police station where he was searched. Officers found marijuana in his possession. Hechelmann, charged with abduction and possession of marijuana, was incarcerated in lieu of \$75,000 bond.

State, Others Review Slope Erosion at Beltway Plaza

by Elaine Skolnik

Alternatives for solving the longstanding erosion and sedimentation problems created by the steep slope along the east end of the Beltway Plaza Shopping Center were reviewed at a meeting called by the State Department of the Environment (DOE) in Baltimore on March 6. Attending were representatives of Beltway Plaza Developers, Prince Georges County and the Board of Education. Mayor Gil Weidenfeld and City Planning and Development Coordinator Celia Wilson also attended.

Since 1985 there has been an outstanding violation citation against Beltway Plaza for slope failure. Various deadline extensions for completing corrective work have been granted Beltway Plaza developer Sidney Brown while he attempted to effect a land swap with the Board of Education. Brown felt that the erosion problems could not be solved with the county bus and service lot sitting on top of the slope.

In 1989 Brown, in exchange for the existing bus lot property, proposed to develop an upgraded bus lot on Monte's miniature golf course on University Boulevard near Metzert Road. When the swap fell through, DOE called for a review of alternatives to permanently resolve the erosion problem.

One alternative is to regrade the slope to a less severe grade. However, this would require encroaching on the bus lot prop-

erty and moving the maintenance building, which sits at the edge of the embankment. DOE has given Beltway Plaza three months to meet with the Board of Education to review a proposal for regrading the slope and redesigning the bus lot.

Another alternative is to utilize structural means to contain the slope at its present grade. According to DOE this could be accomplished by injecting control devices that are filled with soil or vegetation.

DOE also directed Beltway Plaza to review engineering solutions to the problem, to immediately repair the silt fence at the bottom of the slope and to install a "super silt fence" that would withstand the force of storm surges.

DOE will conduct regular inspections of the slope and keep the city informed of the corrective work being undertaken by Beltway Plaza.

1991 City Budget Proposes Eleven-cent Tax Increase

by Mary Lou Williamson

Presenting a two-year budget for the first time in the city's history, City Manager James K. Giese is proposing an 11-cent rate hike for fiscal 1991 and another two-cent hike in fiscal '92. Thus the \$10.4 million budget would require a tax rate of \$1.32 for the coming year, a 12.8 percent increase.

In his written budget message Giese identified the four factors which are pushing the tax rate harder than usual this year. Council, supported by the voters, has made substantial decisions during the past several years to enhance the quality of life in Greenbelt through a new police facility, parkland acquisition and development, a year-round swimming pool, and a community center able to offer new or expanded programs in many areas. These capital improvements require increased debt service, 4.5 cents on the tax rate next year.

Last year, in order to make the city more competitive in hiring and keeping its police officers, council agreed to provide a 25-year pension plan for police when it becomes available through the Maryland State Retirement Program. Preliminary estimates put the cost for this program next year at another 4.5 cents on the tax rate.

With the workload of many departments under stress from increased service demands, Giese has proposed eight new full-time positions and three half-time positions.

Lastly, the new facilities—the police building this year and in fiscal '92 the indoor pool and Schrom Hills Park—will require further added expenditures for operation and maintenance. And the pool will require another significant increase in staff. These new services will add another two cents in each of the next two fiscal years.

The normal increase in tax

monies which the city will receive from inflation (increased assessments) and new development (down this year) will just barely provide for continuing last year's level of services, wrote Giese. He had hoped to limit any tax rate increase to the cost of debt service and the police pension. In reviewing requests from department heads, he wrote, "It became apparent to me that some very important needs could not be funded unless the tax rate was increased more than that initially contemplated."

Surplus Funds

Giese continues to advise council to maintain a surplus approximating 10 percent of the operating budget to cover any contingencies and to help maintain the city's good bond rating. He does plan to use the surplus, if needed, to pay out any debt service on a mortgage loan of \$1,000,000 to be used to complete the purchase of Parcel 1. However, he hopes the city will have sufficient funds to pay for Parcel 1 without a mortgage loan.

Three key employees are expected to retire during the next fiscal year, "each with substantial accumulation of sick and annual leave." The cash value, which the city pays, will be about \$50,000, an unusual one-time expense earned over many years, for which Giese feels it is appropriate to use surplus funds.

Policy Questions

Giese's budget message poses several policy questions to council. See BUDGET, page 2, col. 3

What Goes On

Mon., April 30, 8 p.m. City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Tues., May 1, 6 p.m. North End School, back parking lot. Meeting with architect and school system representatives on plans for new school.

Thurs., May 3, 7:30 p.m. GE-AC Meeting, Windsor Green Community Center

Greenbelt News Review

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RECREATION

(Continued from page one)

programs for teens and begin planning for use of space in the community center the city plans to operate when it takes over Center School.

Self-Sustaining Programs

This account covers programs such as classes, day camps, sports leagues and special interest programs for which fees collected from the participants cover the city's costs. Overall, the proposed budget projects that revenues will exceed costs by 36 percent in FY91 and 41 percent in FY92. The department proposes combining Camp Pine Tree and Club Wanderlust into a single camp for children ages 6 through 14, continuing to provide outdoor high adventure type programs such as white water rafting, and offering new toddler and pre-school programs. Other goals are establishing a summer camp for the arts and investigating the feasibility of a day camp offering structured outdoor activities for those 65 and older.

Irving said that new, more stringent day care regulations are affecting the operation of the day camps. The new regulations prohibit the hiring of anyone under 18 years old as a camp counselor. He added that even more restrictive regulations are currently being drafted.

Therapeutic Recreation

The recreation department has been offering a growing number of programs tailored to the needs of senior citizens and other residents with special needs since hiring Karen Haseley as a therapeutic recreation supervisor in 1988. The budget proposal calls for increasing the budget for these programs by 4% (18.6% over estimated FY90 expenditures), to \$49,000. A further 7.6% increase, to \$52,700, is proposed for FY92.

The department's goals call for expanding the programs available to citizens with special needs by increasing the programs cosponsored with other agencies, developing therapeutic and senior aquatic programs for the indoor pool and beginning to develop plans for the senior activity center planned for the Center School community center.

Haseley had asked for \$10,000 for part-time office help, which Giese did not include in his budget. She argued for the funding, citing the request from the city's Park and Recreation Advisory Board for more programs for the developmentally disabled. Currently senior programming requires most of her time, according to Haseley. If she could hire additional part-time help, Haseley says, she would then be able to go out into the community and schools to get new programs started.

Park Group Meets

The Committee to Save the Green Belt will meet on Monday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the lower level conference room in the Greenbelt library. The public is invited.

Concert Will Benefit Jazz Band and Choirs

The annual "Just Desserts" concert will be held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Friday, May 4. The program theme will be "New York, the Big Apple" and will highlight the Jazz Band, Dixieland Combo, and Chamber and Women's Choirs.

An admission fee will include a dessert buffet. This annual evening of light "pop" music and jazz benefits the Jazz Band and Choirs. Sally Wagner directs the jazz groups, Barbara Baker is the Director of Choirs.

BUDGET, Continued from page one

in determining what the city's program should be for the next two years. These and other issues are being discussed during the various department budget work sessions, at the budget public hearing and finally in the work session prior to approval of a final budget by June 1.

"Should the property tax rate be reduced from that proposed or increased even further?" Giese acknowledges that a 12.8 percent increase in the average homeowner's property tax "is not good news." He writes, "I hope voters will remember that the city information material on the bond issues stated that tax increases would be needed. . . ." (Voters approved those bond issues overwhelmingly.) The need exists, he continued, "to provide added funds in order to keep up with added growth." Even the proposed increases do not fund all the desires expressed by the public, the members of council and the department heads. "There is a list of unfunded budget requests."

"Should the city improve its benefits to employees over that already provided?" A number of employees, last year, requested improved pay. Giese has reviewed all classified positions and will recommend some changes. The budget provides for a four percent across-the-board cost-of-living increase, less than the CPI index of 6.2 percent. An improved health benefits plan is also proposed. Night-time pay differential, requested by the Fraternal Order of Police, has not been funded in either of the next two fiscal years.

"What modifications should be made to refuse collection services and to improve recycling?" Giese

proposes to drop newspaper collection by the city in favor of a county program of weekly pickups of newspapers, aluminum, and glass at the yard of each city refuse customer. In addition, the city would increase recycling opportunities for other city residents whose present refuse haulers do not offer separate collection of recyclable goods and improve its efforts to compost and recycle grass clippings, leaves and brush. These plans, he acknowledges, are at odds with recommendations expected from the city's Advisory Committee on Recycling and Collection.

Two-Year Budget

The city staff expects the two-year budget to reduce the amount of time and effort spent on the budget process. For several years they have included five-year cost projections when doing the annual budget. According to Giese the accuracy of those projections has improved to the extent that he is confident that staff can "formulate a budget for a two-year period." Also, council terms are two years. He points out that getting a new council immediately into a two-year planning process would "better enable council to define its objectives" for its term of office.

This is a trial effort which council and staff can adopt, adjust or scrap.

Tennis Tournament Takes Center Court

The Braden Field Tennis Courts 1 through 6 have been reserved for the Greenbelt Tennis Association tournament on April 28 and 29, and May 5 and 6 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Courts 7 and 8, will be open for public use.

Genealogical Group Meets on May 2

The Prince Georges County Genealogical Society will meet Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. in the Greenbelt Library. The meeting is open to the public.

John W. Cassidy, attorney and president of Patuxent Title Corporation, will discuss land records, what's available, how to utilize those records and the information that can be abstracted from them.



AGENDA

Regular Meeting of City Council

Monday, April 30, 1990
 8:00 p.m.

I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (The consent agenda consists of those items which have asterisks (*) placed beside them, subject to such revisions as may be made by the Council prior to approval)
5. Approval of Agenda and Additions

II. COMMUNICATIONS

6. Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless the standing rules are waived by the Council)
7. Minutes of Meetings
8. Administrative Reports
9. Committee Reports - Presentation

III. LEGISLATION

10. A Resolution to Transfer Funds Within Departments - First Reading

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

11. Perimeter Trail
12. Refuse and Recycling Committee Final Report
13. Unsolicited Posting of Handbills
14. Proposal to Provide Cable Television Service in the City
15. Federal Capital Improvement Program for the National Capital Region FY 1991-1995
16. Park and Recreation Advisory Board Expirations of Term of Service

V. SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Gudrun H. Mills, OMC
 City Clerk

NOTE: THIS IS A PRELIMINARY AGENDA — SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

THE MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, AND ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 474-3870.

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Council Hears Recreation Groups Funding Requests

by Julie Andrews

At a work session on April 2, the city council reviewed budget requests from eleven Greenbelt volunteer organizations. These organizations, which serve different age groups and interests, traditionally receive contributions from the city to cover costs of equipment, uniforms, and coaches fees. Requests this year total \$42,350. City Manager James K. Giese's budget recommends a total of \$36,600 in contributions, but does not recommend a specific allocation among the groups.

Representatives from most groups were on hand to elaborate on their needs and answer questions of council members.

Marie Tousignant, president of the Cultural Arts Center, explained the center's request for matching funds for fiscal years 1990-91 and 1991-92.

At its December meeting, the Arts Center established a facilities development fund to set aside money to furnish, decorate and equip the space in the planned community allotted for the performing arts.

The center has asked the city to match funds raised by the center for this account—up to \$3,000 this year, and up to \$5,000 next year—to add to savings for facility development.

Tousignant said the center is asking for the funds in the form of a matching grant so that when the performing arts space is available, the Arts Center will have an account ready for necessary furnishings. Although the center could request money for equipment now, it would be easier to assess the needs of the performing arts space at the time of availability, she said.

The center's budget requests total \$9,000 for this year, including the \$3,000 in matching funds. This is an increase from \$4,200 approved for FY '89-'90. It includes \$5,000 for production and music expenses, and \$1,000 for directors' stipends.

Senior Softball

The senior softball team has requested \$4,000 from the city, an increase of \$3,000 from last year. Team representative Burt Kerr explained that the team is expanding, and needs funds to cover the costs of tournaments and uniforms. He added that players pay all transportation expenses. The Greenbelt Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

recommended the team receive \$2,000 this year.

Council member Toni Bram suggested the team be granted seed money (enough money to outfit the team), but did not specify an amount. She said after the initial funding was provided, team members should be responsible for their own uniforms. Bram also recommended the team advertise on their uniforms to raise money. Council member Ed Putens disagreed with granting seed money, saying he supports the team's original request.

Swim Team

According to Betty Sonneveldt, representative for the Greenbelt Aquatic Boosters, the swim coach needs a raise. Therefore, the Aquatic Boosters is requesting \$5,200 from the city this year—\$1,700 more than was approved last year. This request includes \$4,300 for the coach. Sonneveldt said the current pay is not competitive compared to others in the league, and explained that if their coach left, it would be difficult to hire another quality instructor.

Other Requests

The Greenbelt Concert Band has asked for a total of \$4,400, representing a \$200 increase in the director's salary; the Little League has requested \$6,400, which is \$1,100 more than last year. Representatives said additional funds are needed for two additional T-ball teams and for umpire fees. The Golden Age Club has asked for \$2,500—\$700 more than last year—to cover higher bus rates.

The budget requests of the following organizations are the same, or lower, than funds approved for them last year: Babe Ruth Baseball—\$1,050; Soccer—\$1,700 (a decrease of \$3,800); the Running Club—\$200; and the Tennis Association—\$100.

SENIORS' SOFTBALL

by Jerry Conway
by Jerry Conway

Senior Co-ed Slow-Pitch Softball for fun, exercise and sportsmanship has begun at Braden Field on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. League games will begin soon. The first practice game will be against Columbia on Friday, April 27, on Braden Field at 10 a.m.

All interested players are welcome to participate in organizational senior co-ed slow-pitch softball leagues representing Greenbelt Seniors in Montgomery and Baltimore counties. Twelve games with Baltimore County teams will be played on Braden Field Mondays and Wednesdays. Greenbelt will be represented in senior world series softball tournaments and in the Maryland senior olympics.

All senior men and women who desire to join may call Jim at 345-8446 or Jerry at 474-6433, or come to Braden Field on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings.

Our Neighbors

Dorrie Ba'es 345-5961

Our sympathy to Tony Pisano on the death of his wife, Ann. Condolences, also to daughter Diane and grandchildren Jamie and Jason.

Aastha Verma, a Greenbelt resident, was one of seven students from Prince Georges County who represented other nations in the Menc International Chorus who performed at the Music Educator's National Conference. Aastha represented India, and performed in the dress of her country. Other Roosevelt students who performed were Brinda Presed (India), Leyla Sarigol (India), Shalini Parikh (India) and Rachel Toczylowski (Poland).

Greenbelt CARES

Paul Fischetti chaired a meeting of the Human Services Coalition Children's Committee. The topic was the effect of divorce, separation, and remarriage on children.

Judy Hering will be starting a G.E.D. class at CARES on Tuesday, May 1 from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 345-6660 for information.

The News Review staff waves a fond, four-handed farewell to Jim Coleman, a mainstay of our make-up crew. Jim has retired from his work as a printer. He and his wife, soon-to-be-former residents of Mandan Road, are moving to Florida. Our Wednesday nights will be quieter, more somber without Jim.

Recreation Review

Pool Passes

Season passes for the Municipal Pool will go on sale at the Treasurer's Office in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, May 1 at 9 a.m. For further information, call George Rogala, Rec Depart. Business Office at 474-6878.

News Review

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Monday 2-4 p.m. copy, ads
8-10 p.m. copy, ads
Tuesday 8-10 p.m. copy, ads
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SATURDAY APRIL 28

Spring Clean-up

GHI NEIGHBORHOOD

Sponsored by the Architecture & Environment Committee

In need of additional trash bags for clean-up day? Contact any one of the following A&E Committee members to obtain trash bags.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
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| Sherna Comerford, 6-E Research | |
| Steve Gigliotti, 4-D Ridge | 345-4874 |
| Lowell Langers, 2-F Eastway | 474-3843 |
| John Lewis, 54-M Ridge | 441-2952 |
| Robert Rashkin, 2-A Research | 220-0558 |
| Terri Rutledge, 9-M Research | 982-3451 |

Remember, Saturday, April 28 is the only day to place trash at the roadside for removal. At other times, all trash items must be kept in your serviceside yard for removal by the City's trash crew. To obtain removal of special trash items, call 474-8004 any time of day.

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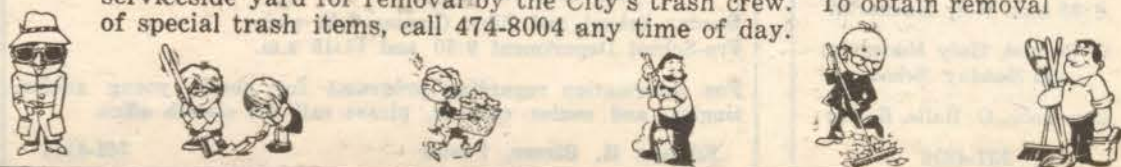
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Principal Describes School As Upbeat and Drug-Free

by Margaret A. Hames

The first Maryland school to get a Drug-Free zone sign is keeping its school just that—drug free. "No news is good news," Greenbelt Center School Principal John Van Schoonhoven says. "If no one gets arrested in a drug-free zone, then it must be working."

Van Schoonhoven said that having a drug free zone is similar to practicing preventive medicine — deterring drugs at school before they have the chance to arrive. The school, which got the sign in 1989, did not have a problem with drugs in the school, or near the grounds. There have been no reports of drugs at the school since the sign was planted on the grounds.

The main reason for having the sign, Van Schoonhoven said, is so the courts may inflict heavier punishments on any person found with drugs on the school grounds. Every school in Maryland now has a drug-free zone sign.

Drug-free zones are not the only thing Prince Georges County schools have in common. All county schools are involved in the Effective School program. Center school has been involved with the program for over six years.

The program, which concentrates on obtaining large achievement gains, has eight steps which help guide faculty to reaching these gains. These steps are:

Clear and focused mission, climate of high expectations for success for all students, strong instructional leadership, opportunities to learn and student time on learning, frequent monitoring of student progress, safe and orderly environment and positive home-school relations.

Van Schoonhoven, who has been a Fellow at the National Center for Effective Schools for over a year, said the program became required for all Prince

Georges County schools in 1985 by a county mandate.

The program takes a lot of energy and effort from all the faculty, Van Schoonhoven said, but he emphasized that it needs to start with the teachers. "It involves a lot of staff involvement. It can't come from the top down, it has to start with teachers," he said.

Enrollment Down

Van Schoonhoven, who has been Center School's principal for 11 years, said that enrollment is below the school's capacity of 610 with 535 students currently enrolled. The school, which has grades kindergarten through six, is 45 percent black, 52 percent white and three percent Hispanic and Asian.

Almost half of the students, who are from the Greenbelt area, walk to school. The other students, who are from the Washington Heights area, are bused the 16 miles.

While fights and vandalism are not a big problem at Center School, Van Schoonhoven is not denying their existence. "There are bound to be problems, but they're not anything out of the ordinary," he said.

Baby Shower for Shelter

A baby shower to assist the Shepherd's Cove Shelter will be held at Mishkan Torah on Sunday, April 29 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Shower sponsors, the Mishkan Torah Social Action Committee, ask that those wishing to attend bring any baby items except clothing.

At the Library

Thursday, May 3 Drop-In Storytime 11 a.m. for ages 3-5.

The school has a very active PTA, Van Schoonhoven said. Currently the PTA is involved with four projects. The main one, the Spring Fair, is planned to take place near May 1. All the grades have a booth at the fair, Van Schoonhoven said. He added that it is mainly a social affair rather than a money-concentrated one.

Van Schoonhoven said that average classes have between 26 and 32 students. He added that although his 35 certified teachers and four aides handle the classes very well, there is always the desire for more teachers.

"Never enough, there are never enough teachers," he said. "It would be nice to have smaller classes."

PAINT BRANCH UNITARIAN CHURCH

3215 Powder Mill Road (near Cherry Hill Road)
Sun., Apr. 29, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. "Fifty Years of Shared Vision" The U.U.S.C.
Church School 9:30 a.m.
Rev. R.W. Kelley 937-8666

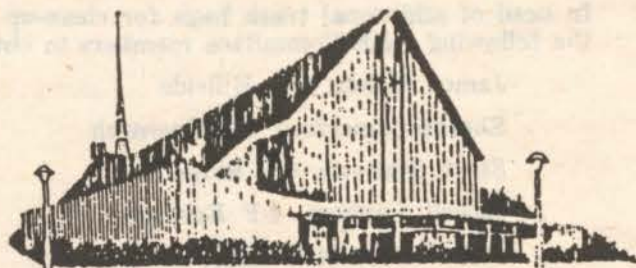
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Worship Services (Sun.) 11 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
Midweek Prayer Service (Wed.) 8:00 P.M.
For transportation questions, call 474-4212
8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Crescent & Greenhill Roads

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MOWATT MEMORIAL
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<p>Sunday School 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>Daniel Montague, Pastor</p>		<p>Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.</p> <p>(Nursery Provided)</p>
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Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Road
Worship Services Sunday 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. (Infant care provided each service)
Sunday School and Bible Classes 9:50 a.m.
Pre-School Department 9:50 and 11:15 a.m.
For information regarding programs for youth, young adults, singles, and senior citizens, please call the church office.
Edward H. Birner, Pastor 345-5111

Ann E. Pisano

Ann E. Pisano, a 38-year resident of Greenbelt died Saturday, April 21 at the age of 67, after an intense bout with cancer.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 5 at 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Church.

Ann came to the Washington area in 1941, and enlisted as a WAC during WWII. After being discharged from the Army, she worked for the Treasury Department in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Ann and her husband, Tony, settled in Greenbelt in 1951 and immediately became active in city affairs. They organized neighbors for the Youth Center, better lighting and protected walkways. More recently, Ann was involved in senior activities and the Gray Panthers, holding the position of president of the

Prince Georges Chapter. She also served on the city's Senior Task Force, as president of the Lakewood Civic Association, and on the Citizens' Committee for the renovation of the North End Center.

During this period Ann and Tony raised three children, Diane, Lynn and Terry. She is also survived by her sister, Sarah, brothers Jack and Bernie, two grandchildren, Jamie and Jason, and a great-grandchild, Charles Anthony.

Through Ann's efforts, Greenbelt has benefited from a stronger sense of community. Her involvement has confirmed that one person really can make a difference in today's society.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Second Mile House, Youth Resources Center, 7300 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hillside & Crescent Roads
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10:15 am Sunday Worship
11:20-11:40 "Coffee Break"
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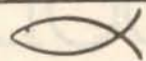
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Baltimore Blvd. at Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist and Sunday School
Rev. John G. Balls, Rector
937-4292

Change in Health Insurance Carrier Recommended, Approved by GHI Board

by Pat Scully

At its regular meeting on Thursday, March 22, the board of directors of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) discussed plans for the 1990 annual meeting and approved the recommendation of manager Ronald Colton to change carriers for employee health insurance.

Health Insurance

Colton presented the results of his research into the issue of health care benefits, a cost that is increasing rapidly for all employers. For small businesses this is a particular problem, since, according to Colton's report, "many insurers have determined that it is not cost-effective to service groups with less than fifty individuals. GHI falls within this category."

Under traditional "indemnity insurance," employees use their own physicians and are reimbursed for a portion of the expenses. Under Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), employees use only those health care providers specified in the network, at a set, nominal fee. Having interviewed a number of service providers, staff recommended a dual option program of "managed care." Employees would have a choice, each time they needed medical care, of using the HMO or their own physician. This option allows greater flexibility in health care while encouraging employees to be cost-conscious, without passing on the cost of premiums to them.

The plan would offer cost savings of 20% to 25% to GHI, while providing additional benefits to employees. There would be no annual deductible. It offers a husband and wife rate, as well as a family rate, which would be attractive to many GHI employees who have grown children who don't need coverage, but spouses who do. The plan also offers lower dental rates while covering more dental services, such as bridge work and other restorative dental care.

The board approved Colton's suggested motion to change insurance carriers.

They then discussed whether this was an issue that needed board approval or whether the manager had the authority himself to make changes in insurance coverage. As the manager's report had demonstrated, this is a very technical subject which Colton had thoroughly researched. Since this item has major impact on the budget, the board could exercise control through the budget process. The consensus of the board was that while they needed to know about changes that would affect costs to employees, the manager could in future make any decision about changing insurance carriers.

Annual Meeting Plans

The board discussed the agenda for the May 16 annual meeting, as well as ways to keep the meeting from running too late and to ensure appropriate procedures. At the annual meeting, members will be asked to amend the bylaws to make them conform to state law regarding indemnification of the board of directors and other officers of the corporation. The board discussed whether alterations to the bylaws need to be expressly stated in the agenda and presented to the membership prior to the meeting if alteration of the bylaws is on the agenda? The matter was referred to

Wayne Edwards, GHI's lawyer, for his legal opinion.

President Wayne Williams said that he would like to use Edwards at the annual meeting for assistance with parliamentary procedure. Robert Rashkin, of the Audit Committee, suggested using a parliamentarian instead, to save money. The Nominations and Elections Committee had submitted to the board a letter from member Eunice Coxon urging that a parliamentarian be retained for the meeting and enclosing the resume of a suitable individual.

However, since bylaw revision and state law will be topics on the agenda, legal advice may also be required. Williams said that he would prefer to have the lawyer available.

The length of the statements made by board members at the annual meeting was discussed. The reports of the general manager and president are generally the longest and provoke the most questions. Since their reports are provided to members in the mail, Colton and Williams agreed to make their spoken remarks brief summations of the written reports, not verbatim readings. The board also discussed how to deal with questions arising from the reports. Should they be added to the agenda as old business, addressed on the spot, or deferred to regular meetings? The board reached no conclusion, with the matter to be discussed at a subsequent meeting.

John Taylor, Mac Wirick and Ray McCawley were appointed as the committee to select the outstanding GHI employee of the year. The board also approved the presentation of a \$100 bond and two \$50 bonds at the annual meeting to ensure a quorum.

Tree Farm

Members had written to the staff to express their concern about the work being done on the wooded area between 46 and 48 courts of Ridge. More than 15 large evergreen trees have been removed; the members questioned whether this was compatible with tree farming practices. (GHI has been designated a Tree Farm by the Maryland State Forestry Department.)

Colton and assistant manager Steve Wright answered the concern by saying that, yes, this is indeed the best farming practice. These are shallow rooted trees, and older trees are most likely to blow over. Older and diseased trees are removed and replaced with saplings, allowing more room for new growth on younger trees. The managers took the opportunity to note that maintenance director Joe Whalen had previously been honored by the state as Forester of the Year and expressed their confidence in his tree farming expertise.

Masonry Trim

The board also approved by consensus staff's recommendation on alternatives to painting the trim on masonry homes. Staff's goal has been to minimize trim painting to reduce recurring labor costs and to improve the appearance of the community. As appropriate, staff will cover exposed soffit and fascia with vinyl and aluminum trim, while doors, door frames, and decorative moldings will be repainted.

The board addressed the issue of how GHI would respond if members request that the trim be painted rather than sided. (Members always have the option of painting their own trim.) Staff recommended that the decision to paint or cover be based on the amount of labor it would

take to prepare the surface for painting. Some trim would require an excessive amount of labor to scrape down to a suitable painting surface and in these cases covering would be most time- and cost-effective. The board approved of staff's reasoning on the trim issue.

Other Issues

The board agreed to increase the length of time a GHI home can be subleased, without requiring board approval, from two years to three. More and more frequently, members are sent on three-year temporary assignments for their jobs. Extensions beyond the three-year limit would not automatically be granted.

Due to a shortage of volunteers for GHI committees, Williams had decided to allow Anne Young to serve on both the Finance Committee and the Community Relations Committee.

The board agreed to add to the current contract with J&M Utilities of Beltsville just under \$28,000 for storm sewer repairs needed for the 18 court of Ridge and parts of the 13 and 42 courts of Ridge. The job is too small for most other firms to bother

to bid on; the work would be much more expensive if done by staff.

Colton announced that BARC will band trees from 12 to 34 courts of Ridge and the 4 and 5 courts of Gardenway to stave off gypsy moths, to assess the usefulness of this method. These are the only parts of GHI that will not be sprayed.

GDC Meeting

Earlier, meeting as the board of GDC, the board agreed to accept the low bid for replacement of the entry doors and installation of security systems for the two apartment buildings owned by GDC. The new secure doors, which are required by code to swing outward rather than the current inward opening, will fit on the existing frame. The distinctive glass block feature will thus be retained.

Residents of the apartments will have a separate key for the security system. The system will be tied into the telephone system so that visitors will call the residents for access to the buildings.

(Staff member Helen Webb contributed to this article.)

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Tuesday, May 1, 1990	7:15 p.m.
Saturday, May 12, 1990	11:00 a.m.
Tuesday, May 22, 1990	7:00 p.m.

Please call receptionist at 474-4161 for reservations and information. The sessions are free, and there is no obligation.

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JOE'S TIPS OF THE WEEK

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The Greenbelt Garden Club still has garden plots available.

The approximately 50 foot x 50 foot plots are located in communal garden areas. There is a nominal fee. Call 474-8483.

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Greenwood Village Elects Its Board

At the annual meeting on April 18 of the Green Holly Woods Townhouse Association, Inc., t/a Greenwood Village, Robert A. Windham and Daniel Lowery were elected to the Board of Directors.

After the meeting, which was attended by 18.6% of the owners in person or by proxy, the board members elected the following officers for the 1990-1991 year:

Roy Dahl, president; Charlene MacAdams, vice president; Robert Windham, secretary; and Daniel Lowery, treasurer.

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Students who reside in the Eleanor Roosevelt High School attendance area and currently attend private schools will be registered on Tuesday, May 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the guidance office at Eleanor Roosevelt.

In order to complete the registration process, a parent or legal court-appointed guardian must accompany the student on the day of registration. Parents must provide the following documents at the time of registration:

1. Proof of residence in the Eleanor Roosevelt attendance area. People are asked to bring the receipt from Pepco or telephone bill (portion showing the name and address) from the previous month;
2. Immunization record;
3. Birth certificate, and
4. Last report card.

If the student is not a U.S. citizen and has not been enrolled in a Prince Georges County public school, the parent must contact the International Student Guidance Office (474-4500) before coming to Roosevelt to register the student.

Failure to produce all of the above documents will result in a delay in the registration process.

This registration is for private school students only. Students currently enrolled in a feeder school will be registered at the school.

**Spring Fair '90
At Center School**

Greenbelt Center School's annual Spring Fair will be held on Saturday, May 12, in the school gymnasium. The PTA-sponsored event will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 2 p.m.

As in the past the fair will include games, food, drawings, and prizes donated by local merchants. In addition to the popular raffle, this year's fair will also feature a silent auction.

Game, food, and raffle tickets will be sold in advance at a discount in school (May 10-12 only). Tickets will also be available at the door.

Attendance at the Spring Fair is not limited to Center School students. All school-age children are invited to attend.

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**Greenbelt's Link to Laughs:
The Comedy Connection**

by Lisa Englehardt

Comedy is one of the hottest fads going these days. Raj Malhotra, owner of the Comedy Connection in Beltway Plaza, decided to get in on this rage by turning his Pizza Place into the area's only comedy club.

Malhotra says that he wants "clean comedy" at his club. Last Thursday's comedians weren't exactly candidates for seminary school, but their humor kept Mayor Gil Weidenfeld amused (so you don't have to worry about the kind of company you'll be keeping) as well as the rest of the audience.

The club's acts range from local to national comedians as well as some musical acts. Thursday's headliner was Jimmie Walker of TV's Good Times fame, who chided the mayor for having spent a whopping \$6000 on his last mayoral campaign.

The club is also a restaurant with a varied but not inexpensive menu. The service isn't too impressive, but the cover charge is. The prices might make you think you were in a fancy D.C. club, but the decor, which consists of brown wood paneling and

orange plastic tablecloths, reminds you that the place was once a pizza restaurant.

You may be thinking that for all this you could probably find something just as amusing on TV. Well, you probably could. But then you'd miss out on the opportunity to participate in the comedy acts, which often turn to the audience for laughs and help. Just ask the mayor who got to throw an apple at one of the comedians who was juggling a machete.

The club is open Tuesday through Sunday. In addition to the comedy acts seen on Fridays and Saturdays, there is also college night and open mike night, which have lower cover charges.

If you want to see future stars from Greenbelt or take a chance at becoming one yourself, the Comedy Connection could be your link.

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