

Refuse Collection Successful, Next Year's Fees to Be Cut

by Betsy Likowski

Once-a-week refuse pick-up has been "very successful to this point," said Kenny Hall, acting director of the Department of Public Works at the budget overview of that department on April 15. The budget is adequate to maintain the same high level of services, he said, in summing up the department's status.

The Department of Public Works is one of only two city departments to have decreases in the funding proposed for Fiscal Year 1999 (FY99). In FY98 the total public works budget was \$1,831,300 and this year \$1,750,100 is proposed, a decrease of 4.4%. The department staff has done a fine job under less than optimum conditions, said City Manager Michael McLaughlin.

A number of public works employees were on hand as the Greenbelt City Council went through their department's budget in detail. Projects were explained and repeatedly councilmembers queried in a somewhat sympathetic manner the "unmet needs list" in every sub-department, these are items that are needed but for which there are no funds available in the proposed FY99 budget. (Council can and occasionally does change the proposed budget before they vote to accept it.)

Hall was upbeat and informative in his review of last year's accomplishments. These included: helping to construct Greenbrook Lake; planting over 10,000 annuals, 7400 bulbs and 5000 pansies; erecting fencing at Buddy Attick Park to protect trees from beavers; and using the soil from the Greenbrook Lake Project to make berms at Northway Ballfields at a savings to the city of thousands of dollars.

Recycling and Refuse

"Since we've transferred to once a week there's a definite reduction in the tonnage taken to the landfill," said Hall. Public Works will continue to monitor the odor situation, he continued. The service fee for

refuse and recycling is proposed to be reduced \$4 to \$168.80 per year per household in FY99. The recycling only fee will still be \$18. Services fees are projected to pay for

amount recycled is about the same.

The trash collectors would like to return to twice a week collection and hire a third crew which would collect the

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Ken Hall,

Acting Director Public Works

\$393,300 of the \$442,600 in FY99 for waste collection. The Landfill Disposal Rebate will pay for most of the rest (\$57,400). It is projected that the waste collection budget account will have a small excess of \$18,800 in FY99, which McLaughlin said would be a cushion against expected higher costs in future years.

The city reduced refuse pick-up to once a week and city crews began picking up recyclables about six months ago. Complaints about the service reduction have stopped and only ten households have signed up for and receive twice a week trash collection for an annual cost of \$112. The amount of refuse collected has dropped by 12.7% and the

recyclables or have curbside collection for single family homes. They now work an hour longer than they did under the old system and say the new system creates extra physical strain and is taking a toll on them.

Councilmembers asked about various aspects of the situation. Thomas White wondered how many people voluntarily put their trash out on the curb. W. Bowman Ferguson, management analyst who is currently acting recycling coordinator, replied that about 20% to 30% do so.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts passed on complaints about a household that continually puts out large appliances. Ferguson
See PUBLIC WORK, page 5

Rte. 1 vs Edmonston Rd. Improvement Discussed

by Elaine Skolnik

Councilmembers Thomas White and Rodney Roberts and City Manager Michael McLaughlin attended a meeting at the U.S. Corps of Engineers headquarters in Baltimore on April 17. The purpose of the meeting, called by Steve Elinsky of the Corps, was to discuss the possibility of improving U S 1 as an alternative to improving MD 201 (Kenilworth/Edmonston Rd.) from Cherrywood Lane to Sunnyside Ave. Participating in the meeting also were two representatives from the State Highway Administration (SHA) and Michael Sazonov, project director for the recently opened United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) office complex on Sunnyside Ave.

Elinsky described problems with improving Edmonston Road above Cherrywood Lane caused by the presence of wetlands that would be disturbed along Edmonston Road. He told the News Review that mitigation was required for a little over an acre of wetlands at a 3 to 1 replacement ratio. The Corps has already made a preliminary determination that the mitigation site will be located near the Paint Branch Golf Course. The Corps and the Maryland Department of the

Environment will publicize their findings and request public comment in the near future.

However, any hope that improvements made to U S 1 could substitute for improvements to Edmonston Road were dashed. SHA representatives pointed out that preliminary traffic counts indicate that it was unlikely that even an improved U S 1 would have enough capacity, particularly in light of the large number of new developments proposed — some already under construction on this major road. They also noted that the intersections of Sunnyside and Edmonston and Edmonston and Powder Mill were already at a failure level of service.

Sazonov told the News Review that USDA was anxious to move ahead with Edmonston Road improvements between Cherrywood Lane and Sunnyside Ave. which is being funded by the federal agency. He said that he believed USDA would be willing to do just the Sunnyside/Edmonston Rd. intersection and give the State the money to handle the remainder of the project from Cherrywood to Sunnyside.

The city council is expected to discuss the matter at a future city council meeting.

Council Okays Youth-Police July Basketball Tournament

by Al Geiger

At its April 13 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council authorized Dana Rabois, the city crisis intervention counselor, to apply for a grant from the Governor's neighborhood crime and substance abuse prevention program. The purpose of the grant program is to help community organizations initiate or continue community-based activities focused on youth and dealing with crime, substance abuse and violence. The grant, if forthcoming, would be used to conduct a city-sponsored basketball tournament in which police officers and youths will play together on four person teams. If approved by the state, grant funds would be used to help cover the cost of uniforms, equipment and stipends for referees and scorekeepers. A grant of \$5,870 will be requested.

Rabois will also request that the city contribute in-kind services, such as a waiver of facility fees and the use of city equipment. Private and corporate donations will be sought for such things as awards and refreshments. If the grant is denied or approved in a lesser amount, council may be asked to support the program monetarily.

The tournament, tentatively scheduled for July 24 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, will be publicized under the name "Hooplaw" to encourage police and youths from Prince George's and Montgomery Counties and the District of Columbia to participate. Rabois anticipates as many as 200 participants, with a goal of 160. Afterward, she will evaluate the tournament and data gathered as part of her doctoral dissertation.

Council's unanimous approval of the grant application included the city's contribution of the in-kind services.

A Proclamation

Mayor Judith Davis read a proclamation recognizing "Municipal Government Week," April 20-24. The city will fly a special flag and the proclamation will be posted. Teams of Greenbelt 6th graders (and 5th graders from Springhill Lake Elementary, since Springhill Lake no longer has sixth graders) are competing in "It's Municipal Government," a program conducted by Beverly Palau. Finals will be held on April 24 at the Community Center.

Memorial Park

Sheldon Goldberg and Dorothy Pyles, both of Greenbelt East, spoke in favor of a memorial of some kind to Mike Vaccaro and Jack Davis somewhere in Schrom Hills Park. Council will refer the matter to

the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB), inviting advocates to give additional information to CRAB on what is desired.

Charlene McAdams, on behalf of the Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC), requests that a preliminary amount of \$10,000 be included in the budget for this purpose. Mayor Davis asked if GEAC would supply matching funds. McAdams said that GEAC had not considered this possibility but could probably do so if necessary. Mayor Davis stated that this petition will be considered during the budget process.

Cleaning Services

A resolution for the negotiated purchase of cleaning services at the Aquatic and Fitness Center was introduced for first reading. The present contractor, Framby General Services, with whom staff is very satisfied, is willing to continue these services at a cost of \$1,215 per month — the same rate they have charged for the past two years.

License Agreement

Council voted to authorize the city manager to sign the license agreement authorizing Hunting Ridge to construct and use a parking lot on city property. This agreement was drafted by city attorney Robert Manzi and has been approved by the Hunting Ridge Condominium Association Board of Directors and signed by the association president, Ronald Brooks.

Other Actions

City Manager Michael McLaughlin reported that the Maryland legislature has approved a grant of \$325,000 for Community Center window replacement and renovation of the fire department facility. Council and McLaughlin discussed how and when the city could show its appreciation to Senator Leo Green and Delegates Joan Pitkin, James Hubbard and Mary Conroy for their work on Greenbelt's behalf.

Mayor Davis thanked the Recreation Department for their hard work during the schools' spring break and the Public Works Department and especially its horticulture group for the beautiful spring flower displays.

Council discussed several suggestions to encourage stronger participation of the Youth Advisory Committee, including that they be proactive as well as taking referrals from council.

Consent Agenda

Council approved the consent agenda that contained the following items: the city clerk's 1997 election report was referred to the Board of Elections for review and comment and an ad hoc task
See COUNCIL, page 2

What Goes On

Sat., April 25, 9 a.m. - noon Earth Day Celebration at Schrom Hills Park

Sun., April 26, noon Greenbelt Little League Parade forms at Aquatic Center, marches out Southway to MacDonald Field.

Mon., April 27, 7:30 p.m. A.C.E. Student Award Reception, Municipal Building

7:30 p.m. Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Community Center

8 p.m. City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Tipper Gore to Speak At Conference Here

Congressman Steny Hoyer will introduce Tipper Gore who will be the keynote speaker at the First Annual Early Childhood Conference hosted by the Prince George's County School System and the Early Childhood Interagency Committee. Gore will address the group at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 25 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

"I am pleased that Mrs. Gore has agreed to share her commitment to families with the dedicated teachers, parents, social workers, care providers and others who provide quality early childhood education to the children of Prince George's County. This conference is the culmination of work that began many years ago with my late wife Judy's assistance, to create a conference for educators and care givers to learn, share and understand the challenges of early childhood education. I join everyone involved in Prince George's County education in welcoming Mrs. Gore to this conference," said Congressman Hoyer.

The late Judy Hoyer, was the coordinating supervisor of Early Childhood Education in Prince George's County, and was involved with the early planning of this conference. Hoyer, a leader in early childhood education in Prince George's County, died in February 1997. The focus of the conference is "Understanding the Need-Accepting the Challenge." It will be an all-day forum with training sessions in classroom management, conflict resolution, support groups

Council

(Continued from page 1)

force consisting of Sharon Bradley-Papp, Barbara Simon and Sandra Lange was created to provide recommendations regarding restoration of the Mother and Child statue.

Appointments to various city advisory groups were also made: Mary Wade, Youth Advisory Committee; Steve Perez, Recycling Advisory Committee; Mary Alice Carroll and Richard Lee Reid, Advisory Committee on Education; Philip Larkin, Park and Recreation Advisory Board; and Maxine Bolling, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Karen Sistrunk-Blocker's resignation from the Advisory Committee on Education was accepted.

for parents and other programs scheduled to be discussed. Over 500 people are expected to attend.

Letters

Red Cross Thanks All Blood Donors

The Greenbelt Recreation Department and the American Red Cross would like to thank all those who donated blood on Monday, April 20, at the Greenbelt Youth Center. The drive collected 34 pints of blood which can be used to save lives.

The next blood drive will be on Monday, June 29 from 2-8 p.m. at the Greenbelt Municipal Building Council Chambers. Appointments to donate blood on June 29 can be made by calling Janet Goldberg, Greenbelt Recreation Department, after 2:30 p.m. at 301-397-2212.

Janet Goldberg

Film "The City" Features Greenbelt

The film, "The City" (1939) will be shown April 29 at noon at the National Archives II at 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park. The film fea-

tures planned communities, and area residents will note that much of the film was shot locally. The public is invited and there is no fee.



The Greenbelt Recreation Department would like to extend a sincere **THANK YOU**

to the following sponsors who graciously donated items in support of our Easter Egg Hunt.

- Three Brothers Restaurant
- Giant Food
- Jasper's
- Ledo Pizza System
- Generous Joe's
- Greenbelt Variety
- Einstein Bros. Bagels

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF APRIL 24 PG13



AS GOOD AS IT GETS

PG-13 www.sony.com TRI STAR http://www.pgtheatres.com/

Fri., 7:15, 9:50
 Sat., 4:40 (All seats \$3.00)
 7:15, 9:50
 Sun., 4:40 (All seats \$3.00)
 7:15
 Mon., - 7:30
 (All seats \$3.00)
 Tues.-Thurs.-7:30

For Mother's Day

Mother and Child Statuette Celebrates Family Life And Greenbelt History



For Sale at the Greenbelt Museum
 10-B Crescent Road, Sundays,
 1-5 p.m.; or call 301-507-6582 to order.
 Free delivery in Greenbelt.

New Deal Cafe

Open Fri & Sat 7-11 pm Music 8:30 pm No cover

Friday, April 24 - Open Mike (bring songs, stories, fun!)

Saturday, April 25 - Partners in Song (Peter & Iris)

Friday, May 1 - Richard Dahl (original new music, possible special guests)

Saturday, May 2 - TBA

Donations for Musicians Encouraged
 Greenbelt Community Center
 (301) 474-5642



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 (Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom)

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Passport Photos Available
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 (301) 474-1300



GHI CLEAN UP DAY

Join volunteers cleaning up neighborhood and woodlands.

Organize a clean up party.

Invite a neighbor to pitch in.

Neighborhood pride in our community.

April 26, 1-4 pm

Free bags available at Hamilton Place Saturday, April 18 from 9 am to noon and cleanup day Sunday April 26 1 to 4 pm.
 For more information call **Julia 345-5508** or **Keith 345-1569** or **Kathie 474-4161**.

ATTENTION GHI MEMBERS

The 1998 Community Beautification Program is well underway. By Friday, April 24 the initial inspection will have been completed up to and including Southway.

During the week of April 27 through May 1 we expect to complete inspections from Southway up to and including Gardenway.

No major problems have arisen so far, however, any questions or comments should be directed to Phillip Rondeau at (301) 474-0292 (answering machine) or (301) 474-4161 ext. 130. We try our best to return calls and inquiries on a daily basis.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
 (301) 474-4131

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Giese, president; Diane Oberg, vice president; Virginia Beauchamp, treasurer; Bernina Giese, secretary; and Barbara Likowski.

DEADLINES: Display Ads—10 p.m. Monday; Letters, articles and other ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center 15 Crescent Road during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$32/year.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., 8 - 10 p.m.; Tuesday 8-10 p.m.
 Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

Men's Wear Show Featured by Lions

The Greenbelt Lion's club will be presenting the latest in men's wear at their next regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, April 27, at the Best Western Hotel, Berwyn.

Come and see the latest fashions in men's wear. Learn how to coordinate clothes and improve the wardrobe.

All clothes on display will be furnished by Jos. A. Bank, a national men's clothier.

The public is invited to attend at 7 p.m. For details and reservations call 301-474-5156.

Garden Club to Hold Plant and Bake Sale

The Greenbelt Home and Garden Club will hold its first annual Garden Mart on May 2, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at Roosevelt Center. The Garden Mart will feature hundreds of plants, baked items and many attic treasures for anyone to purchase. A portion of the plants for sale will be provided by Greenbelt's Public Works Department. Bill Phelan, the city's horticulturist, and his crew have divided perennials located throughout Greenbelt. A percentage of the proceeds from the sale of the city plants will be returned to the City's Public Works/Horticulture Services. The plant selection will include a wide selection of both perennials, such as striped and green lirioppe, hostas, miscanthus, several varieties of iris, daylilies, lynchonis, monarda, two varieties of hydrangea and many types of annuals, including petunias, impatiens, zinnias among others. The plant sale gives an opportunity for gardeners to start the gardening season with new plant purchases which have been proven to grow successfully in Greenbelt. Come early for best selections. For more information, call 301-345-5356.

City Notes

Parking lines were painted on Gardenway, Springhill Lane, Springhill Drive and Edmonston Road and in the Youth Center and library parking lots.

The concrete ramp leading to the gym door at the Community Center was removed and the old cement was hauled to be recycled. After removal of the ramp a conduit to the outside lights was run, and the ceiling of the electrical room was lowered to accommodate the changes.

At the Library

Children's Programs: Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m., P.J. Storytime, ages 4 - 6.

Thursday, April 30, 10:15 a.m., Drop-In Storytime, ages 3 - 5. 11:15 a.m. Tickly Toddler Storytime, age 2 and parent or caregiver.

Adult Program: Saturday, May 2, 10:30 a.m., Poetry Plus, adult poetry discussion group.

GHI Notes

The Marketing Committee will meet Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

The Architectural and Environment Committee will meet Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

Community Events

Greenbelt Celebrates Earth Day Saturday

Earth Day celebrations begin at Schrom Hills Park, 9 a.m. to noon with events for the whole family. A community yard sale by Greenbelters begins at 9 a.m.; environmental displays will be set up by 10 a.m. There will also be demonstrations on composting. The petting zoo animals arrive at 11 a.m. Other events include a tree planting by the lake and bird, plant and stream walks. There will also be musical entertainment and prize giveaways.

At Beltway Plaza Mall, from 1 to 2 p.m. "Birds of Prey" will be hosted by Watkins Park staff. From 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., "Reptile Rapt" will be presented by the Mt. Rainier Nature and Recreational Center. The shows offer live experiences and a questions and answer session. Children will receive a small gift for attending either show.

A Few Garden Plots Are Still Available

There are still a few garden plots available on the Greenbelt Garden Club fields. The plots range from approximately 25 feet x 50 feet to 50 feet x 50 feet and are in the sun. All Greenbelters interested in gardening are welcome to garden on one of the club's three fields. For information and sign-up call 301-345-3275.

Gray Panthers To Hear Hubbard

The Gray Panthers of Greenbelt will meet on Saturday, April 25 (new date) at 1:30 p.m. in the first floor classroom of the Greenbelt Community Center to hear Delegate James Hubbard of the 23rd Legislative District report on recent actions discussed and taken during the 1998 meeting of the Maryland Assembly. All interested persons are invited to attend. The Gray Panthers are age, race, and gender neutral. The issues they particularly endorse are health care for all, jobs with justice, public funds for public education, a clean environment, and peace. For information, call 301-474-6668 or 301-474-6890.

GHI Woodlands Cleanup Sunday

The Woodlands Committee is sponsoring a spring clean-up on Sunday, April 26, at 1 p.m. Please bring a friend, gloves, and a wheelbarrow. Meet behind the 8, 10, and 12 Courts of Plateau Place. Call Keith Jahoda (301-345-1569) for further information.

Golden Age Club

by Dolores Capotosto

On Wednesday, April 29 from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., the annual Golden Age luncheon will be held at the E.J.'s Landing Restaurant in the College Park Best Western Motel. This is a special event for the club with local dignitaries and other guests invited to attend.

Members planning to go to Myrtle Beach on May 25-29 need to pay any balance due now. This will be a great trip and the cost covers everything, except lunches and shopping; even a tour of Charleston. See a Travel Committee member now.

The Golden Age Club's annual Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 6, at 9 a.m. in Roosevelt Center. All donations should be brought to the Senior Lounge in the Community Center. Call the office should there be a need for large items to be picked up. No books, shoes or clothes will be accepted. This is the club's biggest money-raiser of the year and volunteers are needed. Sign up if available.

A big "thank-you" goes to Lori Moran who pinch-hit for Ellie Rimar at the April birthday party. Do hope that Ellie is feeling better. Lori also won the birthday prize. The food was varied and delicious. Solange Hess will take the names of all those who wish to help with the birthday celebrations.

Well wishes to all the Goldenagers who are ill. Rose Haber reports that Ray is still at the Greenbelt Nursing Center and that he has his "ups and downs." If he knew I was writing this, he would make a joke out of it; that's the way he's always been and we all miss him.

Stay well, stay active, and come to the meetings.

Explore the Future Lecture at Center

On Friday, May 1, Explorations Unlimited presents "A Layman's View of the Future." The presenter is Lee Feldman, a past president of the Washington area chapter of the World Future Society and also one of the founders of the chapter.

Feldman will discuss how the World Future Society was started, how interest in the study of the future began, the pitfalls of forecasting, the im-

portance of preparing for the future, the use of scenarios, some predictions and a forecast for the year 2050.

Explorations Unlimited is a speaker series held every Friday from 1 - 3 p.m., at the Community Center. This presentation will be held in the senior classroom. Everyone is welcome and questions are always encouraged. Please call 301-397-2208 for more information.



**ACE STUDENT AWARDS RECEPTION
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 2nd FLOOR
LOBBY - 7:30 P.M.**

**INTERVIEW WITH ADVISORY
GROUP APPLICANT**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING LIBRARY - 7:45 P.M.

**REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL ROOM**

APRIL 27, 1998 - 8:00 P.M.

I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations

(The consent agenda consists of those items which have asterisks () placed beside them, subject to such revisions as may be made by the Council prior to approval)*

5. Approval of Agenda and Additions

II. COMMUNICATIONS

6. Presentations
 - ACE Student Awards
 - Legislative Wrap-up by 23rd District Delegation
 - Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Awards

7. Petitions and Requests

(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless the standing rules are waived by the Council)

8. Minutes of Meetings
 - * - Regular Meeting, April 13, 1998
 - * - Executive Session, April 13, 1998
 - * - Work Session, April 15, 1998
 - * - Work Session, April 20, 1998

9. Administrative Reports

- * 10. Committee Reports

III. LEGISLATION

11. A Resolution for the Negotiated Purchase of Cleaning Services at the Aquatic and Fitness Center.
 - 2nd Reading

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

12. Award of Bid
 - Resurfacing of Breezewood Drive
 - Renovation of Lakecrest Drive Tennis Courts

13. Update on Green Ridge House Parking

14. Annexation Petition

15. Letter to Governor Regarding Funding for CARES Instead of Prisons

- * 16. LGIT Board of Trustees Nominations

V. MEETINGS

Greenbelt is celebrating...

Earth Day

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25
9:00am - 12 noon
SCHROM HILLS PARK
6915 Hanover Parkway**



- 9:00 Community Yard Sale (free spaces available)*
- 10:00 Environmental Displays and Exhibits
Musical Entertainment
- 10:30 Composting
- 11:00 Zoo Show and Animal Petting Corral
- 12:00 City Council Shore Planting
- TBA Bird/Plant/Stream Walks

Musical entertainment and free prize give aways all day!

For more information call (301) 474-8308 or visit www.ci.greenbelt.md.us

*Greenbelt residents only. Residents participating in the community yard sale will not be charged a fee and should bring their own blanket and display table. Call (301) 474-8308 to register.

OBITUARIES

Memorial Service

A memorial service for David Boswell will be held at Greenbelt Community Church at noon on Friday. A reception will follow the service.

Goddard Center Holds Community Day

The public is invited to Goddard Space Flight Center to celebrate Community Day on Sunday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event promises to be fun filled, with on-site tours, demonstrations, model rocket launches, presentations, games and much more.

A scavenger hunt will be held on the Visitor Center grounds from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and a children's activities tent will be open on the Visitor Center grounds from 10:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. In addition, guided tours of Goddard Visitor Center will be conducted from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a demonstration on living in space. At noon, astronaut Ronald Parise will give a slide show presentation of his adventures in space. Participants can get a behind-the-scenes look at NASA's tropical rainfall measuring mission with scientist Marshall Shephard at the Visitor Center Auditorium at 1 p.m.

At 3 p.m. there will be a model rocket demonstration on the Visitor Center grounds. Finally, during the day a "Space Technology Benefits Us All" Fair, featuring eighth graders from five schools in the Maryland area, will be held.

The Goddard Visitor Center is located on Explorer Road near the intersection of Soil Conservation Road and Greenbelt Road. Parking is free. In addition, the center can be reached by the T-15, T-16, and T-17 Metro buses.

Reservations are not required, but events may be restricted on a first-come, first-served basis. All tours and associated activities are free. For more information, call 301-286-8981 (voice) or 301-286-8103 (TDD), or visit the center's web site (<http://www.gsfc.nasa.gov/>).

Special Registration For Kindergarten Set

The Prince George's County Public School System has scheduled a special kindergarten registration to be held from April 27 - May 1, for Prince George's County children who will be entering public school in the upcoming 1998-99 school year.

State law mandates that all children who will be five years old on or before December 31 must attend kindergarten before entering grade one. A child's birth certificate should be presented as legal verification of age. Although kindergarten registration may be accepted any time during the year, parents are encouraged to make a special effort to register their children during the special kindergarten registration dates of April 27 - May 1.

Only a parent or court-appointed guardian may register a child. Proof of Prince George's County residence is required for admission to the county's public school system. Parents/guardians who are new residents of the county or who are

registering a student for the first time, must complete the Affidavit of Disclosure (PA 15) as required by State law, to establish proof of legal residency. People who do not know the school in which to register their child should contact the Department of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries at 301-952-6300.

The Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene also requires proof that children have received certain immunizations before they can be admitted into kindergarten. The required immunizations are: four DPT shots, three polio shots, and two MMRs (two measles and one mumps/rubella shot).

In addition, State law requires that each child shall have a physical examination for admittance into the Maryland public school system. The examination must be completed within nine months prior to entrance or six months after entrance into the school system. Physical examination form (SR6), as designated by the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, shall be used as verification of this requirement; and the physical examination shall be completed by a physician or certified nurse practitioner. For additional information related to the special kindergarten registration, people should

Lions Club Offers Scholarships

The Greenbelt Lions Club is offering two \$500 non-renewable scholarships for the 1998-99 school year. One is for an education major and the other is a general Lions scholarship. These scholarships are based on academic standing and need. Applications are available at the Recreation Center, Community Center, Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Prince George's Community College, c/o Michelle in student support services, or send a self addressed stamped envelope to Bill Dupree, Lions Scholarship, 8 Fayette Place, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1602. Deadline for submission is May 12.

Azaleas on Display At Arboretum

Enjoy a free curator-led tour of the nationally renowned collection of azaleas at the U. S. National Arboretum. Register by calling 202-245-4521. Meet at the Administration Building entrance on April 28, 5 - 6:30 p.m.; April 29, 9:30 - 11 a.m. and 5 - 6:30 p.m.; and April 30, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Greenbelt Hadassah Meets Tuesday

The next general membership meeting of the Judith Resnick Group of Hadassah will be held on Tuesday, April 28 at 8 p.m. at the home of Reena Sodie. RSVP: Reena at 301-474-2078.

The speaker for the evening will be Shirley Blumberg, who will speak on how Hadassah will be affected by the current U.S.-Israeli relationship.

Montpelier Mansion Sets Outdoor Festival

An outdoor Herb, Bread and Tea festival will be held April 25 -26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of Montpelier Mansion. Vendors, demonstrators, and workshop leaders will present a variety of products that pertain to herbs, breads and specialty teas. Tea will be served, and light fare will be on sale. Admission is free.

Festival goers will also have the opportunity to visit the mansion and, for a fee, attend the doll exhibit that will be on display through April 26.

For further information, call 301-953-1376; TTY 301-779-5321; <http://www.smart.net/parksrec/>.

Baha'i Faith

"O people of God! That which traineth the world is Justice, for it is upheld by two pillars, reward and punishment. These two pillars are the sources of life to the world."

-Baha'i Sacred Writings
Greenbelt Baha'i Community
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Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160

Tune in Baha'i Radio every Saturday at 12 noon on WUST 1120 on the AM dial
Information about the Baha'i Faith is on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.bahai.org/>

contact the school nearest them or the Early Childhood Office at 301-925-1980.

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Daily Mass: 7:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday
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Rev. Thomas F. Crowley, Pastor
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10 am Education for all ages
11 am Sung Service

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WORSHIP SERVICE 8:30 A.M.
CONNEXIONS 9:50 A.M.
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:50 A.M.
WORSHIP SERVICE 11:15 A.M.



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Fax 301-220-0694

E-mail HCROSSLCMS@AOL.COM
<http://member.aol.com/hcrosslcms/hclchome.htm>
Rev. Stephen H. Mentz, Pastor (301) 345-5111

PUBLIC WORKS
(Continued from page 1)

replied that special cases are looked at and a special fee was being considered. Currently there are fees for one time special collections or if special trash is placed on the side, not the front.

The recycling units in the Roosevelt Center Mall have worked well, as have the units on the ballfields, said Richard Mills, head of the parks crew.

Parks and Landscaping

There are 496 acres of parkland in the city and for FY99 \$738,000 is proposed for the maintenance of the parks, an increase of 4.9% over last year's budget but well below this year's estimated expenses of \$754,900. Among the items needed by the department but not in the FY99 budget are pack tanks costing \$1,500. This would greatly facilitate the weed spraying program begun under former City Manager Dan Hobbs to spray the curb and gutters along Southway, Crescent Road, Mandan Road, Hanover Parkway and Cherrywood Lane, explained City Horticulturalist Bill Phelan. "I personally wouldn't be hurt if we didn't spray weeds in gutters," said Phelan. Roberts said he would not worry so much about weeds and Councilmember Alan Turnbull said he was for eliminating spraying. Hall explained that if the weeds are not kept under control it takes much longer for the city crews to cut back the weeds. For a spray program Phelan said the requested pack tanks would use less chemicals and a safer chemical than they use with the present equipment. Currently they use three types of chemicals - two pre-emergent and "Round-Up." The latter would be the only one used with the new equipment.

The median strips in Mandan

Road and Hanover Parkway will be replanted since the Bradford Pear trees will not last long. The replacement plants include perennial flowers, low evergreens, crepe myrtles, black gum trees, and sweet gum trees bred to not produce the spiky, round seed carriers. The latter two types of plants have beautiful autumn foliage.

Streets

All the city streets and city equipment are taken care of by the public works department. With close to 25 miles of streets to maintain, \$521,600 is proposed for FY99, down \$43,000 from FY98. "Our streets as a whole are in good to excellent condition," said Hall. This year resurfacing work is slated for Greenway Center Drive, Hanover Parkway in Greenbriar, Mandan Road in Windsor Green, and Hillside Road. Work is also planned for Breezewood Drive and Northway.

To maintain all the equipment used for more than one job in the city \$249,400 is proposed for FY99. Mayor Judith Davis questioned the equipment listed under unmet needs, querying whether the department has discretionary funds for such items. There are not any discretionary funds in his budget, Hall replied. The items in question were \$2,000 for a computer with CD-Rom and modem for the mechanics, \$4,500 for transmission flusher/coolant recovery, and \$3,000 replacement lighting in old garages.

Bus

The driver of the Greenbelt Connection, Norman Lockerman, will retire at the end of FY98. It should be a smooth transition, said Hall, since he will be replaced by the driver now used as a substitute. The ridership is expected to remain about the same this fiscal year at 6,000 and it

will continue to be heavily subsidized by city funds at \$60,900 of the \$67,300 for the service in the FY99 budget.

Roberts suggested using it for commuters in the mornings and three other councilmembers also seemed interested in the idea. Turnbull inserted a note of caution noting that metro would be mad at the city for competing with them. And McLaughlin noted "we can't run a fixed route service any faster than Metro."

Miscellaneous

Personnel expenses are one of the biggest portions of the public works budget and this year a slight decrease is proposed to bring it to \$1,499,500. Two positions will not be filled, instead part-time and temporary

workers will be used as needed. Hall said although it is not in the budget, he could use at least an additional part-time worker, if not a full time person, to help clean the Community Center.

White asked if Hall had considered contracting out the cleaning services at the Community Center. This is done at the Aquatic and Fitness Center, explained Hall, but he main-

tained the way the buildings are now cleaned is the best overall system.

In FY99 \$489,100 is slated for public works administration; \$1,300 is proposed for the city cemetery; and \$46,100 for the Roosevelt Center Mall. Although not in the FY99 budget \$13,000 was requested so a system of security cameras could be installed at the public works compound.



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Armour Treet Luncheon Loaf	89¢ 12 oz.
Crystal Light Diet Lemonade Mix Makes 8 Qts.	\$1.99 2.2 oz.
Best Yet Long Grain Rice	39¢ 1 lb.
Polaner All Fruit Preserves All Varieties	\$1.39 10 oz.
Electrol Tabs Auto Dish Detergent	\$2.29 26 pk.
Perrier Natural Sparkling Waters	79¢ 25 oz.
Chef Boy Ar Dee Ravioli-Beefaroni-Mini Ravioli	\$2.19 40 oz.
Valley Fresh Premium White Chicken	\$1.29 5 oz.
Dial Pump Liquid Hand Soap	\$1.29 7 1/2 oz.
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Morton Table Salt	39¢ 26 oz.
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Best Yet Instant Pudding Mixes	29¢ 3 1/2 oz.-4 oz.
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POLICE BLOTTER

Based on Information Released by the Greenbelt Police Department

Rape

18 court of Ridge Road, April 14, 5 p.m., a 26-year-old male resident was charged with rape and assault after forcing himself on the victim, who was known to the suspect.

Armed Car-jacking

6100 block of Breezewood Court, April 13, 9:23 a.m., a man offered another man a ride from the 5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace to Breezewood Court. Upon arrival, the recipient of the ride produced a large knife and ordered the driver out of his vehicle. He then drove towards Springhill Lane. The suspect is described as black, 24 years of age, 5'7", with an average build, medium complexion, black hair and brown eyes and wearing a dark T-shirt and dark blue jeans. The vehicle is a dark green 1994 Hyundai Elantra 4-door with Maryland tags EGZ 768.

Assault

6200 block of Springhill Drive, April 15, 3:30 p.m., several juveniles were playing by knocking on apartment doors and running away. A man exited an apartment in anger and grabbed a 10-year-old female by her leg as she was running up the steps. A seven-year-old male hit the man with a stick, and he let go of the female. The man then grabbed the boy by the throat. Neither juvenile was injured. Investigation revealed that the apartment that the man had allegedly exited was vacant. The suspect is described as white, in his 40's, 5'10", bald, with a scar above his left eye and wearing dirty blue jeans and dirty boots.

Strong-Armed Robbery

9100 block of Springhill Lane, April 17, 3 a.m., a man opened the door of a woman's car and demanded her money. He then took the victim's purse and a compact disk player before fleeing on foot. The suspect is described as black, in his 20's, 5'10" to 6', 170 pounds, wearing a blue bandanna over his face and a white T-shirt.

Sexual Offense

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, April 16, 10:44 a.m., a 16-year-old male resident approached a female student, touched her breasts and asked her to "come to [his] house." She pushed the boy away and left the area. The boy was later charged with sexual contact. All parents were notified of the incident.

Unattended Children

Jeebers in Beltway Plaza Mall, April 13, 5:07 p.m., a 24-year-old female nonresident dropped off six children, ages 5 to 12, and then went shopping for over two hours. She was charged with leaving children unattended.

Burglary and Theft

6700 block of Lake Park Drive, April 13, 11:30 a.m., two refrigerators were stolen from a condominium under construction.

100 court of Westway, April 15, 8 p.m., currency was taken from a residence. The method of entry is unknown.

7800 block of Mandan Road, April 15, 10:46 p.m., a purple men's Magna mountain bike and a silver child's Huffy dirtbike were stolen from a second-story balcony.

Pinecrest Court, April 16,

6:08 p.m., a men's 27" Raleigh touring bicycle was stolen.

Vandalism

Roosevelt Center, April 12, 6:09 a.m., a window was broken at the Realty One office.

Vehicle Theft

A 1990 Acura Legend reported stolen October 3, 1997, from Beltway Plaza Mall was recovered April 11 in the 9700 block of Annapolis Road, Lanham. No arrests were made.

A 1987 Toyota Camry reported stolen March 28 from the 5800 block of Cherrywood Terrace was recovered April 14 in

the 8600 block of Baltimore Avenue. No arrests were made.

Beltway Plaza Mall, April 10, a 1989 Cadillac Seville, Maryland tags DPA 485, was stolen.

6200 block of Springhill Drive, April 11, a 1992 Ford conversion van, Maryland tags 964350M, was stolen.

Vandalisms to, thefts from, and attempted thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: 9100 block of Edmonston Court, 7200 block of Hanover Drive, 5800 block of Cherrywood Terrace, 5900 block of Cherrywood Lane, 5600 block of Greenbelt Metro Drive, Beltway Plaza Mall, 7700 block of Greenbelt Road, and 9300 block of Edmonston Road.



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SOLD 3 bed, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage, extra large rooms, pool and large shed in back yard. Quiet location. Ready to go! \$59,900

2 bedroom middle unit that's been freshly painted. Drop your suitcases and move in. Backs to woods and Parcel One! \$46,900

New - 3 Br townhome with modern kitchen. Fenced yard with lots of landscaping. 3rd br has built-in desk and bunk. \$49,900

3 bedrooms with new wall-to-wall carpet. Sellers will pay up to \$3,000 of your closing costs! \$51,000

3 bedroom block end unit with lots of extras. New paint, carpet and more. Just steps away from the center. See it! \$63,900

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New Listing - 2 br brick home with remodeled kitchen & bath. Refinished hardwood floors throughout. \$63,900 - \$1,000 c.h.

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New listing - 1 br lower level - open modern kitchen with counter/bar. Washer/dryer, hardwood floors and more. \$28,900

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Rare 1 bedroom lower level end unit that backs to woods. New carpet & refrigerator. Wooden deck w/bench in bkryd. \$27,900

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www.greenbelt.com/homes



GREENBELT AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER 1998 SPRING MINI-SESSION

In-person registration, first-come, first-served basis. All classes have a limit on enrollment. Early registration improves your chances of getting the class you want!! All registrants must sign up at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center for aquatic & fitness classes.

CLASS FEES: All class fees are noted in the course list. A 10% discount will be given to all senior citizens, 60 years old and over, for non-senior classes.

REFUNDS: The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center reserves the right to cancel classes due to insufficient registrants or causes beyond its control. Refunds will be made if classes are canceled by the Center. Other refunds will be made according to the provisions in the City of Greenbelt Resolution No. 65, which also requires that refund requests, for valid reasons, are to be submitted immediately in writing to the GAFC.

CITY RESIDENCY: Greenbelt residents are those who pay taxes to the City of Greenbelt AND are eligible to vote in City elections. That is as it should be, as our residents pay taxes to support the Recreation Centers and the Aquatic & Fitness Center in our community. However, just because someone has a Greenbelt address, does not necessarily mean they pay taxes to the City of Greenbelt and are able to vote in City elections. We want to be fair to the people whose tax money supports our programs. If you are not sure that you have a Greenbelt address, are able to vote in City elections, and pay City taxes, call 301-397-2204.

All registrants registering as a resident non-passholder must show proof of address to receive Greenbelt resident status. **Acceptable Proof: Valid license or current lease.**

MAINSTREAMING: Anyone who is physically, mentally, and/or emotionally challenged is encouraged to participate in any of the Aquatic & Fitness Center's programs. If you need any special assistance, please call 301-397-2208 or TTY 301-474-1811 and ask for Karen Haseley.

GAFC Class & Registration Dates

Spring Mini Session: May 11, 1998 - June 5, 1998

Passholders & Residents register: Monday, April 27 & Tuesday, April 28

Non-Residents register: Wednesday, April 29 - Friday, May 1

Register in person at the GAFC between 6:00am and 10:00pm for all dates noted above. Class rates do not include use of fitness wing or pool, before or after class times. Class rates have been pro-rated for Memorial Day

Activity	Day/Time	Pass Holders	Res-NonPass Holders	NonRes-NonPass Holders
Land Aerobics Classes (16 years+)				
Rise & Shine	M/W/F 6:30am-7:15am	\$28	\$33	\$37
Step I	M/W/F 6:30pm-7:15 pm	28	33	37
Step Circuit	T/TH 7:30pm-8:15 pm	25	30	35
Tighten & Tone	M/W/F 9:00am-9:45am	28	33	37
Tighten & Tone	T/TH 6:30pm-7:15pm	25	30	35
Water Aerobics Classes (16 years+)				
Aquacize	M/W/F 8:00am-8:45 am	\$28	\$33	\$37
Aquacize	M/W/F 10:15am-10:45am	28	33	37
Aquacize	M/W 7:00pm-7:45pm	23	27	31
Aquacize	T/TH 6:00pm-6:45 pm	25	30	35
Aquacize(drop-in)	F 6:00pm-6:45pm	2	5	5
Arthritis Aquatics	M/W/F 2:00pm-2:45pm	28	33	37
Deep Water Aerobics	M/W 7:00pm-7:45pm	23	27	31
Deep Water Aerobics	T/TH 6:00pm-6:45pm	25	30	35
Deep Water Arthritis	M/W/F 3:00pm-3:45pm	28	33	37
Seniortize	T/TH 10:00am-10:45am	23	28	33
Water Interval Training	M/W 6:00pm-6:45pm	23	27	31
Water Walking	T/TH 8:00pm-8:45pm	25	30	35

The Sound Scene

by Nick Mydra

Classical music came to Greenbelt April 11. The Wilson Chamber players performed a concert in the gymnasium of the new Greenbelt Community Center to benefit the Greenbelt Arts Center, which is in the midst of floor renovations because of water damage.

Although the community center gym also doubles as a basketball court, acoustically it is quite good, and performers can be heard all the way to the back of the room. But there are two things that would help "set the stage." First better lighting. The gym lights can't be lowered, only turned on or off. Secondly, a back-drop for the performers is needed. At present, the audience has to stare at a clock on the back wall of the stage and, out of the corner of their eyes, glimpse the "Exit" sign glowing. I know, I know, the city was having trouble finding money to fix all the windows in the place, and this is obviously lower on the priority scale. Still, these improvements would help the ambiance.

The Saturday evening performance featured singer Elizabeth Barber, Muriel Balzer on piano and Albert Hunt on clarinet. The music ranged from unknown composers of the 15th century Renaissance to the 20th century American Aaron Copland. The bios of the three performers read like a Who's Who of the musical world. All have received degrees from prestigious music schools,

have spent time teaching, and have performed with numerous musical groups in the States and abroad.

The program started out with soprano Elizabeth Barber singing three anonymous 15th century songs while accompanying herself on the autoharp. After each, she sang a modern version, with Balzer playing the piano. It was an interesting contrast.

Next, Muriel Balzer played the Nocturne in C# Minor by Chopin -music for a pianist by a pianist. Balzer, like Barber, has great technique and is a master of her instrument. It's a shame we didn't get to hear her perform more as a soloist. Most of her playing was as an accompaniment to the other two performers.

Barber sang an aria from the opera "Mignon" accompanied by Balzer on the piano. Barber showed very good control throughout her vocal range.

The first half ended with Albert Hunt playing the Sonata Opus 120 arranged for clarinet by Johannes Brahms. Muriel Balzer was on the piano. The piano and clarinet have very different sounds and don't necessarily marry well. Maybe that was why I kept wondering whether the clarinet was out of tune.

But after the intermission, Hunt played five parts of the "Dance Preludes" by Lutislawski, with Balzer on piano, and again his tone seemed to be off. It wasn't until the third part, the allegro giocoso, that his sound improved, perhaps because he had fiddled with the clarinet just before the third part began.

Muriel Balzer followed with "Sometimes I Feel Like a Moth-

erless Child," played softly yet with flair and dramatic verve. "At the River," and "Peter, Go Ring Dem Bells" featured soprano Barber singing much in the style of Marian Anderson. Balzer was on piano, providing a nice balance.

The evening ended with Albert

Hunt playing motives from the opera "Rigoletto." Hunt has good fingering technique, and this piece let him show it off with a flair. To quote "Oliver," "more, please."

Since this was a benefit performance, all three musicians were asked to provide part of the

evening's entertainment; perhaps as a result, the concert seemed a bit fragmented. There didn't seem to be a theme to pull the entire performance together.



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LOST CAT - Rusty, orange with faint black stripes. Lovable but old, has diabetes, requires insulin shots. Declawed, inside cat. Jumped from window on Easter Sunday, Eastway in Old Greenbelt. Please call 301/441-8570. Small reward.

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$2.50 minimum for ten words. 15¢ each additional word. No charge for listing items that are found. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Greenbelt Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. 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.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND - Bike on 4/15 near 73 Ct. Ridge playground. Call to identify, 301/474-1396.

LOST! One black glove. If found, please return to the News Review office.

MISSING - GHI CANDIDATES! Biographies are needed by May 1, 1998. Drop by GHI offices or contact the N&E committee for forms.

WANTED

WANTED - GHI members to become candidates for the board of directors, audit committee and N&E committee. 13 elected positions to be filled.

GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER
 101 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD

The Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center is now hiring Lifeguards and Pool Managers for the Summer. Please pick-up an application at the pool or call 301-397-2204 for further information.

IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL PET WEEK
 DOG OBEDIENCE DEMO
 Intermediate & Advance trained dogs from GREENBELT DOG TRAINING CLASSES
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FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT - Holy Cross Lutheran Church parking lot sale. Across from American Legion; Greenbelt Road exposure, May 2, 1998, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$10 per space. Call 301-345-5111 to register.

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"Fences" by August Wilson In a Gripping Performance

by Altoria Bell Ross

If you want to see skillful acting and intense staging, and experience the tension that only a well-written play can build, then you want to see *Fences*, playing at the Greenbelt Arts Center, April 24 - 26, May 1 - 3 and 8 and 9.

Fences, written by August Wilson, is a drama about the frustrations of a former baseball player in the Negro leagues who lives in the industrial North. The action takes place in the 1950s, a year after Jackie Robinson breaks baseball's color barrier. The play revolves around Troy, the protagonist, and how his disappointment in not making the major leagues affects his family and his dealings with the community. This production, directed by Norman Grant and produced by Gene Duarte and Carla Howard, portrays the complexity, despair, anguish, and at times, the light-heartedness of Troy's world.

This play originated in April 1985 at the Yale Repertory Theater in New Haven, Connecticut. It opened on Broadway two years later, starring James Earl Jones as Troy, Mary Alice as his long-suffering but assertive wife, Ray Aranha as his best friend, and Frankie Faison as Troy's brother, who is brain damaged as a result of fighting in World War II.

In the Greenbelt production, Troy (J. Alexander Washington), who is now a garbage man, is married to Rose (Allison P. Simpson). Rose encourages Troy to do right by his sons, Cory (Who Chatman) and Lyons (Richard Briggs and Willie Harris), and his brother Gabriel (Earl Hargrove). His best friend, Jim Bono (Carlton O. Ray), also tries to keep Troy on the straight and narrow. Raynell (Cherelle Kantey), who is Troy's "accidental" daughter, brings with her sunshine to lighten this heavy drama.

Good Acting

Washington spins Troy's tales like a natural storyteller - gestures and all. He also commands the roles of husband and father with authority. Washington renders many monologues and with the exception of a few times, he masters them flawlessly. Those monologues where he holds conversations with death are executed particularly well.

The beautiful leading lady, Simpson, with a singing voice to match, delivers her lines smoothly and consistently. Simpson plays her part with sweetness and compassion, espe-

cially when talking to Gabriel, Lyons, and Raynell. However, her performance should have had more toughness when she was confronting Troy, particularly when he tells her he is going to be somebody's daddy and she's not the momma.

Ray's booming-Satchmo voice and his responsive facial expressions and body language as Bono lend emphasis to his ability to deliver and receive punch lines. The audience got them, too.

Hargrove is spellbinding as Troy's brain-damaged brother. Hargrove portrays Gabriel in a childlike manner, which is fitting. His vapid expressions and halting speech make his character frighteningly realistic. One expects the people in the white coats to come and take him away at any moment.

On Saturday evening, April 18, Greenbelt resident Richard Briggs played Lyons. Director Grant selected two Lyons because

one of the actors was unable to perform in all of the shows. Grant is to be congratulated for his progressive-mindedness in casting a Caucasian actor in what commonly would be viewed as an African American role. Grant says his casting decision was not arbitrary. He said the script says nothing about the race of Lyons' mother, leaving open the possibility that she could have been Caucasian. In this scenario, Lyons looks more Caucasian than African American. Grant says he wants to see how accepting the African American community would be of this Lyons. Although Briggs gives an energetic and earnest performance, his appearance as Troy's son was initially confusing to the audience. In addition, when Troy hurls racial epithets at Briggs, it is at best, disconcerting. It will be interesting to see Harris' portrayal of this character.

Kantey is darling as Raynell. She is the ray of hope the family needs, along with her big brother, Cory, who is played by Chatman. Chatman's athletic

build gives credibility to his part as a high school football player and later as a stately Marine. Cory matures on stage. The wide-eyed Cory sulks and whines in his teen years, but converses as the mature adult he has become when he returns home for his father's funeral.

The Set and Staging

The set, which is on loan from The Studio Theater in Washington, D.C., looks authentic - the fence, the porch, the screen door, the clothesline. The baseball on the rope that Troy and Cory practice swinging at is cleverly hung from a beam in the theater's ceiling, in lieu of a tree.

Cory and his father fight several times in the play. The blocking is artfully carried out. However, at other times the placement of the actors doesn't quite work. On several occasions, Cory turns his back to the center audience or stands directly in front of someone seated on the porch. At the end, Lyons shares

the spotlight with Gabriel.

Tension

Fences has plenty of conflict, and it escalates in the second act when Troy tells Rose about his affair and the baby-to-be while Gabriel is trying to hold a disjointed conversation with her simultaneously. This scene is really gripping, and the timing is artful. The other scenes where the tension is thick occur when Troy and Cory brawl and when Gabriel is uncomfortable being in Troy's presence after Gabriel rents a room from a neighbor instead of living with Troy. The characters' interactions in these scenes bring out the tension a powerful play demands.

Parental Discretion

Adult topics such as adultery and fornication are woven throughout the play. Several of the characters use profanity. Parents should use discretion in bringing their children to this performance. Outside of these issues, it is a show worth seeing.



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