

What Goes On . . .

Monday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m. City Council Worksession with Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee, Municipal Building

8:45 p.m. Worksession with MNOPPC on Transportation Study, Municipal Building



Greenbelt

News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER



. . . . And More

Wed., Feb. 2, 7 p.m. Crime Prevention Committee, Greenbelt Police Station

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



Volume 57, Number 10

P.O. Box 68, Greenbelt, Maryland 20768-0068

Thursday, January 27, 1994

Cranky Mother Nature Ices City

by David Morse

Global warming, anyone? Mother Nature was in a cranky mood last week, pounding Greenbelters with a rich mix of snow, freezing rain, and days on end of sub-zero temperatures, which yielded frozen pipes, power failures, "brownouts," "rolling blackouts," treacherous sidewalks, undelivered mail, and stupendous heating bills.

Many people, taking advantage of liberal leave policies, stayed inside and prayerfully awaited spring. Some people, however, responded creatively.

Kelly Ivy and David Saunders, for example, played hockey. On Braden Field, Both 13-year-olds, who reside in the 44 Court of Ridge Road, took advantage of the hardpan laid down by Monday night's ice storm and subsequent deep freeze. There were other sightings of hockey ad hoc in various parking lots around the city.

An then there were the workers who kept everything going while the rest of us cocooned.

Works in Progress

The city's Public Works Department toiled day and night when things were at their worst. Said department director Carl Hirsch, "My guys pride themselves on the fact that Greenbelt has a reputation of having the best snow removal in the metro area." On Monday, January 17, many worked virtually around the clock, with breaks of two to five hours. Supervisory personnel such as Gene Diest, acting foreman of the streets

(snowplowing) crew, and Richard Mills, foreman of the parks and grounds crew (clearing walkways), worked even longer, reporting for duty between 1:30 and 2 a.m. early Monday morning to get things rolling.

Members of the garbage collection crew were detailed at times to the plowing operation. Virtually the entire department was involved in the street clearing operation in some capacity.

A power outage that affected parts of Greenbelt during Monday night's ice storm hampered operations somewhat. Radio communications between trucks and headquarters were knocked out, gas pumps failed to function, and the electrically-operated warehouse doors refused to budge, temporarily stymieing truck repairs. Some emergency tree-trimming operations had to be illuminated by truck headlights because street lamps were out.

Slipping Plows

The ice storm made road conditions treacherous, especially after hardpacked ice was buried under four more inches of fresh, powdery snow on Thursday. Said Kenny Hall, Superintendent of Operations, "The trucks were slipping around. And you could not see the ice patches." The spring-loaded plows are designed for safety purposes to give way automatically when they encounter obstructions like ice. This protects the driver and equipment, but leaves the street unplowed at that point.

Jimmy Keifline, the department's mechanic foreman, detailed casualties to city equipment from the week's work: two

snowplow blades shattered, a plow hydraulic pump split in half, three alternators and five batteries burnt out. "We go through alternators like crazy," he said, because plows must be frequently raised and lowered. In addition, a plow's electric motor fell off a five-ton truck because vibration had caused the bolts to back off. Keifline, who was driving the truck, repaired it on the spot.

Hall echoed Hirsch's praise of the crew. "We all know we have a job to do. The adrenalin is flowing. . . . People come in even before being called out. They'll see snow and just come in." Hall also noted the achievements of the garbage collection crew. "We picked up trash (on Tuesday and Wednesday) when most people weren't even getting their mail."

The city was well-stocked with road salt and sand, unlike some other nearby jurisdictions, Hirsch said he reluctantly turned down a request from the city of Takoma Park for salt, explaining, "Our first responsibility is to our citizens." The city did, however, provide emergency assistance to Doctors' Hospital, spreading ten tons of salt and sand on their parking lot. Prince Georges County had refused to supply emergency resupplies of road salt to local jurisdictions which ran out.

Ice-laden Threats

Bill Phelan, the city's horticulturist, directed emergency tree trimming operations, undertaken because ice-laden overhanging branches were posing threats to motorists. The city's program

See ICE., page 10

Gunman Slain by Officer Following Citizen Complaint

by Elaine Skolnik

A quick-thinking Greenbelt resident may have saved the life of a city police officer and, perhaps, her own on Sunday night, January 23. After parking her car in the Greenbriar Condominium Apartment complex, the resident became aware of a man sitting in an adjacent vehicle. As she walked slowly behind the cars, she turned and memorized the license plate number of the suspicious vehicle; then calmly continued to her apartment building.

Safe inside, she wrote down the license number and called the police, who immediately acted. Police spokesperson Officer George Mathews said, "A computer check of the vehicle's registration plates revealed that the registered owner of the vehicle had an open warrant for a handgun violation."

With this vital information, the responding police officer, Robert Musterman, knew he had to be especially cautious in the way he approached the car.

According to Mathews, about 10:08 p.m. in the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway " . . . the officer observed that the subject inside the vehicle had his hands underneath a blanket. The officer ordered the subject to show his hands, at which time the subject produced a handgun and fired it at the officer. The officer returned fire and struck the suspect. The suspect died on the scene. The officer was not injured."

The police identified the deceased as Kenneth Estes, age 39, of Bowie. Later it was learned that he had legally changed his name from Dick Lebo.

Officer Musterman, a six-year veteran of the Greenbelt Police Department, was placed on routine administrative leave with pay, pending an investigation by the department's Criminal Investigation Unit. Officers involved in shootings are routinely debriefed by the department's psychologist.

Hurrying from their homes to the scene were Police Chief James Craze, Lt. John Lann and other members of the force who oversaw the investigation process. Greenbelt Fire Department and Rescue Squad personnel assisted and hosed down the affected area around the cars.

The resident who had alerted the police commended them for the compassion and sensitivity shown her while escorting her to the station for a statement.

The medical examiner in Baltimore is conducting an autopsy. Mathews said that the department "will be canvassing the Greenbriar neighborhood in an effort to find witnesses who may have heard or seen anything that could help with the investigation." Anyone having information should call 507-6530.

"In the entire history of the Greenbelt Police Department, this is the solitary fatal shooting experience involving a police officer," Police Chief Craze observed.

Craze urges every citizen to

report any suspicious activity they see, "just as this resident did, because we never really know what to expect." To report such situations, call 474-7200.

Late Bulletin

A written statement released by the Greenbelt Police Department late Wednesday reads as follows:

"Further investigation in regards to the departmental shooting which occurred on January 23, in the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway has revealed that the shot fired by Kenneth Estes, which caused Officer Musterman to believe he was being fired upon, was a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. The gun used, a Colt .357 revolver, had been stolen from a local golf course in late November of '93. Estes' personal word processor was accessed and discovered were several entries indicating depression over personal and business relationships. Also discovered were farewell letters to friends specifying the dispersal of some of his personal effects. In addition a handwritten note was found that expressed Estes' intention of committing suicide. It was signed in the name of Dick Lebo. It has also been confirmed that Estes had also been known as Dick Lebo. Investigation is continuing. As a matter of routine procedure the incident will be screened by the States Attorney's Office and brought before a Grand Jury."

\$1000 Reward for Tip On Synagogue Vandalism

A \$1000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for the defacement of the doors of Mishkan Torah Congregation in Greenbelt on the night of October 30, 1993.

On that evening or early morning, swastikas and anti-semitic graffiti were carved into the synagogue doors. The crime was reported to the Greenbelt police, but no suspects have been identified to this point. Investigation is continuing.

Information regarding the perpetrator(s) should be reported to Detective Carr of the Greenbelt Criminal Investigation Unit at 301-507-6530. All information will remain confidential.

GEAC Objectives Presented To City Council at Hunting Ridge

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council, responding to the invitation of the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition (GEAC), met with that group in Hunting Ridge on January 5 so that "people not ordinarily participating" could be exposed to the council. Besides the GEAC board, four Greenbelt East citizens attended the meeting. They made no effort nor were given any opportunity to participate.

The other purpose for the meeting was to present a priority list of objectives and goals for 1994, and on this issue GEAC was successful, presenting a list of 19 items (see box). In reviewing the list, the city council members were supportive of GEAC's objectives without committing the city to anything of significance.

Greenbrook Lake

Topping the list was the com-

pletion of Greenbrook Lake, the storm water management pond planned for Schrom Hills Park. Mayor Antoinette Bram reported that council had already taken a first step by authorizing staff to file for a permit. The schedule for construction might be better known in 90 days, she indicated. The county needs to make funds available for the project.

Community Center

The next item was completion of the community center, which involves rehabilitating the vacated Center School. Bram reported that the city presently was taking bids for the project. She hoped that they would be low enough to allow for the contractor to do more of the needed work. Council member Thomas White noted that the city had only four-plus million-dollars to do a six million-dollar budget. "The skill of council is how to manage the project within the limitations of the dollars," he stated. Bram reported that council had met last month with the

city's delegation to the Maryland General Assembly to seek support for additional funding to make up for the \$1.5 million shortfall.

GEAC President and Greenbrook Estates representative Tim Sechrist suggested that council explore grants from businesses and foundations. When reservations were expressed to the idea, Greenbriar representative Dorothy Pyles urged the council to just send a letter. "You don't need a professional door knocker," she advocated. Pyles also got in the last word on completing the community center: "I hope it's quicker than the lake."

More Parkland?

Another of GEAC's objectives was for the city to acquire more parkland and woodland. Two parcels were suggested for purchase. One was the Sunrise property next to the Holiday Inn at the end of Hanover Drive. The other is a small wooded tract at the

See GEAC, page 11

Let's Give Blood!

Any of us or our families could be stricken with a medical crisis requiring blood transfusions, like little Allison Ridgely of Greenbelt (see story in this issue). But right now, blood supplies in the Washington area have fallen to critical levels and local hospitals are receiving blood products only for emergencies, on a case-by-case basis. According to the Red Cross, the potential for a public health crisis is staggering."

Donating blood is something we all know we should do, because an adequate supply is vital to the public health. Yet it's easy to put off doing it, amid the pressures of daily life. Now, though, we have to give it high priority.

Greenbelters have a history of rallying around in a crisis, and if we and our neighbors donate blood in the coming weeks, the situation will ease and there will be enough products for all. The procedure doesn't take long, and it is safe.

It's our community—let's all do our part.



White House Christmas party (Dec. 19, 1993) From left: Bob Snyder, President Clinton, First Lady Hillary Clinton and Gary Logwood.

GREENBELTER PARTIES WITH THE PRESIDENT

Bob Snyder of Greenbelt went to The White House by invitation to meet President Clinton, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea along with other personal friends and relatives of the First Family Sunday, December 19 for a Christmas party.

It was a festive and joyous occasion with The White House beautifully decorated for the holidays there were Christmas hor d'oeuvres, a Christmas choir and the President's 'Own' U.S. Marine Band playing Christmas music. Later, all guests had the opportunity of having their picture taken with the First Family.

University of MD Offers Free Concerts

In conjunction with its annual celebration of Mozart's birthday, the Department of Music at the University of Maryland is pleased to present graduate student, Carlos Cesar Rodriguez performing Mozart's complete piano sonata cycle. Mr. Rodriguez, a student of Thomas Schumacher, will perform four recitals on the following dates: January 30 at 3 p.m., February 3 at 8 p.m., March 5 at 8 p.m. and April 5 at 8 p.m. There is no admission fee and the public is invited to attend these recitals in the Tawes Recital Hall at the College Park Campus.

Snyder spoke briefly with President Clinton about his legislative accomplishments.

Also present were Virginia Kelley, the President's mother (she has since died), Roger Clinton and the First Lady's mother "I spoke with Mrs. Rodham for about five minutes," said Snyder. "There was always quite a crowd around Virginia Kelley so I didn't have the opportunity to meet or speak with her."

"I'll never forget looking out the window of the 'green room' out over the south lawn and admiring the near-perfect alignment and spotlighted splendor of the south lawn foundation and the national Christmas tree with the Washington Monument and Jefferson Memorial further in the distance. This Christmas party of 1993 I will always cherish!"

Hospice Needs Help

Hospice of Prince Georges County seeks volunteers to serve the terminally ill and their families. Volunteer opportunities include direct care, office support, fundraising and community education. There is a great need for volunteers with daytime availability. Spring training will begin on February 24. Pre-training interviews will be held January 15 to February 17. For more information call (301) 499-0550.

Council to Review Senior Concerns, Shuttle Service

by Diane Oberg

On Monday, January 31, senior citizen concerns and a Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission study on a city shuttle service will be discussed at a 7:30 p.m. worksession. The Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (SCAC) held an open forum on October 16, 1993. The committee's report on the issues raised by citizens, plus the city staff's response, are the topic of the first portion of the January 31 worksession. No advance information is available on the results of the shuttle study.

Transportation Issues
Forum participants asked about the relative costs of the Greenbelt Connection and private taxi service. The staff response is that fares on the connection average 79 cents per trip (\$.75 for seniors and the disabled, \$1.25 for others), versus an average taxi fare of \$5.65 for comparable length trips. The city staff estimates that a \$35,000 subsidy would be required to provide taxi service at current Connection fare and service levels. The city's fiscal year 1994 budget allocates \$67,700 in tax revenues, in addition to fare receipts, to the Connection.

Two transportation issues related to Metro were raised: the need for a shuttle to the Greenbelt station and strategies for dealing with the traffic the station will bring to the city. The shuttle issue will be addressed in the MNCPPC study. The staff noted that the city has discussed options such as new traffic lights, crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes and pedestrian overpasses. However, the staff response notes "Who pays for them and when has not been resolved," and that the city is "continually exploring opportunities to negotiate them into reality with the State, the County and the private sector."

Traffic Lights
The participants asked for two additional traffic lights: one at Southway and Crescent (with an alternate option of a walk/don't walk light) and replacement of the yellow flasher at Northway and Crescent with a red light. Staff recommended against both these options. At Southway, the staff believes that the four-way stop signs are adequately controlling traffic. The staff report says that the Chief of Police, the Director of Planning and Community Development and the Director of Public Works agree that neither a flashing red light nor an on-demand red light is warranted by the volume of traffic.

Roosevelt Center Issues
A perennial issue, bicycles in the center, resurfaced at the forum. At the January 10 council meeting there was some discussion of whether there were currently signs in the center stating that bike riding is prohibited. Doug Love assured council that there are "four very visible signs" and that "I feel very guilty every time I ride past them." Council member Rodney Roberts suggested a bike rack might help, but noted that more signs won't matter if the city cannot enforce the ban.

City Manager Daniel Hobbs said that a rack will be installed

as part of the center renovations. The staff report notes that the police have been asked to watch for illegal bikers but suggests that the problem will not be resolved unless citizens put pressure on youngsters to show proper consideration for center patrons.

Forum participants also wanted a sidewalk across the grassy area between Centerway and Crescent near NationsBank and a crosswalk across Crescent at that location. Staff recommended against meeting this request, citing the low volume of pedestrian traffic at that location and aesthetic "qualms" about the proposed sidewalk.

A final project requested for the center was a curb cut from NationsBank to the rear parking lot. However, staff says that to provide handicapped access at that location, both the curb cut and a strip of concrete around the steps would be needed. Given that there is a reserved handicapped parking place and a curb cut directly in front of the bank, staff recommended against this project as well.

Police Pressure
The forum participants called for increased police enforcement of traffic regulations and of speed limits on Southway. The staff response was that the new traffic officer will address these issues. At the January 10 council meeting, Hobbs reported that Officer David Buerger will assume the traffic officer responsibilities. However, he will not be working full-time on these duties until his replacement completes training.

Library Area
Citizens also raised concerns about signage and visibility for motorists and pedestrians in the library area. The city staff agreed there were problems here. There have been several accidents in the area and the city's consulting engineers Greenman, Pedersen, Inc. recommended removing seven parking places to improve visibility around the library exit. However, given the lack of parking for residents, the city staff suggests eliminating three to four spaces on the library side of Crescent.

The city staff did not agree with the citizen suggestion that over the road signs be installed around the library, Roosevelt Center and the nursery school sites or with the request for stop signs at the library crosswalk. Likewise, they disagreed with the suggestion that "stop for pedestrians in crosswalk" signs be installed. The problem, the report suggests, may be more one of enforcement than ignorance of the law.

Letters

Thanks Council

I was pleased to see front page coverage of the City Council's recent action regarding Ivy Lane (GNR, Jan. 20 1994).

Unfortunately, the chosen headline, "Signs Go Up on January 18 Banning Parking on Ivy Lane" failed to reflect the significance of the Council's decision.

The story here isn't a parking ban; the story is that the Council is showing leadership in creating the first part of a system of bike lanes that will invite bicyclists of all abilities and let cars pass through with greater safety and comfort.

The real significance of the Council's unanimous action is that it shows that the Council understands that bicycles can be the most efficient, reliable and enjoyable way to get around Greenbelt.

The Greenbelt Bicycle Coalition applauds the Council, and we look forward to working with the City as it makes other changes that will help Greenbelt live up to its heritage as a town planned for people.

Alan Turnbull
Greenbelt Bicycle Coalition

Thank You

I am a resident of the great City of Greenbelt. During the snow storm last week, I was very happy that I was. The biggest problem that I had was cleaning off my car and getting out of my parking lot. Once I hit the city-maintained streets, it was smooth sailing. There was barely a trace of snow, much less ice. The lane markings were clearly visible and even the roadway over the underpasses were clear—no icing. It was clear to see that there was plenty of salt in these areas to keep them safe. This was not the case on the state- and county-maintained roadways surrounding us. These were still snow-covered in many areas. The roadways that had been cleared had no visible lane markings.

I feel the Public Works Department of the City of Greenbelt deserves a real pat on the back and a very loud "THANK YOU" for a job fantastically done. I have lived in other incorporated cities in the area and none of them can hold a candle to the services provided by the City of Greenbelt. The dedicated and hard-working employees of the Public Works Department should be commended. In a world where doing as little as possible to get by is a way of life, these people stand out and should be recognized. From the helpful, courteous women in the office to the tireless road crews, we all owe them a heartfelt "thanks."

Ricki Schellenberg

Senior Day Care

In response to questions raised at the forum, the report noted that the Senior Center in the new Community Center is expected to open in February or March 1995. The city has contracted with the Baptist Senior Adult Ministries to provide the Adult Care program. Currently this agency charges participants \$51 per day.

Greenbelt News Review

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Editor: Mary Lou Williamson, 441-2662
Asst. Editor: Barbara Likowski, 474-8483
News Editor: Elaine Skolnik, 483-8336

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BUSINESS MANAGER: Mary Halford; Core of Greenbelt Circulation: David Stein, 899-4800 (Linda); Springhill Lake Circulation: Akim Adedunye, 345-0816; News Review, 474-4131; Staff Photographer: J. Henson.

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Auditions for Local Talent Evening Set

The Greenbelt Arts Center is sponsoring its 5th annual "Evening with Friends," Saturday, February 19, 8 p.m. at the new Arts Center Theater. Past programs have featured Tina Castaldi reciting dramatic readings, Jean Cook singing popular tunes, Al Herling creating new tunes on the piano at a moment's notice and Lori Moran whose sense of humor has made past programs hilarious. Last year's program featured Bilaal Yusuf and Jan-niece Johns, students at Eleanor Roosevelt High and Cleveland Flowe, a jazz pianist who has been composing a few new pieces.

Anyone interested in auditioning for this year's program, contact Konrad Herling at 345-9369.

GEAC Meets Feb. 3

The Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC) will hold its next meeting on Thursday, February 3, at 7:30 p.m., at the Windsor Green Community Center, 7474 Frankfort Drive. Topics to be discussed include GEAC's objectives and agenda for 1994. Residents of Greenbelt and Greenbelt East are encouraged to attend.

People who have any questions or comments should contact Tim Sechrist at 345-6861.

Community Events

FOGM to Hold Flea Market/Doll Exhibit

The Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM) will participate in a community flea market Saturday February 26, at the Youth Center. Contributions of jewelry, household items, and knickknacks may be dropped off any time at 2-G Gardenway. Books may be left on the porch of 2-E Westway. No clothing items will be accepted. FOGM is a nonprofit organization and all proceeds from the flea market go toward an endowment fund to enable FOGM to hire a part-time director. For pickups, contact Lee Shields at 474-5321.

FOGM will sponsor a doll exhibit in February. Anyone who has a doll or doll house of the 1930s or 1940s and would like to loan it to the Museum on a temporary basis may call Bonnie Shields at 474-5321.

GHI Notes

Blood Pressure testing Wednesday, February 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Board Room.

The A & E Committee will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday, February 2 in the Board Room.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10, at 8 p.m.

Spring Speakers To Meet Feb. 3

For people who get butterflies in their stomachs when they speak in front of a group, Spring Speakers may be the prescription they need. The Toastmasters Club allows its members the opportunity to improve their public speaking abilities in a friendly and supportive environment.

The next meeting is Thursday, February 3 at 7 p.m. in the Fountain Lodge, Springhill Lake Apartments. For more information call Dave at 474-9626.

Learn about Local Reptile Residents

Come over to Greenbelt Park and learn about snakes lizards, and other reptiles that live in this area. Join a Park Ranger at Park Headquarters at 1 p.m. on Sunday, January 30.

Book Signing

David Lexer, author of *Take Me for a Ride, Coming of Age in a Destructive Cult*, will be at Bookland in Beltway Plaza for a book signing on Saturday, January 29 from 1 to 4 p.m. The book describes the author's experiences with the cult including how he recruited new members and buried his own doubts about the validity of the leader.

Explorations Unlimited

Two upcoming lectures will be featured in the series "Explorations Unlimited," held every Friday at the Youth Center from 1-3 p.m. On Friday, January 28, participants will "explore" Haiti with Becky Brune. Brune, a Greenbelt resident traveled to Haiti in February, 1993, as an independent human rights observer. She will be showing slides of what she saw and experienced on this trip.

On Friday, February 4, Dr. Bill Fry from Prince George's Community College's English Department will speak on the life of Edgar Allan Poe. His presentation will consist of both discussions and readings from Poe's writings.

Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. For more information call 474-6878.

Greenbelt CARES

Judye Hering hosted a meeting of the Prince Georges County Volunteer Coordinator's Association on January 5. Discussed was a plan for an upcoming mini-conference on "Service Learning—The Appropriate and Safe Way to Use High School Students in Volunteer Programs."

Judye Hering began the winter semester of the GED course on January 6. Seven students attended the course.

Sign Language Introduction

The Greenbriar Community Association will host a workshop titled *Introduction to Sign Language* on Wednesday, February 2, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Greenbriar Terrace Room. Citizens of all ages are invited.

The guest speaker/signer will be Dale C. Scoville, who interprets for hearing impaired patients as a medical assistant in a Greenbelt physician's office. She acquired her sign language skills at Prince Georges Community College and will refer interested participants to outside classes for further study.

Those attending will come away with an appreciation of the beauty of sign language through song, an understanding of the importance of sign language in our community today, and a knowledge of the practical applications of some primary signs. Among other lessons, Scoville will demonstrate the use of sign language for the popular song, "Wind Beneath My Wings."

To register for this workshop, please contact Linda Evans, activities director, at 441-1096 by February 1. There is no admission charge.

Good-student

Discount at Wells

There will be a good-student special at Herbert Wells Ice Rink. Honor roll students can bring their report cards to the cashier and get in for a reduced rate on Friday, February 4 from noon to 2 p.m., 3-5 p.m., and 7-10 p.m.; on Saturday, February 5 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.; and on Sunday, February 6 from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m.

At the Library

Tuesday, February 1 P.J. Storytime at 7 p.m. for ages 4-6.
Thursday, February 3 Drop-In Storytime 10:15 a.m. for ages 3-5.

Genealogical Society

To Meet at Library


The Prince Georges County Genealogical Society will meet Wednesday, February 2, at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. Visitors are welcome and there is no charge.

The speaker will be Kyle Doyle of Ritz Camera who will discuss "Photographic Enhancement and Restoration" as applied to old photographs for genealogical purposes. Photographs not only give a visual record of a family but can often provide other clues vital to genealogy.

Recreation Review

Community Flea Market and Children's Craft Show/Flea Market

Applications are available at the Recreation Center for the community flea market and children's craft show/flea market that will take place on Saturday, February 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt Youth Center. A nominal fee for community groups and individuals; free for children crafters/flea market. The deadline for entries is Friday, February 25.




Greenbelt Arts Center

OPENS THIS WEEKEND:

'REHEARSAL FOR MURDER'

by Brooke, Levinson & Link



Lou Yakstis and Ann Wixon
— photo by J. Henson

directed by Mary Lou Fisher

Fridays & Saturdays 8 pm
Jan. 28, 29 & Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12

Special Matinee Sunday Feb. 6, 2 p.m.

All Performances at GAC, next to the Post Office in Roosevelt Center.
Reservations recommended. Call 441--8770
Tickets: \$8 Adults / \$6 Students & Srs.


DAFFAN FUNDRAISER DANCE

TO BENEFIT VINNIE DAFFAN
3 YEAR OLD CANCER PATIENT
Son of George & Lisa Daffan, Greenbelt Residents

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5th 8:00PM - 1:30AM

\$12.00 per person \$22.00 per couple

Greenbelt Fire Department, 125 Crescent Rd.
For Further Info.,
Call Chris Fleshman at 513-5735



Greenbelt Arts Center

Musicians Poets Announces Dancers Comedians

AUDITIONS

for an

"Evening With Friends"

Where YOU Can Light Up the Stars!

Tuesday, February 1st, 7:30 pm

For information, or to schedule an appointment, call Konrad Herling at 345-9369

We're located at the Arts Center next to the Greenbelt Post office below the Co-op Supermarket.

Charles "Buzz" Ryan Dies

by James Giese

Former State Delegate Charles J. Ryan Jr., died suddenly after suffering a heart attack on January 21 at the Prince Georges Hospital Center. Ryan, 57, had represented the 23rd Legislative District (Greenbelt-Glenn Dale-Bowie) from the time he was first appointed in 1978 until he resigned in September 1992 to become vice-president of the University of Maryland Medical System.

Well known by his nickname, "Buzz," Ryan served the last six years in office as the Chair of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. He was known for his comprehensive knowledge of state finances and extensive memory for budgetary facts and figures. His ability to seek consensus on difficult issues earned him the respect of other legislators and state and local officials.

Former Mayor Gil Weidenfeld said, "Buzz started off in the political trenches, helping Democrats get elected. Then he ran himself and was elected to the Prince Georges County Democratic Central Committee and later appointed to the House of Delegates. Although Buzz was a quiet person and short of stature, he became a giant in the General Assembly."

While personable in informal conversations, Ryan lacked the charisma of the more popular politicians when dealing with the public. Too often, he was apt to respond to pleas by telling supplicants what the realities of the situation were rather than telling them what they wanted to hear. For these reasons, Ryan regularly got the lowest number of votes of candidates allied on slates for the 23rd District.

Ryan was regarded as one of the most influential voices and protectors of county interests in Annapolis. He is credited with finding the money in 1990 to help the City of Greenbelt buy Parcel 1 by obtaining passage of special legislation that allowed county open space funds allo-

cated for agricultural preservation to be used for woodland preservation. More than half of the two and a quarter million dollars needed for this purchase came from the state grant.

Mayor Antoinette Bram observed that Ryan took pride in the fact that Maryland had a higher bond rating than that of his home state of Massachusetts. As Chair of the prestigious Appropriations Committee, he met regularly with the legislature's movers and shakers and with Governor Shafer. "Greenbelt fared well under his leadership of this committee," she commented.

A native of Southbridge, Massachusetts, Ryan was one of the early residents to move to the Levitt development in Bowie in 1962. He was a graduate of Georgetown University and received his Master's Degree from the University of Maryland. He also attended the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. He taught political science on a part-time basis at Prince Georges Community College. Active in democratic party politics and national political campaigns, Ryan rose in party ranks to become vice-chair of the Maryland Democratic Party.

Ryan is survived by his two children, Charles J., III and Kimberly M., granddaughter Shannon and three brothers, P. Barry, J. Bruce and William as well as his ex-wife, Michelle K. Ryan. At the direction of Governor William Donald Schaefer, State flags were lowered to half-staff in his memory.

Rosa (Rae) Zaas Our Neighbors

by Linda Savaryn, 474-5285

Greenbelt resident Rosa (Rae) Zaas, 81, died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, January 23, at Laurel-Beltsville Hospital.

The daughter of Polish immigrants who settled in Washington, D.C., she began working at an early age in the family grocery store, Jake's Market, on Bladensburg Rd. N.E.

After attending Strayer College, she was employed at the Farm & Home Administration in the early 40s. Later she worked for Sinclair Oil and retired from the International Brotherhood of Carpenters' Union in 1979.

She belonged to the Prince Georges Jewish Community Center, which later became affiliated with Mishkan Torah Synagogue and was a longtime member of the Riverdale Fire Dept. Auxiliary.

Walking, shopping, reading, playing bingo and watching baseball games were all favorite pastimes.

Known affectionately as "Bu Bi" she is survived by her daughter Deanne Lange, son Michael Zaas, 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.


Berwyn Presbyterian Offers Lecture Series

Dr. Edward Bauman, popular lecturer on TV and radio, will present a series of lecture and meditations at Berwyn Presbyterian Church on the subject "Following Jesus". Dr. Bauman will explore the kind of discipleship that can transform lives as people face the challenges of the modern world.

The lectures will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings in February. These lectures are entitled: Feb. 6, Following Jesus to God; Feb. 13, Following Jesus for others; and Feb. 20, Following Jesus through suffering.

These programs will last approximately one hour. Admission is free. All are invited. No offering will be taken.

Congratulations to ERHS students Isaiah Powell and John Yearous, who were selected as members of the University of Maryland High School Honor Band. Isaiah, who plays the trumpet, and John, who plays the tuba, auditioned along with other student musicians from MD DC and VA.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt

MASS

Municipal Building, Sundays,
10:00 A.M.

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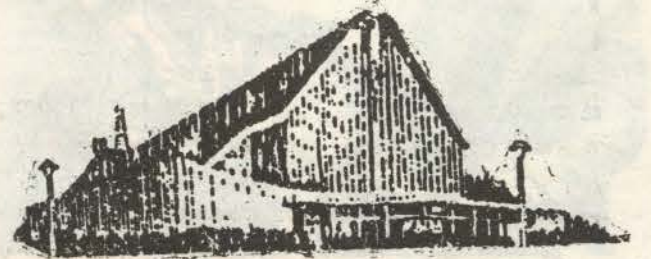
Rev. Sidney Conger 474-7573



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6905 Greenbelt Road

Worship Services:
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 & 11:15 a.m. (Infant care provided at 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.

345-5111

Paint Branch Unitarian Church

(3215 Powder Mill Road)

Sun., Jan. 30, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m.
Religious Education Sunday

Church School 9:30 a.m.

11:15 Service
signed for the deaf
Assistive listening Devices

Rev. R. H. Thompson 937-3664

Bahai Faith

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— Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
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Worship Services (Sun.) 11:00 AM
7:00 PM
Midweek Prayer Service (Wed.) 7:45 PM
Intercessory Prayer (Sat.) 7:00 AM

Reverend Drew Shofner -- Pastor

For transportation, or questions, call 474-4212
8:30 AM - 12 PM

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Greenbelt Community Church

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Phone: 474-6171 mornings

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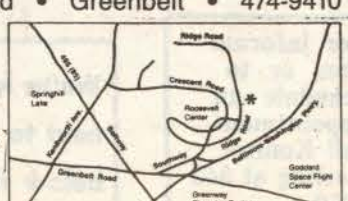
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Wednesday Prayer Service 7 p.m.

Arthur D. Shotts, Pastor
474-1924

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Blood Shortage Threatens Surgery for Local Child

by Dorothy Sucher

One-year-old Allison Ridgely of Greenbelt, who is scheduled for three surgical operations in January, February, and March of this year, may be affected by the current critical shortage in the supply of blood for transfusions. Allison, who lives in the Greenbrook development in Greenbelt East, was born with a rare defect in her urological system.

Emergency Surgery

When Denise Ridgely went into premature labor December 31, 1992, she "never thought anything really bad could happen to me," especially since all had gone well when her three-year-old son Andrew had been born. This time it was very different. Her first glimpse of her baby daughter was terrifying. The infant, who only weighed four pounds, was hooked up to a respirator while preparations were made for emergency transportation to

Georgetown University Hospital from Holy Cross, where she had been born. Allison's abdomen was swollen, she had difficulty breathing, and she was soon undergoing emergency surgery.

It was the worst week of Gregory and Denise Ridgely's life. In her work at the Red Cross, Denise had seen many families in need of help, but she had never imagined her own would one day be in the same position.

A Happy Baby

Fortunately, Allison has done well since that first operation. On December 31 she celebrated her first birthday. She has begun to crawl. Her mother describes her as "red-haired, blue-eyed, and very happy — she is always smiling. My husband and I are very glad we have her, and we are grateful to those who gave the blood for her transfusions." Allison's three-year-old brother Andrew calls her "Sweetie-heart" and "Me baby."

Although Allison appears healthy, she has a vesicostomy—an artificial opening that enables her to urinate. She'll soon need three more surgeries to repair her urinary tract—and more transfusions.

"When Allison was born and my husband and I were going through this," Denise told the News Review this week, "there was no time for us to give blood ourselves. People don't realize it takes five days to process blood, and in an emergency situation you are completely dependent on the blood supply available. My heart goes out to anyone needing to worry about finding blood at a time like this."

Critical Blood Shortage

One year ago, blood was in adequate supply. This week, however, the American Red Cross announced that blood supplies in the metropolitan Washington area had fallen to critical levels and issued an urgent call for citizens to donate blood to help Allison Ridgely and others like her.

The shortage is a result of last week's regional weather emergency, which virtually halted blood donations when government offices, schools, and businesses closed. In addition, a growing nationwide blood shortage was exacerbated by the Los Angeles earthquake. Since January 19, imported supplies to this area have been radically curtailed. "We are on our own now; we can no longer depend on imports to meet our community needs,"



One-year-old Allison Ridgely of Greenbelt, faces three major operations during present critical blood shortage.

said David Simms, Regional Red Cross CEO.

Every request for blood is being closely scrutinized, and the situation is made worse by the fact that operations cancelled last week due to bad weather have been rescheduled and are creating an increased demand for blood products. Local hospitals have been notified by the Red Cross (which supplies 90% of all blood supplies) that the agency can fill only emergency orders on a case-by-case basis.

Residents in the metropolitan Washington area are encouraged to donate blood to assure that the community blood supply remains adequate for patient needs. To find a blood donation site, see box or call 1-800-GIVE-BLOOD or 1-800-272-0310.

Hospital Seeks Snow Drivers

Washington Adventist Hospital needs volunteers with four-wheel-drive vehicles to drive employees to and from work during snow emergencies. To volunteer, call Veronica Harker at 891-5712.

Donate Blood
GREENBELT
Mon., Feb. 28, 3-7 p.m. Marriott Hotel, 6400 Ivy Lane. Call Victoria to make appointment, 441-3700 x 6245.

Sat., Jan. 29, 8 a.m. - 1 pm Montgomery County Donors' Center, 11820 Parklawn Dr, Suite 100, Rockville, MD.

Sun., Jan. 30, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Columbia Donors' Center, 10400 Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, MD

Wed, Feb. 2, 2 - 8 p.m. Laurel American Legion Post 60, 2 Main Street, Laurel, MD.

Fri., Feb. 4, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. County Employees Landover, 9400 Peppercorn Drive, Inglewood Center 3, Landover, MD.

Fri., Feb. 4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. BARC East, 1st Floor Conference Room/Hallway, Powder Mill Road, Building 307, Beltsville, MD

Friday, Feb. 4, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. County Administration Bldg, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro, MD.

Wed., Feb. 9, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Prince Georges Community College Community Room C, 301 Largo Road, Largo, MD

Thurs, Feb. 10, 3 - 7 p.m. Brandywine Lions/Baden VFD, Brandywine Lions Hall, 16608 Brandywine Road (Rt. 381), Brandywine, MD.

Thurs., Feb. 10, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. C&P Largo, Basement Meeting Room, 4301 Garden City Drive, Landover, MD.

Red Cross Services Needs Volunteers

The Red Cross needs volunteers to be motor service drivers in the Washington metropolitan area. Drivers transport blood from mobile collection sites throughout the community to Red Cross headquarters at 4700 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore.

Volunteers work a minimum of one day a week, but many drivers contribute more. Evening and weekend shifts are available.

The Red Cross also needs openings for blood service volunteers. These volunteers register donors, assemble blood collection containers, and serve refreshments to donors in the canteen. Blood drives normally run 4 hours. However, hours are flexible and can be tailored to individual needs.

For information about volunteering call 1-800-272-0094, Ext. 4602, or your local Red Cross Chapter.

Thanks for helping me have a record-setting year!



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Monday, February 7, 1994 7:15 p.m.

Saturday, February 18, 1994 11:00 a.m.

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

GREENBELT HOMES, INC.

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A Matter of Opinion

Trails Plan Not so Grand

by James Giese

At one time two grand trail schemes were floating about the inner circles of the city. One was an intracity hiker-biker trail to go from one end of the city to the other, using for the most part off-road trails. The other grand scheme was a circumferential perimeter trail in the central section of the city.

The new proposed Greenbelt Trail Master Plan, despite its name, is not a grand plan for the development of a system of interconnecting pedestrian and bicycle trails in the city. Instead, it is a nibbles and bits plan. No, I don't mean that it is for the dogs as, frankly, very little in the plan deals with foot travelers, whether with two or four legs. What I mean is that the plan offers a little bit of trail here and a little bit of trail improvement there. Most anything that might be objectionable still remaining will probably be eliminated before council adopts the plan.

Intracity Trail

The intracity trail was to be-

gin at Beltway Plaza, go through Springhill Lake, pass under the Beltway using a box culvert that was built for drainage but is dry most of the time, and then follow the eight-foot water main right-of-way alongside the Beltway to Kenilworth Avenue at Crescent Road. Proceeding eastward, the trail would parallel Crescent Road but follow a cleared Pepco power line through Attick Park to St. Hugh's school, then it would travel alongside Braden Field behind the school and the fire station to Roosevelt Center. From there, it would go to the Spellman overpass of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and cross through the Roosevelt High School grounds to Greenbelt Road. South of Greenbelt Road the trail would continue to Schrom Hills Park and then follow Hanover Parkway to Good Luck Road.

A Doable Boon

While numerous problems are involved in constructing this trail and compromises would probably be needed, I believe the intracity trail is doable and that it would be a significant asset to the city. It would be

a boon to both bicyclists and walkers and would help link the various sections of our city.

For some of the sections that would be more difficult to build, alternate routes are possible. For example, if you can't go under the Beltway in a storm drain, you can go over it on the Cherrywood Lane bridge. If going through Windsor Green and Greenbrook isn't possible, you can run the trail along the west side of Hanover Parkway from the Spellman overpass to Good Luck Road.

Perimeter Trail

Back in the 70's, the city purchased two pieces of land that were part of Parcel 1 to the northeast of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI). This purchase was the first effort to establish a green belt in this part of the city. It was obtained with an open-space grant that required the land be used for active recreation. The perimeter trail was proposed for this purpose. The Hiker-biker trail was to run from the end of Laurel Hill Road along the Agricultural Research Center boundary east to the boundary for the Baltimore-

Washington Parkway and then south to the Northway ballfields at the end of Northway.

A Circle Trail

While that was the proposal for the grant, in its grander form the perimeter trail would completely encircle the central portion of Greenbelt. From the ballfields, the extended trail would proceed south through Parcel 2 and GHI land to the Little League Ballfield. It would then turn west and go through GHI and University Square to Greenbelt Lake. Crossing the dam on the lake path, the trail would then follow Ridge Road north and east to Research Road. Going north on Research to the Greenbelt Elementary School property to reach the beginning point at Laurel Hill Road. Again, while there are some practical problems in constructing such a trail, I believe it can be done.

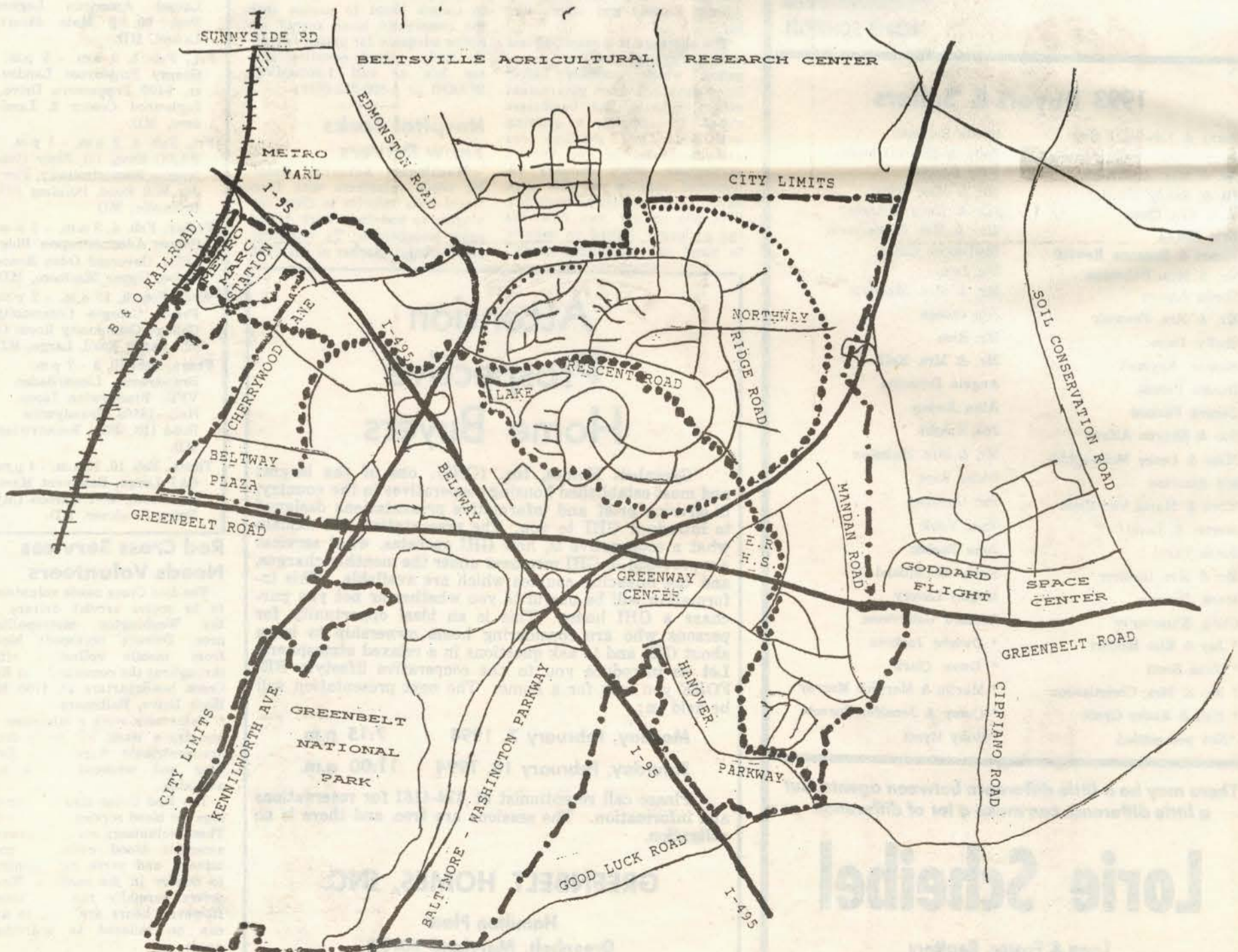
Although not identified as such in the proposed new trail plan, sufficient on-street trails are shown that an intracity trail of some sort could be identified by drawing a bold line on the plan over roads already marked for trails. In contrast, the perimeter trail is shown only as a foot trail through the woodlands east of GHI homes.

What If?

The proposed trails plan gives

the city council the opportunity to express support for somewhat better facilities for bicyclists and walkers without doing very much, or offending anyone who might object to doing something. It does not rock the boat. As such, one wonders what would have been the fate of several popular trails previously built in the face of opposition if they had not been built and were to be considered now for this plan. Would the plan propose a trail around Greenbelt Lake behind Lakeside homes? Or through the Lakewood Stream Valley Park? Or access trails between homes to reach these two trails? Or an overpass across the Parkway?

Greenbelt was planned to be a safe environment for children. The interior sidewalk system, the underpasses and the general plan of the community enabled children to get around town safely and not be confined to one block by uncrossable streets. With a little effort, children in the newer sections of the community, senior citizens, other pedestrians and bicyclists will have a better chance to enjoy some of these same benefits as well. To do so, however, will require the city council to adopt a more meaningful trails plan than that now under consideration.



In his commentary, James Giese outlines concepts for two major hiker-biker trails in the city. The general location for these trails is depicted on this map, using dotted lines. The intracity trail would run from the Beltway Plaza on the west side of the city to Good Luck Road at Hanover

Parkway on the east side. There would be a connecting link between the trail and the Greenbelt Metro Station. The second grand scheme is for a circumferential trail in the central section of the city which would incorporate the perimeter trail once planned for Parcel 1.



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MOST

ICE

(Continued from page one) of preventive pruning on Crescent Road had averted even worse problems, he noted. The collapse of a number of very tall bamboo trees on Ridge Road made for a particularly messy cleanup operation. "Everybody got soaked to the skin," he said. Keifline, who participated in that effort, laughed, "I was hating life that night."

Hall pointed to a plateful of brownies sent in by a grateful city resident. "These little thank-yous mean more to me than anyone can imagine."

But a story related by Assistant Personnel Officer Barbara Havekost probably constituted the ultimate praise of the department's snow removal effort. She said a Greenbelt acquaintance was snowed in with her fiancée early in the week in Alexandria. When the couple finally made it here later in the week and witnessed the city's success at street-cleaning, they changed their earlier plans. After they marry later this year, the newlyweds will set up housekeeping in Greenbelt.

City Offices Close

Noting hazardous road conditions and responding to appeals by both the governor and county executive to conserve energy as rising consumption threatened a massive power failure in the entire region, City Manager Daniel Hobbs recommended to the City Council to close down city government offices Thursday morning, excusing non-essential (mostly administrative) employees. Hobbs said the decision was made reluctantly, and that Greenbelt was one of the last municipalities in the area to do so.

Hobbs, who rode along with snowplow crews a few times to get a first-hand look at the operation, was also liberal in his praise. "Our folks came through again with flying colors. Everyone commented on how much more quickly the streets were plowed here than in the surrounding areas. . . . Everybody's a little pumped up."

Recreation

Department of Recreation Director Hank Irving was espec-

ially regretful about the closings, noting that the city's recreational facilities are renowned for staying open year-round, operating even on major holidays. In fact, when the order to close came down, the Aquatic Center had already been open for business for several hours. "We got 60 calls by noon from people checking to see if the pool was open," said Irving.

Some damage was done to the Aquatic Center's climate control system, which controls air temperature and humidity as well as pool water temperature, when PEPCO instituted an unprecedented winter "brownout" (reduction in voltage). The reason, said Aquatic and Fitness Director George Rogala, was that the system's phase interruptors (roughly speaking, a highly sophisticated kind of circuit breaker) automatically shut the system down when the voltage dropped. Low temperatures then caused coils to freeze. The resulting leaks cannot be repaired, and the parts will have to be replaced. The problem was unanticipated because brownouts previously have been warm-weather events. Ironically, the phase interruptor is designed to protect electrical components from damage. The center is continuing to function normally because some redundancy is built into the climate control system, said Rogala, although air temperature dropped somewhat on Friday.

The Pipes

The Pipes Are Calling

"Anyone who didn't have a frozen pipe this week is lucky," said Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) plumbing supervisor Bob Tucker. He said GHI received 60 calls for frozen pipes last weekend alone. Altogether, said Maintenance Supervisor Kenny Grimes, there were 100 such calls during the spate of cold weather, which included, he said, four straight days when temperatures dipped below zero. They both said that the cooperative had pretty much caught up on such calls.

Tucker had some suggestions about preventing future recurrences. During extreme cold residents should leave one set of

Ice Skating at the Lake

The Greenbelt Recreation Department announces that Greenbelt Lake is available for ice skating when low temperatures create the proper thickness and condition of the ice.

Walking or skating on the ice at the lake are prohibited unless official city Skating at Your Own Risk signs are posted. Skating at your own risk may be designated at some areas where the ice is safe. In other areas of the lake, skating may be prohibited and will be so marked by signs or warning devices.

The following are Red Cross standard ice classifications. Young or black ice; two and a half inches uniform; safe with caution without congregating. Four inches will support the weight of skaters. Skate at Your Own Risk. Layered or white

hot and cold water spigots dripping, preferably at a location furthest from the water source. They should also make sure that foundation vents are closed, especially on additions (75% of the calls were regarding addition pipes). GHI will reopen them in the spring. (GHI has been replacing defective vents in frame units with "solar vents," which are temperature-operated.) Outdoor spigots (about 20% of the calls) are also prone to freezing, he said. This can easily be prevented by shutting off water to the spigot by means of the cutoff valve underneath the sink, detaching the hose, and draining the remaining water from the spigot.

Grimes and Tucker lauded GHI crew members, who worked long hours under exacting conditions to take care of these and other emergencies.

As a letter from a pleased resident said. "The plumber came and crawled through the ice and snow in the dark to get into the crawl space under the back porch. . . . What an awful night to be out and what an awful job."

ice: one foot thickness will support the weight of skaters. Skate at Your Own Risk. Old or rotten ice: thickness is less than the above conditions. Absolutely No Skating.

To ascertain the condition of the ice on the lake, call the Greenbelt Recreation Department, 474-6878. Reports will also be telecast on the city cable station B-10, with regular updates as to daily conditions. It is impossible to continually test the thickness of the ice over all areas of the lake, so skating will always be at the risk of the participant.

Recommended areas for skating are the shoreline and the bay around the peninsula. The dam and spillway areas should be avoided, as open water is usually found in these areas. Skaters should also avoid gathering in groups on the ice. Due to the scarcity of firewood and danger from brush fires, no bonfires will be allowed on the shoreline or in the park except those provided by the city.

All skaters and parents should keep in mind the dangers involved in ice sports. A person who falls through the ice is in danger of drowning and freezing if he/she is not cared for immediately.

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GEAC Objectives

(Continued from page one) south end of Mandan Road that has been advertised for sale. Some of the people attending were concerned that if this parcel is developed, Mandan Road will be extended to connect to Brae Brook Drive in the adjacent unincorporated area.

GEAC board member Charlene McAdams, representing Greenwood Village, did not see what benefits to the city would accrue from buying the land at the end of Mandan Road, except to prevent cutting through. She questioned whether the city could buy land to do nothing with. She was assured that the city had done so before. "Greenbelt needs more open space," council member Rodney Roberts declared. Roberts felt that the acquisition of more parkland will be at the top of discussion at an upcoming goals session for the city council.

Council members made it clear, however, that council had not considered or agreed to the purchase of any land in Greenbelt East.

Newspaper Vending Machines
What could be done to regulate the placement of newspaper vending machines was another topic of discussion. Council members advised GEAC that very little was possible because doing so would interfere with freedom of speech and the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights. "I don't think that creating an eyesore should be protected by the First Amendment," Roberts contended.

Bram noted that the City Solicitor had thwarted efforts to hawk newspapers at intersections, at least for the time being. She felt there was the possibility that a newspaper might try doing it at a later date.

Police Patrols
The subject of enhanced police patrols and crime prevention caused Pyles to urge greater citizen effort. "You're not going to solve it unless everyone gets

involved. People go around with blinders on saying that it can't happen here, but it does. You can't name a crime that hasn't happened in Greenbelt."

Pyles, a strong advocate of neighborhood watches, was a member of the first class to complete the Greenbelt Citizens Police Academy. The academy consisted of 12 weekly three-hour evening sessions. Pyles said that the first class consisted of about 17 members. "It goes so fast," she stated, "because it's so interesting."

Bram reported that the police department received notice that it would get a grant for one additional police officer. She expects some of that officer's time to be spent on a bicycle at the Metro station. It will probably be the first use of a bicycle by a Greenbelt police officer, she observed.

Council Meetings
Council members noted plans to hold council meetings in various sections of the city. Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed Greenbelt Trails Plan in Greenbelt East. Because the Greenbriar Community Room has inadequate lighting for video cameras, the Hunting Ridge Community Room was selected for the hearing. Council members indicated plans to hold regular meetings of the council away from the city offices from time to time. Pyles commented, "I personally believe that City Council meetings should be held in the Council Room. If you want to have a town hall type of meeting in an area, that's OK."

GEAC Officers
After meeting with council, GEAC briefly conducted business by reelecting for the new year the same officers as had served during the past year. Tim Sechrist is president; Sheldon Goldberg, vice-president; Charlene McAdams, treasurer and Margaret Powell, secretary.

GEAC Objectives In 1994

1. Completion of Greenbrook Lake project in Schrom Hills Park
2. Completion of Greenbelt Community Center.
3. Resolution of Greenbelt Road/Frankfort Drive intersection problem.
4. Adoption of Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Plan.
5. Resolution of Greenbelt Road traffic and construction plans, including consideration of walkway lighting along MD 193.
6. Resolution of pedestrian crossing of Greenbelt Road at Hanover Parkway, including the need for street lighting.
7. Acquisition of additional parkland and wooded areas.
8. Consideration of widening Hanover Parkway and other changes.
9. Preservation of school board properties on Mandan Road.
10. Installation of guardrails along Greenbelt Road in the vicinity of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.
11. Review of traffic signal timing along Greenbelt Road.
12. Greater enforcement of speed limits in Greenbelt East.
13. Restrictions on placement of newspaper vending boxes.
14. Enforcement of out-of-state vehicle laws.
15. Shared contract services.
16. Enhancement of crime prevention and police patrols.
17. Maintaining public access to Soil Conservation Road.
18. Preventing extension of Mandan Road beyond Mathew Street
19. Painting median curbs yellow at intersections.

Road Improvements Among GEAC's 1994 Objectives

by James Giese

Of the 19 items on the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC) list of objectives for 1994 presented by the Board to the Greenbelt City Council at a meeting on January 5, nine related to road improvements in Greenbelt East. The board members supported some improvements and opposed others. Of greatest concern were problems with Greenbelt Road.

Greenbelt Road

GEAC President Tim Sechrist presented three items together relating to Greenbelt Road in Greenbelt East. Everyone present supported an overpass across the road at Frankfort Drive, although the council is not committed to the city's paying for it. GEAC does not have a position on installing a traffic light at the intersection instead of an overpass since for GEAC to take a position, the boards of five of the six property associations composing GEAC must first agree.

Mayor Antoinette Bram noted city efforts to obtain joint funding of an overpass study at this and two other city locations. Sechrist called for an independent nonbiased study of the Greenbelt Road corridor from Lanham to College Park. The Goddard Space Flight Center should participate in the study, he contended, because of its plans to expand. He noted that the space agency was doing a study on Soil Conservation Road. Although there are no plans to do so at this time, Goddard planners have proposed closing the road to through traffic so that it can become the main entrance to the expanded center to be located on both sides of Soil Conservation Road.

Traffic Enforcement

Speeding on Greenbelt Road was another concern. Council members noted that the Greenbelt Police Department has established a new traffic enforcement officer position and suggested that GEAC write a letter to the chief expressing its concerns so that he can refer it to the officer appointed to that position. Pyles noted that GEAC sent a letter once before. At that time the chief responded that the department could not undertake enforcement because there is no safe place to pull over a vehicle.

Council member Thomas White felt that the new officer could meet with GEAC and review possible options. Placing a squad car with a dummy inside on the median strip did help slow traffic, but it couldn't be done too often or motorists would get wise, they all agreed.

Hanover Parkway Intersection

Hanover Parkway at Greenbelt Road also is in need of a better pedestrian crossing, according to the objectives list. Presently there is no street lighting. The contractor has removed the one pole located there for the reconstruction of Greenbelt Road.

Council member Edward Putens noted that street lighting was to be part of the improvement and Bram agreed to have staff check out the situation to assure adequate lighting at the intersection.

Greenbriar representative to GEAC Dorothy Pyles noted the difficulty pedestrians had in crossing the road, as the crossing light allowed only enough time for pedestrians to get half way across. Pedestrians must also watch out for turning vehicles.

Parkway Construction

Another subject discussed was the new ramp to and from the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Some GEAC and council members were surprised that a new traffic signal was added for the new ramp. The contractor will synchronize the signals in this area before the project is completed.

Widening Hanover Parkway

Sechrist brought up the widening of Hanover Parkway, another objective on the GEAC list. When will it be done, what will trigger its construction?

"Do you want it widened?" council member Rodney Roberts asked.

Windsor Green GEAC representative Sheldon Goldberg responded, "We want it finished."

"The more you widen the road, the more people like Sunrise will want to develop," Roberts contended. Greenwood Village representative to GEAC Dan Lowery responded, "Anything you can do to get cars to 450 (Maryland Route 450, Annapolis Road) will be of benefit to us." His objective is to divert cars from the Greenbelt Road-Hanover Parkway intersection.

Margaret Powell, representing Greenbrook Village, asked if a sidewalk will be built. There is a need to walk to Schrom Hills Park, she stated. Council member J Davis responded that such a walk was part of the proposed Greenbelt Trails Plan.

Closing Median Strip

GEAC members expressed mixed views about the closing of the median on Hanover Parkway at the entrance to the shopping center and to the rear of the Exxon gasoline station. Bram felt that GEAC and the council should revisit the issue with city staff. (No city staff members were present at the meeting.)

According to Planning and Development Director Celia Wilson, the developers of English Country Village, the new subdivision to be built on Hanover Parkway south of Hunting Ridge, are required to widen Hanover Parkway at Greenbelt Road by adding another northbound lane. This improvement is needed to increase left turn capacity. When that is done, the median will be too narrow for a vehicle to stop temporarily while waiting to enter the northbound lane and the median cut will be closed. The city has issued a permit for this work.

If the median is closed, motorists approaching Greenway Center from the south must go on to Greenbelt Road and turn left. They may then either U-turn with the turn signal to reach the entrance road or travel on Greenbelt Road to the main entrance to the shopping center.

Motorists exiting from this shopping center road will have to turn right. Those wishing to go north to Greenbelt Road or Greenbriar will have to U-turn at the second entrance to the Commerce Center or at the Ora Glen traffic signal. As an alternative, these motorists can exit at the main exit from the shopping center onto Greenbelt Road.



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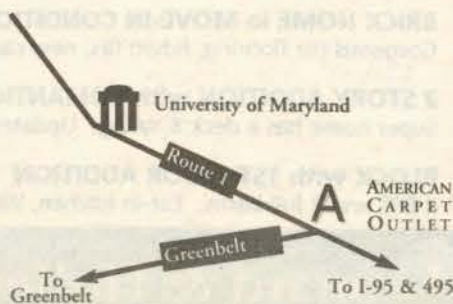
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Police Blotter

Based on Information Released by the Greenbelt Police Department

While patrolling the area of Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Lane around 3:30 a.m. on Sunday, January 16, an officer saw a vehicle run a stop sign and pulled it over in the 9100 block of Springhill Lane. Upon approaching the vehicle, the officer saw a gun inside; the gun turned out to be a loaded 38 caliber handgun. Consequently the driver of the vehicle, a 23-year-old resident man, was arrested and charged with transporting a handgun. He appeared before a District Court Commissioner and was released pending trial.

Responding to a 911 hang-up at a residence in the 100 block of Westway around 4:45 a.m. on Thursday, January 20, officers discovered someone with a lock-blade knife. That person, a 23-year-old resident man, was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon. He appeared before a District Court Commissioner and was held on \$1,000 bond pending trial.

Responding to a report of a fight in the area of Centerway around 1:45 a.m. on Saturday, January 15, officers saw two people having a verbal altercation followed by one of them battering the other. Then the officers arrested a 31-year-old nonresident man and charged him with battery. He appeared before a District Court Commissioner and was held on \$2,500 bond pending trial.

Two nonresident youths, aged 12 and 15, were arrested and charged with breaking and entering on Monday, January 17, after it was found that they had broken into two kiosks located in Beltway Plaza. The youths were released to guardians pending trial.

Responding to a burglar alarm at The Answer clothing store around 7:15 a.m. on Monday, January 17, officers found that someone had broken out a storefront window and had stolen merchandise. No arrests were made.

As a result of the work of the Criminal Investigations Unit, a 15-year-old nonresident youth was arrested on Tuesday, January 18, and charged with two counts of daytime breaking and entering for crimes that occurred last June at residences in the 7700 block of Mandan Road and the 7100 block of Megan Lane. The suspect was released to a parent pending trial and investigation is continuing.

A breaking and entering of a residence on Parkway was reported on Friday, January 14. An answering machine and money were stolen.

Observing a vehicle being driven with an equipment violation in the area of Greenbelt Road

and Hanover Pkwy. around 4:45 p.m. on Friday, January 14, an officer did a computer check and found that the vehicle's tags had been reported stolen. Consequently, the vehicle was stopped on Greenbelt Road at Lakecrest Drive and the driver, a 28-year-old nonresident woman, was arrested and charged with theft. She was released pending trial.

On Wednesday, January 19, officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle that had been parked and abandoned in 20 Court Crescent Road and found that the vehicle had been reported stolen from Riverdale.

On January 14, a red, four-door, 1991 Honda Accord, MD tags YYX820, was reported stolen from the 7300 block of Morrison Drive.

Vandalisms to, thefts from, and attempted thefts of autos were reported in the 6000 block of Greenbelt Road and in the 6900 and 7700 blocks of Hanover Pkwy.

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GHI Finalizes Budget Cuts, Sets Bylaw Review Process

by Mary Lou Williamson

The Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Board of Directors, at its regular January 13 meeting took the final step necessary to implement the membership vote capping members fees. Expenditures for 1994 were reduced from \$6.62 million to \$6.43 million. The cuts were achieved by delaying new programs, trimming merit pay raises for employees and possibly cutting two positions and reducing a third to part-time. The new reality touched the discussion of most of the agenda items.

The board adopted a tentative schedule for reviewing the bylaws revision package to follow during the coming year. The review procedure was proposed by board member Keith Jahoda. The proposed bylaw revisions, which are extensive, were drawn up by an ad hoc committee of Mac Wirick, Margaret Hogensen, Diane Liebscher, Thomas White and Nat Shinderman. Kathy Weber was board liaison and Ron Colton (later Paul Sinner) was staff representative. The revisions will be presented first to the members. Two meetings were scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 9 and

Saturday afternoon, March 26. Next, the package, together with members' suggested changes, would go to the board for two work sessions on April 7 and May 5. These board work sessions would be open to members but would focus on board action to refine or rewrite the revisions. At this point the revised draft would be reviewed by legal counsel to identify any conflicts with state law. A target date of September 8 is set for the board to accept or reject the suggestions of counsel. (The board was not inclined to pay legal counsel to tighten language or make grammar or style changes, that work could be done within GHI). The final step, a special membership meeting, was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 12.

Board president Alan Freas commended Jahoda on his plan, as did other board members.

The "complex, detailed, major overhaul of the bylaws . . . needs to keep moving." He urged board members to study a 30-page section of Roberts Rules of Order that deals with how to draft bylaws so that each item is subject to only one interpretation. Two battles during the past year that have split the membership and angered those on the losing side have spotlighted existing ambiguities. Board member John O'Boyle suggested the board look at alternatives to the archaic Roberts. "There are other sets of rules that are defined in 20 pages rather than the 500 pages of Roberts. A more streamlined method might be more responsive," he suggested.

Board member Bill Phelan cautioned board members to just "listen and take notes" during the first two meetings for members. He urged the board not to rush the process of revising the bylaws. He likened the process to a stew. "When it cooks long and slow it turns out better."

O'Boyle called on members to become more involved in the cooperative's affairs and on board members to listen better to members who do participate. He decried the "Grand Canyon" some feel separates the two. It isn't so, he asserted. "This isn't an imperial board."

Goals

The board members took a brief look at the goals they had set at the beginning of the term last June. Several members had items to add to the list. Board member Carole Levin then asked the board to be more orderly and set up a procedure for reviewing or adding items during the year. Suggested items included: lighting and other improvements in the common areas (the board should walk through those areas to see what is needed); review of employee benefits package; improvement of curbs, gutters and sidewalks in the North End; making GHI more affordable and more saleable. Board member Wayne Williams agreed with Levin that the board as a whole should discuss such items and then determine which ones should be added.

Salaries Issue

The board plans to have a bylaw amendment ready at the annual meeting to settle the "salaries" issue. Freas offered to draft the language. He thought there should be at least two choices. (1) A bylaw amendment requiring disclosure of specific salaries as the membership had demanded at last year's annual meeting and (2) an alternative which would require disclosure of salary ranges for types of jobs as is now being done. Williams agreed the "members deserve" to have a chance to vote up or down on the first option. Comis agreed he was looking for an amendment that "would make legal what members voted for" last year. O'Boyle questioned whether members really want to disclose salaries of specific people by name. The vote last year, he recalled, was taken at the end of a late night meeting with no chance to "sleep on it or to think about it." This year the choices "ought to be real crisp" and simple to understand.

Levin asked that the "bylaws be amended so that members' decisions are binding and not advisory."

Miscellaneous

The board agreed to the suggestion of its new General Manager Gretchen Overdurf to have a training session. The board chose "Running an Efficient

A Review

Clapping and Swaying With Mt. Nebo Choir

by Barbara Likowski

The Mt. Nebo Gospel Singers filled the Greenbelt Arts Center's (GAC) new theater with such joy in sound on Saturday night, January 22 that we sat overwhelmed and in continued anticipation of what would be next. The faces of the group were happy and uplifting, their rhythm and swaying was catching and many of the audience tapped, clapped and swayed along with them. It was almost impossible for us not to, the feeling generated was so hypnotic.

They sang with grace. Their voices were full and their diction clear so it was not difficult for us to understand what to us were "new" songs as well as those with which we were more familiar. The program was varied. Many times a soloist sang while the others rhythmically followed and then joined in the chorus. For most of the program they positioned themselves into three groups but always singing as a whole group. It did make for less monotony than seeing a whole group spread out.

Besides the inspiring singing, Director Robert E. Taylor gave a brief history of the rise of gospel music which came out of the slave experience. (According to Taylor—the only full employment period for blacks). Much of the early music was based on black historical medleys, black meter music (one person singing, others joining in) hymns, improvisation and syncope. The old hymn "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" was an example of a hymn tune which was adapted to the gospel sound. The group showed us the hymn as it was and then gave a very spirited rendition. By changing

the tempo they gave us another song yet it was still one we recognized, just sung livelier and more joyful.

In 1921 Thomas Dorsey, writing in the vernacular produced "Precious Lord", the first gospel tune. With their singing of this the group did not disappoint us. We were rewarded with another beautiful experience.

Other music came from the gospel sound—blues, jazz, country western. Then, of course, there were the freedom songs sung by the followers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Gospel music is a clue to what is happening sociologically, Taylor said.

Perhaps one of the group's most touching renditions was "When God Is Passing Out Blessings, We Hope He Will Drop Some on You", sung near the end of the program. Totally new to us, it nevertheless seemed familiar because the Mt. Nebo singers made it seem so. It is almost impossible to describe the hold such a group's singing can, temporarily, at least, have on one. People will just have to hear for themselves.

This is no ordinary group. A family group of 14 voices, 15 if we count the pianist who sang just as enthusiastically, it was organized in 1949 at Mt. Nebo African Methodist Church by Maude S. (Big Mama Brown) who will be 100 years old in April. The mother of 15 children she has guided her family towards the fulfillment of a common goal—to serve God through the "gospel-in-song." According to Taylor "the family who prays and sings together stays together" and cites their 44 years to prove it. It seemed fitting for them to begin the program with a prayer. What followed transcended individual beliefs so that we were left with joy and peace.

Meeting" as the first topic for an hour and a half session but declined to add the cost of ordering in food. If the group wanted pizza, they should pick up the tab, the board decided.

Freas suggested asking members their preference between a weekday evening and a weekend afternoon for the annual meeting in May. Envelopes could be enclosed in the February newsletter to encourage a broad response. The board concurred but declined to pay for stamps. "Last year I would have added stamps," said one board member. "This year, no."

Margaret Hogensen, past president, was appointed (unpaid) legislative liaison to the National Association of Housing Cooperatives (NAHC). She has been working with Representative Steny Hoyer's office on behalf of NAHC on a problem that housing co-operatives are having with the Internal Revenue Service over whether to pay taxes on the interest earned on reserves.

Betty Deitch, past board member, was appointed to the Aesthetics and Environment Committee.

Freas reported that board member Chuck Hess was in the hospital but was doing all right. The board approved signing a new recognition agreement with Washington Mortgage Financial Group's new subsidiary, WMF Residential Mortgage Corporation. The only change from the prior agreement is the new name. Other lenders include the National Coop Bank, Atlantic Mortgage and several credit unions, although CitiCorp appeared again to be interested in

During the intermission we were treated to piano playing by Taylor's ten-year-old grandson, Brian Taylor. Although he never had a lesson, Brian played some of the old tunes like a professional for almost 15 minutes. We expect to hear more about him in the future.

We were sorry that the group found it necessary to use speakers. In the relatively small quarters of GAC's new theater they did not seem to be needed and sometimes made the sound too loud and intruded on our ability to listen. Besides the pianist there were a keyboard player, a bass guitarist and a rhythm guitarist. They didn't seem to need more.

It is a pity that more Greenbelters did not venture out in the ice and snow to hear the Mt. Nebo singers. Presented through a grant from the Prince Georges Arts Council, the program was most refreshing and highly enjoyable. Those who missed the program can see it on Greenbelt's Channel B10.



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6:30pm "Greenbelt: The Ideal Community"
7:00pm "What is Municipal Government"
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