

Come On In!

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Greenbelt

News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

News Review

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Thursday, February 3, 1994



Frosted trees are framed by the opening of the underpass beneath Hillside Road. Tim Farris is on the far right.

—photo by John Norden

Citizens, Legislators Trade Views at Open Door Meeting

by Anne Sucher

"Don't cuss, call us." These words were spoken by State Senator Leo Green in concluding the Open Door meeting held on Saturday morning, Jan. 15 in the Greenbelt Municipal building. He and 23rd District Delegates Joan Pitkin, Mary Conroy and James Hubbard were on hand that day to field questions from concerned citizens about public policy issues and bills pending in the legislature. Due to the frigid weather conditions, (Mayor Toni Bram made reference to her still-wet hair freezing between the car door and the door to the Municipal Building), not many people were there, but the session was recorded on videotape and broadcast several times on the local news channel, B-10.

Financing Community Center

After introductions, wherein it was established that "Greenbelt is a community with a great sense of community..." the floor was made open to citizens' questions. Questions began with Emory Harman, former postmaster, who had heard rumors of a proposed senior citizen center and wanted to know what the status was.

Questions of finance arose. The delegation had put in a \$3 million bond proposal for renovation of what used to be Greenbelt Center School and is now an empty building. Part of the building would house a proposed senior citizen center. However, more than 50 projects statewide are vying for the \$15 million of available bond money from the state. Potential revenue raiser

bills discussed include a proposed hotel/motel tax and a 25 cent tax on cigarettes. Proposed by the governor, the cigarette tax money is to go to schools and social services and other things such as aid for local police protection.

Citizen Concerns

Private citizens were on hand to voice their concerns. Bill Clarke has been pushing for bicycle-friendly design legislation, which would mandate that when a new road is built, or an old one repaved, a portion of the road three feet to the curb should be left for bicyclists only. The roads should be 14 feet wide, 11 feet for cars and three for bikes. He has had difficulty pushing this idea through with State Highway Administration, though state law says there's a right for bicyclists to be on the road.

Welfare Policy

The Goldberg family were there in full force with such issues on their mind as welfare reform and health care. State welfare and health care policies

are greatly dependent on federal policy. It was noted that in welfare the federal government is copying a pilot program in Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Prince Georges County which would give potential welfare recipients two years of support benefits, including childcare, health care, job training etc. and if after that time, they are still not employed, they will have to do work allocated for them by the government. Green said that this was in line with his philosophy that welfare should be "a trampoline, not a hammock."

It was agreed that education and job training play a crucial part in derailing the downward See OPEN DOOR, page 9

Please Help

During wet or windy weather, residents can help their News Review carriers by placing some kind of box, plastic bag or brick by the doorstep to protect and secure the paper.



WHERE ARE THE BICYCLISTS?

WHERE ARE THOSE CITIZENS WHO ASKED THAT A TASK FORCE BE ESTABLISHED TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL ABOUT BICYCLE RELATED ISSUES?

HOW CAN THERE BE A TASK FORCE WITH ONLY TWO MEMBERS?

PLEASE ADVISE.

Dorothy Lauber, CMC City Clerk

Witness for the Prosecution: Officer Steven N. Keller

by David Morse

On December 24, 1991, a 43-year-old man was found dead in his Hunting Ridge apartment on Hanover Parkway. He had been shot to death. There were shell casings on the coffee table. Except for bullet holes in the walls, the apartment appeared orderly. A cryptic note from a Chinese fortune cookie was found on the counter. There was a small doll sitting in the lap of the victim. A blanket partially covered his legs.

It was Steve Keller's job to make sense of all of this.

Keller is the Greenbelt Police Department's own crime scene analyst. The long and irregular hours that his work frequently requires is alternately tedious and stomach-turning. He is on call 24 hours a day for serious crimes. There are myriad details that have to be handled with great precision, and tons of paperwork. And sometimes it seems all for naught. Crimes go unsolved. Cases are lost in court. Ultimately, less than 15 percent of all crimes are solved by evidence. The pressure is intense, the crop of new gray hairs abundant.

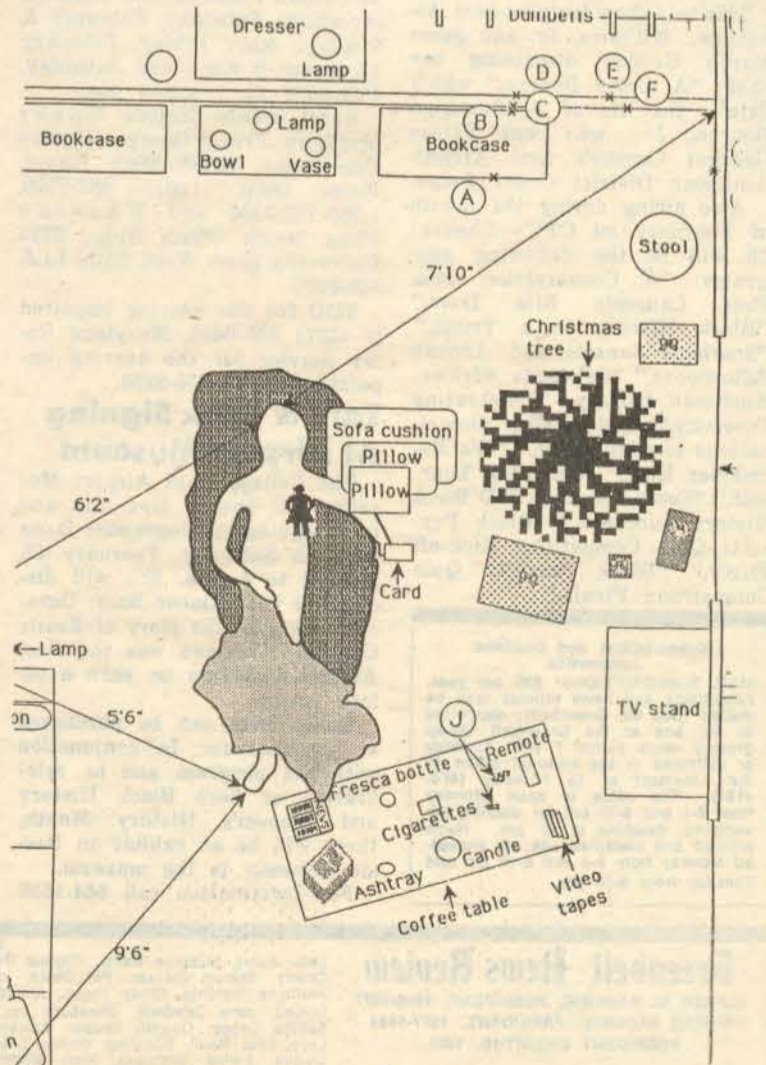
Emotional Toll

The work of an evidence technician is often grisly. Keller says his years as a Fire Department volunteer inured him to dealing

with victims in varying degrees of distress. But some things you don't get used to. One thing that affects him, he says, is the senselessness of the violent acts whose results he is forced to witness. At a crime scene, says Keller, you often see someone who "got the wrong end of the stick. . . . It gives you a bad feeling." He has attended two or three dozen autopsies. "I've never gotten used to it. My stomach turns every time I do it."

Physical Toll

Nevertheless, Keller enjoys his work. He only regrets that he is the sole evidence technician working for the Department. Being on 24-hour call can be, well, murder. He is sometimes called out in the middle of the night. In the 1991 murder case men- See WITNESS, page 5



Detail from Greenbelt Police Department Officer Steven N. Keller's diagram of crime scene in 1991 murder of Greenbelt East resident.

Late Delivery

Last week's issue of the News Review was very late in getting out due to the ice storm and other snags. Most delivery occurred on Sunday.

Council Should Stay Put

When it comes to holding regular council meetings, the city council should stay put. In an effort to reach out to the community, council plans to hold a public hearing on the proposed city-wide trails plan in Greenbelt East. Councilmembers advised the Board of Directors of the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee that they are considering holding some of the council's regular meetings at neighborhood locations instead of at the Municipal Building.

Greenbelt is not so big a community nor access to the municipal building so difficult that conducting official meetings at other locations is justified, unless an issue arises that demands a larger meeting place. The municipal building is about as accessible a location as any place in town. It is close to the city's geographic center and is in the center of an established pedestrian sidewalk system that extends as far as Greenbriar. There is also a well lighted parking lot and the building is fully handicapped accessible.

The council room, with its raised dais, curved table and built-in sound system is designed for council meetings. City staff can also quickly retrieve records and informational material needed for meetings. A lot of tax dollars were invested in renovating the room, with some of the improvements designed to improve the lighting and backgrounds for cable casts.

The municipal building is the only site from which council meetings can be cable cast live. At any other location, the best that can be done is to tape meetings for broadcast at a later date. Unfortunately this process would disappoint a regular group of citizens who faithfully watch city council meetings on cable and the others who follow an item of particular interest to them on the agenda. Some cable watchers have gotten so interested in an issue that they have dashed from their homes and rushed to the municipal building to join the debate.

In contrast to all these reasons for staying put, we find it difficult to find good reason for council to do its official business elsewhere. That being said, however, we wish to make clear that we support council's holding informal meetings and public hearings in various Greenbelt neighborhoods. There are times when it is desirable for the council to go to the various parts of the city to hear about neighborhood problems and concerns.

Black History on TV

Prince Georges Community Television (CTV) will air a variety of programs during the month of February in celebration of Black History Month. Premiering on Channel 15 on Friday, February 4, at 6 p.m. will be "History Spotlight."

This show features host Alexander Williams, Jr. and guest Karen Gooden discussing her book, "A Cross Bourne," which details the life of J. Franklin Bourne, Jr., who was Prince Georges County's first African American District Court Judge.

Also airing during the month of February on CTV's Channel 15 will be the following programs: "A Conversation with Poet Laureate Rita Dove," "Black History in a Trunk," "Southern Sunsets and African Afternoons," "Celebrate African-American History," "Celebrating Diversity," "Nile Valley Contributions to Civilization," "We Remember King," "Celebrate Yourself," "Second Annual PSD Black History Luncheon," "Black Pursuits Quiz Competition Kick-off Party," "Black Pursuits Quiz Competition Finals."

Subscriptions and Deadline Information

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$30 per year. Advertising and news articles may be mailed (Box 68, Greenbelt); deposited in our box at the Greenbelt Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday or delivered to the editorial office in the basement of 15 Parkway (474-4131). The office is open Monday from 2-4 and 8-10 pm for display advertising; deadline is 10 pm. News articles and classified ads are accepted Monday from 2-4 and 8-10 pm and Tuesday from 8-10 pm.

Free State Income Tax Help Available

Free state income tax assistance is available from any of the State Comptroller's Taxpayer Assistance Offices, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. And the offices will also be open on certain weekends and holidays, including: Saturday, February 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Friday, February 11, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Saturday, February 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Local offices include Upper Marlboro, Prince Georges County Courthouse, 14735 Main Street, Room 083B, (301) 952-2810, 1-800-753-3486 and Wheaton Plaza North Office Bldg., 2730 University Blvd. West, Suite LL6, 949-6030.

TDD for the hearing impaired is (301) 565-0450, Maryland Relay Service for the hearing impaired is 1-800-735-2258.

Talk & Book Signing At Airport Museum

The College Park Airport Museum will host a free talk and book signing by biographer Doris Rich on Saturday, February 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. She will discuss her book, Queen Bess: Daredevil Aviator, the story of Bessie Coleman. Coleman was the first African-American to earn a pilot's license.

Queen Bess can be purchased at the museum. In conjunction with the program and in celebration of both Black History and Women's History Month, there will be an exhibit on Bessie Coleman in the museum. For information call 864-1530

Letters to the Editor

Give a Medal

It's a great wonderful world in Greenbelt. Returning to Greenbelt January 24—we were delighted with the wonderful roads. In Boston from January 2—on we shoveled 19 inches of snow plus the ice. Greenbelt Public Works is to be awarded a medal of success for a job well done. All the small narrow streets were not ignored. In Boston, and Brookline—no parking—all side streets impassable. The highlight of the trip was a discussion with a Boston policeman on how to direct traffic on a street with one driveable lane. I won!

Keep it up Public Works—
Pearl Ellerin

Yea! Greenbelt

The January cold spell brought out the best in our city. A common bond of concern and caring prevailed, and as always we were filled with the year-round inner warmth which comes from genuine concern for ones neighbors. Older residents were driven to the Co-op or Safeway, people assisted each other traversing the icy byways, passers-by helped free stuck cars. Just another day in Greenbelt, the city that cares every day, not just during emergencies. The cry of a woman for help as she is being assaulted being ignored by passing pedestrians is simply unthinkable in Greenbelt. A far cry from the isolated crowd that is life in the city.

Steve Kaess

"Lost" Classmates

On May 14, alumni of Greenbelt High School will celebrate a gala "golden" reunion. Anyone who ever attended the school in its existence from 1938 to 1952 is invited.

For my class of 1944, it will be truly a golden, 50-year reunion. There are seven members of our class we haven't been able to locate. All graduated in 1944 and all lived in Greenbelt. They are: Donald Brewer, Norman Daniel, Katherine Grant, Richard Nelson (last sighting, Tampa), Betty Simcoe, Robert Simmons, and Marion (Mimi) Wasserman.

If anyone has information on my "lost" classmates, please call me at 474-6892 or write me at 3 Fayette Place.

Kathleen (Scott) McFarland

Talk on Trees

In a slide presentation, Erik Neumann, head of the Education Unit at the National Arboretum, will discuss the selection, seasonal interest and landscape attributes of standard and unusual small flowering, shade and street trees suitable for the Washington area. A selection of superior, disease and insect-resistant National Arboretum introductions will be included.

The program will be held on Thursday, February 10 at 10:50 a.m. in the Administration Building Classroom of the Arboretum in D.C.

For information call 202-475-4815, or TDD 699-2404.

Please Help

Hi! I am a fourth grader at Rudd-Rockford-Marble Rock Elementary School.

Our class is studying the 50 states in social studies. Each student in the fourth grade has been provided with an address of a daily newspaper. I am asking readers to please respond by sending a postcard, a photo of your city/town, a photo of a landmark, or other points of interest in your area. All information received will be displayed in the elementary hallways.

I hope you will decide to help me with this exciting project. I'll be anxiously waiting to hear from you and learning more about your area. Please send postcards or photo to my class in care of the address below. Thank you!

Lindsey Marie Mccollom; Mrs. Hoffman's 4th grade class; RRMR Elementary School; 1460 Hwy. 147 E; Rockford, IA 50468.

Karen Yoho

Look to Past

I thoroughly enjoyed the front-page article by Alan Virta on land use in Greenbelt East. The 250-year history of the property—and, more importantly, the early settler's concern for the welfare of the land—was an insightful account on the need for more control on development and zoning in this small stream valley that borders the "green belt."

Even though I'm thirty-something, I can recollect with residents of Greenbelt and surrounding areas of a time when the area between Greenbelt Park and NASA Goddard was nothing... nothing but undeveloped land with trees and brush. "Nothing" is a thing of the past, as we travel down Greenbelt Road in bumper-to-bumper traffic, due entirely to ever expanding commercial and residential development.

I hope that zoning officials and our city planners will look to our past and consider what the future holds if we continue to strive for more... leaving nothing behind.



ATTENTION RESIDENTS

If you live in the following neighborhoods, YOU LIVE WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF GREENBELT

- Belle Point
- Boxwood Village Homes
- Charlestowne North Apts.
- Charlestowne Village
- Crescent Road Apartments
- G.D.C. Apartments
- GHI Homes
- Glen Oaks Apartments
- Glen Ora Homes
- Greenbelt Plaza Apts.
- Greenbriar Condominiums
- Greenbrook Estates
- Greenbrook Village
- Greenspring
- Greenwood Village
- Hunting Ridge
- Condominiums
- Lakeside Homes
- Lakeside North Apartments
- Lakewood Homes
- Parkway Apartments
- Springhill Lake Apartments
- University Square Apts.
- Windsor Green Homes
- Woodland Hills Homes

Please report this on your State Income Tax by entering GREENBELT ON YOUR FORM

FORM 502 MARYLAND TAX RETURN 1993

FILE IN THIS BOX (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

Check here if you use a paid preparer and the preparer's name and address must be on this form.

GREENBELT

In this way you can be sure that a portion of YOUR TAXES will BE RETURNED TO THE CITY OF GREENBELT FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Greenbelt News Review
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 ELAINE SKOLNIK, PRESIDENT, 1977-1985
 PRESIDENT EMERITUS, 1985
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At the Library

Tuesday, February 8, 7 p.m., P.J. Storytime, ages 4-6.
 Thursday, February 10, Drop-In Storytime, 10:15 a.m., ages 3-5.

Also on Thursday. For Two's and Parents, 11:15 a.m. Registration required, the limit is 12.

Women Voters Meet

Selected recommendations of the Prince Georges County Government Operations Review Commission ("The Turner Commission") will be considered at the February meetings of the county League of Women Voters.

The Northern a.m. and Northern p.m. units will meet together to discuss selected Commission recommendations, including some of those on education. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9 at the Greenbelt Police Station (enter from Ridge Road).

Meetings of the League of Women Voters are open to the public. For further information, phone 301-864-1016.

Fun at Goddard

Come to a model rocket launch at the Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center on Sunday, February 6 at 1 p.m. Bring a rocket or just come and watch. All launches are monitored for safety and are held weather permitting.

The Visitor Center is located on Soil Conservation Road. For information call 286-8981.

Community Events

Recreation Review

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.

Volunteers Needed For GHI Newsletter

The next meeting of the GHI Newsletter Committee is February 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the GHI Administration Building. The Committee welcomes member input. A major focus of the newsletter will be the new GHI budget. Members can support the newsletter in many ways. Members are needed to write articles, or express opinions. Members can also contribute by taking pictures of local events, or people. Members are also needed to deliver the newsletter to their neighbors. Please call Joan Krob to obtain more information at 474-4161.

"Fiddler on the Roof"

Eleanor Roosevelt High School music theater will present "Fiddler on the Roof" Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30, in the ERHS auditorium.

Good Neighbor Group Meeting

The Good Neighbor Watch Group will hold an open-to-the-public meeting on Wednesday, February 9 at 7 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Fountain Lodge.

The group has received some safety tips from Officer Smith of the Metro Police:

—Do not sleep on the bus or train; keep secure hold on purses or bags; keep purses and valuables away from the aisle;

—Do not flash large sums of money; have proper amount in small bills;

—If something falls on the Metrorail track do not try to get it; call the station manager for help. Never go down on the tracks — the tracks carry 750 volts of live power.

Double Dutchers Hold Sweetheart Dance

Saturday, February 12, the "Greenbelt Youth Double Dutch League" is sponsoring a Valentine Sweetheart Dance for boys and girls aged 6 to 12 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, at 6101 Cherrywood Lane from 7:30 to 10. There will be recorded music (including hip-hop, reggae, and rap) from a local D.J. and refreshments will be sold.

The Greenbelt Double Dutch League was organized in 1991 for ages five years to adults. They meet every Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 4-6 p.m. at SHL Recreation Center. For more information please call Austin/Kim at 345-2770.

NARFE Meeting

The National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) will hold their monthly meeting Wednesday, Feb. 9, at 12:15 p.m. at the Greenbelt library.

Tom Moran of the chapter will be speaking about changes in the 1993 taxes.

All members and prospective members are invited to attend.

Bridge, Anyone?

The Senior Citizens Bridge Club meets each Thursday at the Youth Center from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Regular and substitute players are needed.

For more information, call 345-9699.

Arts Center Presents Local Talent in Show

The 5th Annual "Evening With Friends" will take place on Saturday, February 19, 8 p.m. at the new Greenbelt Arts Center Theatre (located next to the post office).

Among those already scheduled to appear are Al Herling (a Greenbelt Legend!), Betty Allen (recently retired from the library), and Cleveland Flowe (well known Jazz pianist). There will be music, dramatic readings, humor, dance and who knows what else!

It is not too late to participate. Anyone who would like to share a talent should call Konrad Herling for information at 345-9369.

Ray Noll Exhibits At Greenbelt Library

by Linda Savaryn

Photo montages and oil paintings by Greenbelt artist Ray Noll will be exhibited at the Gallery in the Greenbelt Library from January 31 to February 25. The Gallery hours are Monday to Wednesday, 2-5 p.m. and 6:30-9 p.m., and Thursday to Saturday, 2-5 p.m. A reception, open to the public, will be held February 5, 3-5 p.m.

Titled "Sacred Earth" the exhibit's theme is environmental.

Through photomontage, Noll expresses the spiritual part of nature and the relationship between it and man. The montage consists of photos taken from various magazines from which Noll puts images together, mapping and framing them, while giving attention to light and color.

The exhibit also includes four oil paintings by Noll, on environmental themes. Three of them are round.

Noll is an illustrator and graphic designer, and has worked for Chesapeake Country Life and Bioscience magazines, Prince Georges Community College, Gallaudet University Press, and the American Geophysical Union.

His work has been exhibited in Takoma Park, Ellicott City, at the Cheverly Playhouse and at the State House in Annapolis.

Noll's interest in art began when he was a six-year-old in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and his mother sent him off to art school. He attended every Saturday for eight years. As a teenager he studied at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Later he went on to Penn State, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts in art in 1976.

He has done graduate work in Africa (Ghana and Nigeria), where he was taught by recognized traditional African craftsmen. According to Noll, his experience there has had a profound influence on his work and continues to do so.

Summer Programs For TAG Kids

Come learn about summer programs for TAG students at a Summer Programs Showcase on Thursday, February 10 at 7-9 p.m. at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Cafeteria. Find out about summer programs specifically for identified TAG students, programs for students with special interests, and talk to parents of TAG children who have participated in a variety of summer programs.

Snow date is Thursday, February 17.

Wreath-Making Demonstration

Tired of all the snow and cold? Well, think of spring and come to "Explorations Unlimited" on Friday, February 11 for a demonstration of spring wreaths. Linda Foote, owner of Family Crafts in Seabrook, will share ideas with the audience. She will demonstrate how to plan, prepare and put together a variety of wreaths. Bring a friend for an enjoyable afternoon planning for warmer weather.

"Explorations Unlimited" is a speaker series held every Friday from 1-3 p.m. at the Youth Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. For more information call 474-6878.

IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH
 THE GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT
 PRESENTS . . .

"Willie Brown and Woody, Ventriloquist Team"



Friday, February 11, 8 p.m.
 Springhill Lake Recreation Center
 6101 Cherrywood Lane FREE

This program is designed for the entire family to enjoy. Willie helps Woody trace his heritage back to an oak tree in Kenya and a Georgia pine in America. Woody and Willie also teach us about famous and not so famous African Americans who have accomplished great things.

Celebrate Black History Month. Bring the family to this free performance.

Steve's Sports Cards

GRAND OPENING FEB. 5, 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

BASEBALL BASKETBALL FOOTBALL HOCKEY
 COME IN AND BROWSE

Located Inside Greenbelt Video
 114 Centerway, Greenbelt

Annual Meeting of the Greenbelt

Labor Day Festival Committee

February 24, 1994 - 7:30 p.m.

Schrom Hills Community Center Meeting Room

(6195 Hanover Parkway)

Election of Officers and Presentation of Annual Report

Booth Participants and Public Invited

P & G OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

129 Centerway
 474-9744

Giant Screen
 Dolby Stereo

ALL SEATS \$3.00

— Show Times —

Fri. & Sat. - 7:15, 9:55
 Sun. - 5:00, 7:45



THE JOY LUCK CLUB



Greenbelt Arts Center

presents

"AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS"

Sat. Feb. 19th
 at 8:00

at
 the Greenbelt Arts
 Center next to the
 Post Office and
 below the Coop
 Supermarket



Who says you have to stay up
 'til 11:30 to hear great comedy?



Who says you have to drive
 downtown and pay an arm and
 a leg to hear great music?



Who says you have to go to
 the British Isles to experience
 traditional music and dance?

Come down to the Arts Center and see your
 friends & neighbors outdo Letterman, the
 Kennedy Center, and Edinburgh!

Tickets available at the door, at the Coop Supermarket,
 or call 441-8770 for reservations

\$8 General Admission - \$6 for students and Seniors
 Or make checks to Greenbelt Arts Center and mail to:
 Greenbelt Arts Center, P.O. Box 293, Greenbelt, MD 20768

Holy Cross Lutheran Welcomes New Pastor

Pastor Stephen H. Mentz will deliver his first sermon at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 6, at the 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. services. The congregation has been without a permanent pastor since Pastor Edward Birner's retirement in September, 1993. Pastor Paul Dandenfeldt, pastor emeritus of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Glen Burnie, was the interim pastor during the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons of the church. Holy Cross will officially install Pastor Mentz on February 20 at 4 p.m. at a service at which his father, The Reverend Marlin A. Mentz, will give the sermon. A potluck dinner will follow the installation service, and the community is welcome to attend any and all of the services. For further information, please call the Church office at 345-5111.

Pastor Mentz hails from Faith Lutheran in Parrish, Florida. His family, wife, Virginia, daughter, Bethany, and sons, Tristan and Emil hope to join him sometime in March; they have recently sold their home in the Sarasota-Bradenton area and are looking for a new home in northern Prince Georges County. The Mentzes are looking forward to joining a younger congregation, and have visited the area twice to familiarize themselves with their new home. During their most recent visit the last week in December, Pastor Mentz could be seen shoveling snow from the church sidewalks, an activity he has not undertaken since his ministry in Missouri in the early '80s. In addition to adjusting to cooler climate, Pastor Mentz is looking forward to becoming involved in the community and reaching out to younger families. He describes his preaching style as evangelical and his ministry as loving.

Free Tax Help for Srs.

The Department of Family Services of Prince Georges County is offering free income tax preparation to residents 55 years of age and older who are of low or middle income. An appointment is necessary and is available by calling 248-6604 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tax preparers will visit shut-ins at home if they cannot go to a tax site.

Quiz Competition Set

The Prince Georges County Memorial Library System, local media and Prince Georges Community College will sponsor the 9th Annual Black Pursuits Quiz Competition this year.

Teams from Prince Georges County public and private high schools, including Eleanor Roosevelt, DeMatha, and Elizabeth Seton will meet and match wits on questions about Black History, people, culture and current events.

The preliminary rounds will be played on Saturday, February 5, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the Oxon Hill Library, 6200 Oxon Hill Road. The two highest-scoring teams will then meet in the championship match on Saturday, February 19, at 1 p.m. at the Prince Georges Community College's television studio. This match will air throughout February and March on Prince Georges Community Television (15A. Metrovision: 15B. Multi-Vision).

Prince Georgian Nominations Sought

The Prince Georges County Public Relations Association is seeking nominations of outstanding citizens who generously contribute their time, energy and talents in service to the people of the county. The deserving individuals will be honored during a luncheon celebration to be held at Martin's Crosswinds on April 28. County Executive Parris Glendening will present the county's most prestigious award, Prince Georgian of the Year.

The qualifications are simple: Nominees must be a resident of Prince Georges County and be at least 21 years of age. All nominations must be accompanied by an official nomination form and received by February 21.

Nomination forms can be picked up at the Greenbelt Library or by calling 925-9592.

Jewelry Show At Synagogue

"Beads, Crafts and Things," an afternoon of sales and demonstrations of jewelry and other items, will draw families to Mishkan Torah Synagogue on Sunday, March 13, from 12:30 to 5 p.m.

Lunch will be available at a nominal cost; the fair is free and open to the entire community. Sponsored by the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood, the afternoon's activities will also include a raffle and drawings for door prizes.


Tables can be rented for a fee. For information, call 474-2209 or 474-6875.

Free Throw Contest

The St. Hugh's Knights of Columbus is holding its 1994 Free Throw Contest from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, February 5, in the St. Hugh's Gym.

Official contestants (boys or girls) must be 10 to 14 years old as of January 1.

For info call Dave at 589-5841.


Catholic Community of Greenbelt
MASS

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

Berwyn Presbyterian Church

6301 Greenbelt Road

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

All are Welcome

Rev. Sidney Conger 474-7573

Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 474-6171 mornings

10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."



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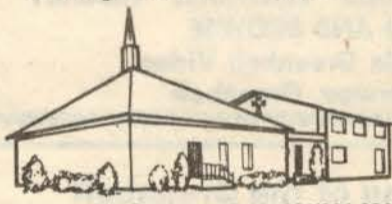
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Greenbelt Police Department evidence technician Steven Keller looks for evidence on a blanket used at a crime scene. —photo by J. Henson

WITNESS

(Continued from page one) tioned above, he spent Christmas Eve aiding in the autopsy at the Maryland State Police Medical Examiner's office in Baltimore. He wistfully allows that another analyst, preferably two, would make his job more orderly and less physically punishing. (A Departmental plan to add one more evidence technician fell through because of budget constraints.)

Keller works out of a utilitarian office-laboratory in the basement of the Police Department's building on Crescent Road, surrounded by the tools of his trade. A refrigerator and freezer for storing among other things, "serological evidence" (that's the yucky stuff). A mounted camera for photographing fingerprints. A dummy (to which some wit has added rouged cheeks) for simulating crime scenes. In addition to collecting, preserving, and analyzing evidence, he also trains other police officers, both within and outside the Department. Indeed, despite the badge and gun, he sometimes seems less the police officer and more the academic, responding easily to questions with unforced torrents of facts

and ideas.

The work of the evidence technician has gotten far more complex in recent years. Advances in forensic science have added powerful new techniques in many areas, such as DNA analysis. But the advances that frequently make the most difference for a small municipal police department like Greenbelt's are in collecting and analyzing the humble fingerprint.

Advances in Fingerprinting

The key to one major advance in fingerprint identification is, believe it or not, superglue, says Keller. When it is heated in a sealed chamber, the resulting fumes adhere like the devil to the bodily residues—amino acids and oils—which are the stuff of fingerprints. (Don't try this at home—you can glue your eyeballs shut without proper protection!) The superglue process makes the fingerprints stand out in much better relief than mere dusting will do. And because the substance fixes the print to the surface it's on, it significantly reduces the risk that careless handling will destroy its evidentiary value. It is particularly valuable for getting prints from firearms and bullets.

(The technique was discovered by accident. A Japanese researcher who had been heating superglue noticed that it had revealed fingerprints on surfaces around the room.)

Another significant advance, says Keller, is the computerization of fingerprint records. This has eliminated, for the most part, the tedious hands-on inspection by a certified fingerprint analyst of tens of thousands of individual "tenprint" cards (which police use when fingerprinting a suspect in a crime). The "blind search" could take weeks or months, and was impracticable in anything but the most notorious crimes.

Previously fingerprints were generally useful only in cases where suspects had already been identified, to see if they matched prints found at the crime scene or on the implements (such as weapons) used in the crime. Now a random print taken at the scene can be rapidly compared with millions of prints on file with various data bases. Sophisticated software narrows the potential matches down to 10 or 15 prints, and the fingerprint analyst takes it from there. (Amazingly, a majority of suspects already have fingerprints on file.)

This gee-whiz technology is now routinely used for the most ordinary kinds of cases. Recently Keller was able to close a case by matching a print taken from a car stolen in 1991 with a newly-arrested suspect. According to Keller, such chance identifications "happen all the time."

Keller never anticipated end-

ing up in this line of work. Before he joined the Greenbelt Police Department in 1986, he had worked as a photographer for 10 years. That experience proved invaluable, for some of the crime scene analyst's most demanding technical work is making and processing photographs of evidence. His brother preceded him into the police department in 1984.

Outside Work

Mutual aid agreements—similar to the collaborative arrangements which fire departments have—enable police agencies to request such help from one another. Recently Keller helped analyze fingerprints from a handgun used in a Hyattsville shooting. In fact, Keller does some work for the Prince Georges County Police because he has faster turnaround than their own lab.

Classes

For the last several years, Keller has been giving classes in forensic photography and in evidence collection and preservation. The photography class, squeezed into three days to accommodate those who can't afford more time off, is attended by police officers from all over the region, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia. The evidence collection course requires 80 hours of instruction and takes two weeks.

Teaching cuts into his schedule because of the time required for preparation. "For a two-week class," says Keller, "I lose six weeks of work." But he is quick to add that the benefits are great. He believes teaching has improved his own skills. It also enhances the reputation of the Department. And the tuition paid goes into the city's general fund.

Importance of Crime Scene Analyst

The value of evidence in a particular case is ultimately determined by a jury. But professionalism in collection and analysis makes evidence speak with more authority. Keller says that good evidence work by police can be important in convicting a defendant even if he or she never goes to trial. He is personally convinced that the cumulative weight of the evidence gathered by police in the 1991 murder on Hanover Parkway was an important factor in persuading the defendant to plead guilty. (According to a 1993 article in the Prince Georges Journal, the defendant, who had originally entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity, pleaded guilty to second degree murder one day before the case went to trial.) Keller is proud of his work in that case, and keeps the poster-size diagram of the crime scene mounted on his wall.



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Table listing various food items and prices, including Ralston 16 1/2 oz. min. Double Chex-Cereal (1.89) and Prego Any Variety 30 oz. Spaghetti Sauce (\$1.49).

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Advertisement for Kellogg's 21.1 oz. Apple Cinnamon Rice Krispies (1.89) with a coupon and barcode.

Greenbelt Man Arrested After 6-Hour Standoff

by David Morse

On January 23, a Greenbelt man was arrested in connection with an incident in which a county police officer was shot while responding to a burglar alarm at a College Park liquor store.

Thomas Mark Smith, 33, of 13 Court Hillside Road, has been charged with attempted murder, assault with intent to murder, and breaking and entering, according to Prince Georges County Police spokesman Captain Jim Terraciano. He is being held without bond at the County Detention Center in Upper Marlboro. The officer, Cpl. John Stuehmeier, was treated and released at Prince Georges Hospital Center for a flesh wound.

Terraciano said that two officers responded to a report of an activated burglar alarm at Town Hall Liquors at 8135 Baltimore Avenue in College Park at about 5:15 a.m. on January 23. After observing a broken front window, the officers saw a man duck beneath a pool table in a lounge area.

They yelled for the man to surrender but were met with gunfire, said Terraciano. At least three shots were fired, one of which struck Stuehmeier in the wrist and exited at the elbow, he said. Stuehmeier then radioed for help. While waiting for other officers to arrive, a third officer who had arrived at the scene watched the back of the building.

The department's Conflict Management Team was then called to the scene and attempted unsuccessfully to contact the suspect by telephone in order to negotiate a peaceful resolution to the situation, said Terraciano. A bullhorn was also used. After about five hours with no response, police decided to use

tear gas to isolate the suspect in one part of the building and force his surrender, also without success. Police then sent in a six-man Emergency Services (commonly known as "SWAT") team along with a police dog and its handler.

Following an hour-long room-by-room search, the suspect was apprehended in a rear storage room by the Canine Unit, said Terraciano.

He was subsequently transported to Prince Georges Hospital Center to be treated for multiple dog bites, including a head wound, and the effects of tear gas. At the time of his arrest, said Terraciano, Smith was armed with a semi-automatic handgun.

County Police Chief David B. Mitchell praised Stuehmeier, an eight-year veteran of the department, for his courage and persistence under fire. "Protecting and serving comes naturally to him," said Mitchell, who noted that Stuehmeier's wife and father are also police officers.

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Guarneri Rehearsal

The Guarneri String Quartet will hold its first open rehearsal of the 1994 season on Thursday, February 10, at 7 p.m. in the Tawes Recital Hall of the University of Maryland at College Park. They will be reading through "light" music for string quartets, such as a composition by Fritz Kreisler. There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend.

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Dance at Firehouse Feb. 5 To Benefit Vinnie Daffan

by Anne Sucher

Three and a half year old Vinnie Daffan has cancer, and you know what that means . . . beyond the pain, the heartache and worry. It means bills, bills, bills.

Vinnie, who was diagnosed last November, has had three surgeries including a biopsy, a second to remove a tumor that had wrapped around his spine, and a third to have some ribs removed because the cancer had spread. He will have to undergo chemotherapy and radiation treatment for at least a year. Currently he has just returned home from his third surgery at Children's Hospital in Washington, D.C., where one of the other of his parents was always present, George Daffan is a carpenter and his wife is a housewife. They have no insurance.



Vinnie Daffan, shown here at home, is battling against cancer.

In order to help Vinnie, who is one of not very many fourth-generation Greenbelters (Vinnie can trace his lineage back through his father's side to Angus MacGregor who was the original landscaper/horticulturist for Old Greenbelt), his family, after appealing to local businesses for donations (many of whom were responsive, Lisa Daffan told me), did some brainstorming and came up with this idea. In order to raise money to help the Daffans, Vinnie's aunt Lesley, whose husband Chris Fleshman works as a volunteer fireman, had the bright idea to hold a dance as a benefit at the Greenbelt Fire Department, as others have done before. The fire department was kind enough to agree. It will donate the use of its facilities

as well as \$300.

The dance will be held this Saturday, February 5, from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the Greenbelt Fire House, 125 Crescent Road. There will be a DJ and beer. Tickets to the dance will be sold at the door and there will be door prizes. All are welcome to attend. Donations may be sent to The Vincent Daffan Fund, c/o Chris Fleshman, V.F.D.R.S., Inc., Greenbelt, Md. 20768-0035. For further information, call Chris Fleshman at 513-5735.

OPEN DOOR

(Continued from page one)

welfare spiral. Threats to education programs are imminent due to proposed budget cuts. On the block are funding for "magnet" school programs.

Health Care

State health care was discussed. Particular concern was voiced about mental health care coverage. All the delegates agreed that Maryland is ahead of the federal government in regulating health care coverage. They hope that with passage of a health care amendment next August/September on the federal level even more changes can be implemented. Without the boost at the federal level, little change can occur at the state level. Green fervently stated, "Believe me, you've got to lobby your congressman and state senators for a national health care bill. Maryland's bill will not address the 700,000 people who do not have insurance it will not address the 500,000 who are underinsured and it will do nothing about the 400,000 that are receiving Medicaid. We do need a federal bill to make health insurance affordable and available to everybody . . . we are way out front in this issue, but there is a strong movement to even throw out what we have done to date! . . . One out of seven dollars in this country are on health care costs, it's a 20% increase every year. . . it is eating us up at the state level, the health care costs. . . we cannot provide the kind of social services, job training, education, help and other things because of the rising costs of just our own employees. Bram discussed how National Health Care works in Great Britain and

France, and how it appears that if one sacrifices luxuries in hospitals such as TV's, carpets, drapes and some privacy, e.g. being willing to share a room with 14 others, one can use the money saved to increase the quality and comprehensiveness of medical care in a public system.

Legislation Proposed

In concluding the meeting, each of the delegates and Green summarized some of the bills of particular interest to each that have been presented to the legislature this year. Conroy is pitching a bill that would offer tax relief to help parents of developmentally disabled children who stay at home. By helping to keep these children out of institutions, the state would be able to save money, she said. She favors a bill that would ban smoking in the workplace, as well as the governor's 25 cent tax on cigarettes.

Pitkin

Pitkin's main concerns are the clean air act, including controls on the use of pesticides and chemicals and electro-magnetic radiation. She also supports a bill that would reallocate money from funds set aside for building new roads to support tele-work programs, which allow people to work at home through the use of computer networks and phone lines. By making it possible for more people to work at home, there would be less car traffic and less need for new roads.

Hubbard

Hubbard's priority bills include criminal background checks for people who are employed as security alarm sellers, indeed any service person who is allowed access into private homes. He hopes this will avoid rapes and other crimes. He is also pushing for

Police Blotter

Based on Information Released by the Greenbelt Police Department

After a woman had parked her vehicle in 1 Court Plateau Place around 10:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 27, and had opened the door to get out of the vehicle, a man wearing a ski mask approached her, told her that he had a gun, and tried to pull her purse off her shoulder. The woman held on to her purse and was pulled from the vehicle; the man then pushed her to the ground and fled the area with another man in a ski mask. They may have left in a white station wagon. One of the men is described as black, 18-25 years old, 5'10", heavily built, wearing a dark ski mask and a long dark, possibly green, coat. The other was merely described as black, wearing a dark ski mask and a long dark coat.

A 27-year-old resident man was arrested and charged with theft on Thursday, January 27, after he had used a stolen credit card at the Marriott Hotel. He appeared before a District Court Commissioner and was released pending trial.

a mandate that farms be held more accountable for the outflow of fertilizers such as nitrogen and phosphorous, chemicals that end up in massive quantities in the Chesapeake Bay, causing the die-off of the natural grasses that grow there, as well as fish and aquatic life. The state will subsidize the cost of setting up a program to help farmers with this procedure. Also on Hubbard's slate are the hotel/motel tax bill, the bond bill for upgrades on Greenbelt Center School and the enforcing of a debt ceiling of 5% as opposed to 14% on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). It held the highest ceiling responsible for higher costs being passed on to the consumer.

Green

Green's big issues include the budget, creating jobs, Cooke's stadium proposal in Laurel, guns and crime, year round schools, separate schools for disruptive students, magnet school funds, busing, the victims' right amendment, and the confidentiality of drivers' records.

The representatives can be reached at (301) 858-3000. (Alex Barnes contributed to this article.)

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BOXED: \$6.00 column inch. Minimum 1 1/2 inches (\$9.00). Deadline 10 p.m. Monday.

Include name, phone no. and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

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APARTMENT MOVING SALE —Furniture (sleeper sofa, \$65), TV, household, kitchen, toys (strollers \$10), clothing, bake sale, \$dollar table. 11-C Parkway, #204, Saturday, 8:30-4:30.

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The Publick Playhouse presents Jomandi Productions' "She'll Find Her Way Home." Set in the 1870's, this is the story of the first generation of young black women and men to be born free in the South during the Reconstruction. Shows will be February 7 at 10 a.m. (recommended for grades K-6) and 12 p.m. (recommended for grades 7-adult); February 4, 8 p.m. and February 5, 2 p.m.

The Playhouse is located at 5445 Landover Road, Cheverly. For reservations call the box office 301-277-1710 voice and 301-277-0312 TDD.

Roses are reddish
Violets are bluish
A heartfelt love wish
Is quite News Reviewish

**"Rehearsal for Murder"
At Greenbelt Arts Center**

by Linda Savaryn

Like intrigue and suspense? Then see Greenbelt Arts Center's production of "Rehearsal for Murder," and try to guess who murdered actress Monica Wells, as her fiance Alex recreates the events leading to her death in order to find the murderer.

Was it Bella, the producer of her play? Lloyd, her director? David and Leo, her fellow actors- Or Karen, the ingenue? All are suspects and all proclaim alibis. Or maybe it was her fiance Alex. Or did she, according to police, commit suicide because of bad reviews? That could do it.

The script, adapted from a teleplay, could be better. The ending in particular seems tacked on and doesn't follow logically from the play's events. However, the play does hold one

in suspense and keeps one guessing, and so does its job.

The cast of 14 does its best with fine direction from Mary Lou Fisher. Standouts include Jill Rush as Sally, Alex's secretary from Maine, and Charlie Brown, a natural on stage, who plays the "Man." Gee, could these two have killed Monica? Find out by catching one of the next performances on February 4, 5, 11 or 12 at 8 p.m., or a Sunday matinee on February 6 at 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt Arts Center, which is located next door to the Post Office.



Alex, (Lou Yakstis), and Monica, (Ann Wixon), enjoy a bit of banter before her untimely death in GAC's production of "Rehearsal for Murder." —photo by J. Henson

Channel B-10 Schedule

Tuesday & Thursday, February 8 & 10

- 6:00pm "Once Upon a Time"
- 6:30pm "Video Newsletter"
- 7:00pm "Municipal Government: The Untold Story"
- 7:30pm "Cooperative Caring"
- 7:55pm "Older Tutors"
- 8:00pm "A Special Dinner in Honor of Former Mayor Richard Pilski"

knee high to a grasshopper

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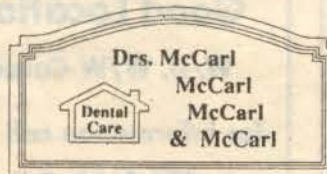
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