

# GREENBELT News Review

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JANUARY 16, 2003

## Chris Cherry Brings Creativity To City's Recreation Program

by Sabine Hentrich

"Greenbelt is full of amazingly talented people," exclaimed an always-cheerful Chris Cherry. Since Cherry is a playwright, musical composer, teacher of musical appreciation classes for seniors, faculty member of the Shakespeare Theatre's Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree program (in conjunction with George Washington University), coordinator of Creative Kids Camp and one of Greenbelt's Recreation Coordinators – to mention just some of his current accomplishments – he undoubtedly qualifies as one of these amazingly talented people.

The story of Cherry's artistic career is as interesting as it is unusual. Cherry was born in Texas and grew up in a family of five. His father was a politician. When Cherry was six years old, his family moved to Prince George's County after his father became the administrative assistant to a U.S. Senator from Texas.

"I am a product of the Prince George's County School system," he said with a chuckle. Cherry is a graduate of Oxon Hill Senior High where his first job was shelving books at the Oxon Hill Library Branch. Later he attended College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va., where he obtained a degree in government. He then moved on to law school at the University of Virginia, where he graduated in 1986. He practiced law for a litigation firm in Washington, D.C. until he quit the profession in 1992.

"I was always interested in politics and government because of my dad but I was [also] always interested in theater and music." According to Cherry, it was a combination of things that kept him from heading straight into a career in the performing arts. One of them was that his older brother had studied theater and music and Cherry wanted to "strike out on my own into a

different field." Cherry knew early on that he did not want to pursue his job as a lawyer. "The pressure and how confrontational it was just wasn't for me; it didn't make me happy," he said.

In 1992 he moved into his GHI home in Greenbelt and began his career shift to the performing arts. He studied the Alexander acting technique (a "learning method that lots of performing artists take. It helps people perceive and set aside habits that impede their best performance," he explained) for three years. He now is the acting instructor in the Alexander technique for the Shakespeare Theatre's MFA program, where he teaches in addition to his full-time commitment at the Community Center. (Cherry has also taught acting at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. and Manhattanville College in

See **CHERRY**, page 5

## ACE Reading Club Seeks Members in Grades K-12

The ACE (Advisory Committee on Education) Reading Club has been visiting Greenbelt schools over the past month, reintroducing the club to students. The club held school assemblies in Springhill Lake Elementary School and Greenbelt Middle School where the students were very excited to learn how they could join. Liz Murray, coordinator of the ACE Reading Club, visited several Greenbelt Elementary School classrooms to speak with the students about possible Reading Club activities and the television project. The television project allows the students to read a book of their choice and write a short book review. The students are then videotaped reading their review and that tape is aired on the City of Greenbelt's cable channel at a later date.

The ACE Reading Club is hosting a High School Poetry and Short Fiction Contest for students in grades 9 through 12 (see details in a separate article).

The ACE Reading Club is voluntary and open to all Greenbelt students grades K through 12 or children residing in the city. It is designed to inspire and encourage students to read and enjoy books, develop a life long interest in reading and explore a basic skill for success. The committee wants to send the message that "reading is fun!"

Anyone interested in the ACE Reading Club, book review packets, the High School Poetry and Short Fiction Contest or additional information should contact Liz Murray, ACE Reading Club coordinator, at 301-345-6660 or e-murray@att.net.

## Reading Club Hosts Writing Contest

The ACE Reading Club, established by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) and funded through a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, is hosting a High School Poetry and Short Fiction Contest. This contest is open to all high school students (grades 9 through 12) who are residing in Greenbelt or attending a school in Greenbelt.

Registration forms and contest guidelines can be requested from the student's English teacher, school librarian or by contacting Liz Murray at the ACE Reading Club (High School Contest), City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Winning entries will be presented by the student authors at a Winner's Reading, which is to be taped and aired on the City of Greenbelt's local cable channel. All entries should be sent to Liz Murray/ACE Reading Club (High School Contest) at the above address. Entries must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 28.

Winners will be announced on Friday, April 18 through the local cable channel, local newspaper and City of Greenbelt web site. All participants will be invited to the ACE Reading Club Reception held at the end of the school year.

The ACE Reading Club is also looking for sponsors to contribute merchandise certificates, cash prizes and T-shirts for the contest. People interested in becoming a sponsor should contact Liz Murray at 301-345-6660 or email e-murray@att.net.

## West Coast Gourmet Chef Gives New Life to Café

by Dorothy Sucher

"My sons tell me, 'Cooking isn't your profession – it's your obsession,'" says Ellen Siegel, the new kitchen manager at the New Deal Café in Greenbelt's Roosevelt Center. At the Café, Siegel is facing a unique new challenge after her more than 30 years as a career chef and baker on the West Coast.

The New Deal, one of Greenbelt's many co-ops, serves an important function as community meeting place, eatery, music venue and gallery for local artists. But the Café perpetually hovers on the brink of financial collapse and the cooking facilities can be charitably described as "improvised." Even a restaurant range and hood are lacking and much of the cooking is done two nights a week in the Community Center kitchen.

As for the rest, "Give me a hot plate and I'm good to go!" declares Siegel, who cooks soups and other items at the Café on a couple of electric griddles ("they're not even commercial

size") and an electric wok she picked up at a yard sale. "It limits us, slows us down," she admits. "It makes operating the Café – interesting."

Quite a change for a chef who once cooked breakfast for Julia Child. And yet Siegel's life has amply prepared her to meet a challenge. She's one of those people who thrive on crises. "I'm not a good sitter," she says. "I like the stress and the hustle."

Ellen Siegel was born and grew up in the Washington, D.C., area, the youngest of two daughters of Pearl and the late Irving Siegel of Ridge Road. In the sixties, at the age of 17, she took off for California and remained there for over 30 years, working as a chef at a number of restaurants in the San Francisco Bay area, Marin County and Los Angeles. Last July she moved to Greenbelt to be with her mother, who turns 80 next week.

When Ellen announced her

See **SIEGEL**, page 12

## City Council Honors Pitkin For Decades of Service

by Virginia Beauchamp

Former 23rd district Delegate Joan Pitkin, who served in the Maryland state legislature for 24 years, was warmly praised by members of the Greenbelt City Council at the January 13 regular council meeting. She was present to receive council's parting gift in recognition of her devoted service to the city of more than two decades. She had unavoidably missed the January 5 council reception for all Greenbelt's former representatives because of the heavy snowfall on that day, which, since she is on crutches following a recent knee operation, made the possibility of driving too treacherous.

Since her defeat in the 2002 election, when the 23rd district delegation was diminished by one member through redistricting, she has been appointed by Prince George's County Executive Jack Johnson as paid consultant to serve as the county's lobbyist during the legislative session in Annapolis.

Mayor Judith Davis praised Pitkin and the "old" 23rd district team for their "phenomenal" representation of the city's interests. "They were very much on Greenbelt's side," the mayor said. She particularly praised Pitkin for her representation on health and social service issues. Pitkin



Former Delegate Joan Pitkin receives accolades from the Greenbelt City Council.

also took the lead on teleworking, another issue of importance to the city.

"My heart is really here in Greenbelt," Pitkin said. She commented on her constructive relationship over the past two decades with five different mayors – Gil Weidenfeld, Richard Pilski, Richard Castaldi, Antoinette Bram and now Davis. She quoted a state office worker as describing the "old" 23rd district as the most active in the state in generating and responding to legislation. "I'm proud of the activism," Pitkin said.

Davis said that a plaque will soon be installed dedicating to the "old" 23rd district representatives the two star magnolias near the main entrance to the Greenbelt Community Center. She also presented Pitkin with a miniature model of the building itself, one of a series now being offered for sale by the Greenbelt Museum.

### What Goes On

#### Monday, January 20,

City and GHI offices closed for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday.

#### Tuesday, January 21,

6 p.m., Playground meeting, Springhill Lake playground.

7 p.m., ACE meeting, Municipal Building.

#### Wednesday, January 22,

8 p.m., Senior Citizen Advisory Committee meeting, Community Center.

#### Thursday January 23,

7:30 p.m., Advisory Committee on Trees, Community Center.

7:30 p.m., GHI Board meeting, GHI Boardroom.

#### Saturday, January 25,

9 a.m. to noon, Electronics Recycling, Buddy Attick Park.

## A Review

## "Nunsense" Is a Nonesuch

by Sabine Hentrich

"Nunsense," a musical comedy by Dan Goggin, opened on Friday at the Greenbelt Arts Center. Those who take their faith too seriously and never joke about it should stay away from this show, especially if they're Roman Catholic. However, people of all faiths who enjoy laughing at anything, including themselves, will love these two hours of simple, silly fun with Goggin's hit musical.



From left, Laura Mastroianni, Verlene Biddings Goho, Barbara Ying, Dory Cunningham, and Amelia Montiero dance in Nunsense.

The musical originally premiered in New York City in December 1985 and ran for a record-setting eight years off Broadway. It was, in fact, so popular that it sparked four sequels by the same author/composer and was made into a film.

Jeffrey Lesniak skillfully directed the Arts Center's version as well as conducted the live band. Like Goggin, Lesniak enjoyed a Catholic education and has many fond memories of real-life nuns (who Goggin claimed inspired his musical). Lesniak dedicated the show to Catholics he's known who have shown him that "Catholicism and humor are not mutually exclusive."

The comedy follows the fundraising efforts of five sisters who need money to bury four of their fellow nuns who died of food poisoning at their convent. The whole setup and plot are, of course, completely over the top. It is, however, so artfully exaggerated and cleverly put together that even people who rarely frequent the theater would enjoy this show. (If this sounds at all like Whoopi Goldberg's "Sister Act," think again — this musical is far more intelligent and inspiring.)

Dory Cunningham, as Sister Mary Amnesia (who later remembers her real name to be Mary Paul) was especially fabulous as the immature and dim member of the quintet. She had two scenes in which she was able to prove just how talented an actor and singer she is. The first was an audience quiz she held in which she had to improvise quite a bit, in response to the audience's input. She was never frazzled and always came up with a clever comeback. The second was when she performed a song as a ventriloquist. The puppet, which represented the stereotype of an unreasonably strict nun, commented on what it takes to be a servant of God. While listening to the puppet's crude remarks, Sister "Amnesia" reacted as if childishly shocked. The audience roared at Cunningham's skillful skit.

The audience also seemed to enjoy Cunningham's beautiful voice. Cunningham, however, was not the only great singer on stage. Verlene Biddings Goho, who played Sister Mary Hubert, impressed the audience with her extraordinary singing talent. Goho's rendition of the hysterical song, "I Am Holier Than Thou," would have earned Aretha Franklin's r-e-s-p-e-c-t.

Although the other three nuns were very good in their roles, they could not compete with Cunningham's and Goho's voices. Barbara Ying as Mother Superior (Sister Mary Regina) was very funny, especially in

telling the story of the path that led her to become a nun. Ying was great at bringing out the sarcasm in the tale of how her parents fell into the River Thames while trying to cross on a tightrope.

In a role where it is easy to overact, Ying managed to walk that fine line between good fun and ludicrousness. But her downfall was her soft voice. Sometimes it could not be heard over the boisterous live music.

Amelia Montiero and Laura Mastroianni, as Sister Robert Anne and Sister Mary Leo, respectively, complemented the ensemble in every way. Montiero was convincing in the role of the youngest and most sexual of the nuns, who had joined the convent because of a troubled past in Brooklyn. Her interaction with the audience was marvelous and she kept her character just as fresh and naughty as she is supposed to be, to contrast with her fellow sisters.

Mastroianni, as the ballet-dancing nun, impressed the audience with her rendition of "The Dying Nun," which, among other pieces, she choreographed herself.

The musicians, who interacted with the audience and actors, played well and were a great asset to the show. They were appropriately dressed as priests. Jeffery Lesniak conducted Victor Medina on the piano, Keith Miller and Christine Wells on other keyboards, and Jack Esham on the drums and other percussion. Unfortunately, since the Arts Center is pretty small, live music can get a bit loud.

Tom Zanner, the Arts Center's lighting designer, did a great job, as always. The set was simple and appropriate. Since the actors dance and sing much of the time, a bulky, beautiful set would not work.

One cannot say too much about this show without spoiling the fun. Anyone who can enjoy some mischievous humor about nuns and the Catholic Church must see it. It's a great way to lift one's spirits on a cold January day.

Performances will continue Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through February 1 at 8 p.m., with two Sunday matinees on January 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.

## City Notes

The week of January 6 the horticulture crew pruned trees and shrubs on Hanover Parkway, mulched and covered beds on Southway, planted liriopie in the median strips near the Co-op and cut logs from trees into firewood and left them for citizen use.

The parks crews continued collection of leaves and Christmas trees at the drop-off locations, painted two spring animals, removed the wooden arts figures in Roosevelt Center after the New Year's Eve celebration, installed a turf blanket at Schrom Hills Park, installed new benches and a trash can at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and installed fences at Windsor Green and Schrom Hills Parks.

The streets crew repaired potholes on Northway and on the path at the Buddy Attick Park, repaired and cleaned salt spreaders and plows which were used on Sunday, cleaned storm drains and underpasses and substituted for the Greenbelt Connection driver.

## Arboretum Features Bonsai Silhouettes

The elegant silhouettes of deciduous bonsai are featured in the free annual exhibit at the U.S. National Arboretum's National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. Bonsai winter silhouettes will be exhibited January 18 to 26 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit [www.usna.usda.gov](http://www.usna.usda.gov) or call 202-245-4523 for information.

## Greenbelt CARES

During the week of January 6, Judge Hering held registration for the winter session GED course. GED I reviews basic skills, and GED II prepares students to take the GED test and includes a review of algebra, geometry and English composition. The course, held in the Municipal Building, will run for 10 weeks. Six students enrolled in the course.

Wendy Wexler interviewed students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School as participants in the Teen Discussion Group. The new eight-week group will discuss a wide variety of topics including school success, dealing with stress, anger management and goal setting.

## OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

Week of January 17

The Pianist (R)

Friday

\*5:00, 8:00

Saturday

\*2:00, \*5:00, 8:00

Sunday &amp; Monday

\*2:00, \*5:00, 7:45

Tuesday - Thursday

\*5:00, 7:45

\*These shows at \$4.00

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## The Old Curmudgeon



"It's called the New Deal Café, but it serves nouvelle cuisine!"



I. J. PARKER ©2003

## Openings Available In Adult Ed. Classes

Registration was held for Adult Education Classes at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Monday, January 13 and Wednesday, January 15. Adult Education classes include ABE Reading classes, Pre-GED and all levels of ESL classes. Sessions meet Monday and Wednes-

day evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. and begin on Monday, January 27.

There is still room in many of the classes for students. Late registration will be held on January 27. Go to room 221 at Roosevelt if interested in any of these classes.

 Rotary Club of Greenbelt 

You Are Invited to Join Us —  
Every Thursday 7:45 a.m. for Breakfast!  
At the Marriott Hotel on Ivy Lane  
For Lots of Fun, Food and Fellowship

*Please give blood at our January 31st Blood Drive  
From 9am-3pm at Doctors Hospital.  
Call 301-552-8060 for an appointment.*

**WE NEED YOU!!**  
Call Jennifer Jones (301) 441-4770

## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

newsreview@greenbelt.com

301-474-4131 • FAX 301-474-5880

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977

Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985

President Emeritus, 1985-

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662

Assistant Editor: Barbara Likowski 301-474-8483

News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805

## STAFF

Hopi Auerbach, Suzanne Batra, Virginia Beauchamp, Laura Beckert, Judy Bell, Margaret Benjamin, Judi Bordeaux, Sharon Carroll, Sue Curtis, Pat Davis, Thelma deMola, Eileen Farnham, Thomas Fishbeck, Bob Garber, Al Geiger, Bernina Giese, James Giese, Judy Goldstein, Eve Gresser, Patty Heil, Sabine Hentrich, Solange Hess, Barbara Hopkins, Elizabeth Jay, Dennis Jelalian, Tom Jones, Julia Kender, Suzanne Krofchik, Meta Lagerwerff, Pam Lambird, Sandra Lange, Betsy Likowski, Maria del Mar Lopez, Marilyn Low, Lucie MacKinnon, Pat McCoy, Cathy Meetre, Emma Mendoza, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, John Mortenson, Alice Murray, Nick Mydra, Diane Oberg, Millie O'Dea, I.J. Parker, Linda Paul, Leonie Penney, Eileen Peterson, Carol Ready, Jane Rissler, Altoria Bell Ross, Sandra Surber Smith, Barbara Starbird, Dorothy Sucher, Helen Sydavar, Joanne Tucker, David Wallace, Marbury Wethered, Barbara Young, Virginia Zanner, and Keith Zevallos.

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Ron Wells 301-474-4131

CIRCULATION (Core of Greenbelt):

Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Giese, president; Eileen Farnham, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Mary Moien, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Barbara Hopkins, and Judy Bell.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and 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.

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

## Explore Meditation

Explorations Unlimited presents Luisa Montero-Diaz, teacher of The Insight Meditation Community of Washington, on Friday, January 24. Montero-Diaz has been practicing meditation for 12 years and teaching since 1995. She completed a three-year Community Dharma Leadership training program sponsored by Spirit Rock Meditation Center. She currently teaches a weekly meditation class in Takoma Park and leads day-long and weekend retreats in the Washington area.

Montero-Diaz will be exploring the technique of meditation, its simplicity and power. People will learn how meditation involves relaxing and focusing the attention on the present moment. Meditation also helps to reduce stress by allowing individuals to relax, slow down, ease the mind and access a state of calmness that can be quite healing. Montero-Diaz will be introducing a particular form of meditation called Vipassana or insight meditation, including theory and experimental exercises.

Explorations Unlimited is a speaker series held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. This presentation will be held in the Senior Classroom. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

## Sierra Club Meets

Join the Sierra Club of Greenbelt and other concerned environmentalists to hear about the most important conservation issues facing the general assembly this session. A legislative issues forum is planned for Tuesday, January 28 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt police station, 550 Crescent Road. The presentation will focus on information about the latest environmental issues and about action citizens can take. For more information call the Sierra Club office at 301-277-7111.

## GHI Notes

GHI's offices will be closed Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. For emergency maintenance that day call 301-474-6011.

The Member and Community Relations Committee will meet January 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The next board of directors meeting will be January 23 at 7:30 p.m.

The next pre-purchase seminar will be Monday, January 27 at 7:15 p.m.

All meetings will be held in the GHI Board Room.

Members are always welcome to attend committee and board meetings.



Greenbelt Arts Center announces Auditions for **The Tempest** by William Shakespeare Directed by Stephen Cox **Monday - Wednesday, Jan. 20, 21 & 22 at 7:30 p.m.** 6-13 men and 3-10 women Cold readings from the script. Those auditioning for Ariel should be prepared to sing & move. Performances April 25 - May 17 301-441-8770 for info/directions

# Community Events

## Friends of New Deal Café Arts Organize

The first organizational meeting of Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA) will take place on Monday, January 27 at 8 p.m. at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center. Anyone interested in helping to support the arts at the New Deal Café is welcome. FONDCA is looking for people who want to help with programs such as concerts or work on publicity or fundraising. FONDCA was recently founded to provide financial and volunteer support for the performing, visual and literary arts at the New Deal Café. Patrons of the New Deal Café who would like to help it continue and expand its arts programs, should come out on January 27 and find out what FONDCA is all about. To learn more, call 301-474-2192.

## At the Library

Monday, January 20 – Libraries closed. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday.

Tuesday, January 21, 7 p.m. Cliffhangers for ages 5 to 8.

Wednesday, January 22, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Cuddletime for ages 12 to 24 months with caregiver. Registration required.

Thursday, January 23, 10:15 a.m. Drop-In Storytime for ages 3 to 5.

11:15 a.m. Toddler Time for two-year olds with caregiver.

## Local Blood Supply Still Critically Low

The regional office of the American Red Cross, which issued an urgent call for blood donors earlier this month, reports that the area's blood supply remains low. The blood supply is still insufficient to meet all hospitals' requirements for blood. All eligible and new donors are urged to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) to make an appointment to donate blood.

Nationally, the Red Cross says blood banks are facing a critical shortage of blood. In many parts of the country, there is less than a two-day supply.

The next Greenbelt blood drive is set for February 25, from 2 - 8 p.m. at the Municipal Building. The Rotary Club is sponsoring a blood drive January 31 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Doctors Hospital. Call 301-552-8060 for an appointment

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club began the New Year with the installation of officers on January 8. Karen Haseley of the Recreation Dept. was the installing officer. Newly-installed officers are: President – Ellie Rimar; 1st Vice President – Micki Wiedenfeld; 2nd Vice President – Ima Davis; Recording Secretary – Bunny Fitzgerald; Treasurer – Robert Terrell; Corresponding Secretary – Rachel Algaze.

The 50/50 winners were Tonia Fike and Paul Rall. Shirley Hibbs won the Name Tag drawing. Two guests were welcomed – Dorothy Walsh and Jim Dobbins.

Travel committee chair John Taylor announced the trip to the Spy Museum on January 28. Lori Moran reported a trip to hear Charlie Proze on March 27. There is a fee for these trips. Ernie Varda stated a park ranger will speak at the January 22 meeting, Bingo on January 29 and Tom Moran will bring the membership up to date on the new income tax rules in February.

The club was saddened by the death of Hilda Orleans Yontz, a longtime member.

Now is the time to pay dues for 2003. The club always welcomes new members. Many thanks to the outgoing officers and committees for all their hard work and dedication the past year.

## Simplicity Group Meets Wednesday

Interested in simplifying life? Tired of running on empty and want to discuss ways to deepen the meaning of life? There is a group for that. A new Voluntary Simplicity Circle is forming in Greenbelt. There are several interested people, but the group is looking for a few more members who want to get together and discuss various mechanisms for making life less stressful and more meaningful. The group will run for eight sessions. The maximum group size is 12. Come to an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22 at the New Deal Café. To learn more, contact Lore Rosenthal by email at SimplicityGrpsMd@aol.com or 301-570-7557.

## Computer "How To"

Using a computer causes files to be created on the computer. But how does one find, view, delete and organize all those files? On Friday, January 24, Mary Camp will show how in a Greenbelt Internet Access Cooperative's (GIAC) free class, "How to Manage Your Computer Files - Part 1." The lecture will be at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Dining Hall 2 from 7 to 8 p.m. For further information, call GIAC's voice mail at 301-419-8044. Registration is unnecessary, but to reserve a copy of the handouts call GIAC by Wednesday, January 22. This class is open to all.

## Big Fat Greek Dance Party on Sunday

Seen the movie? Now do the dance! The Greek Dance Group of Greenbelt, which has resumed its class and social activities, will be hosting an open house this Sunday at their usual time and meeting place in the Greenbelt Community Center's dance studio from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Admission to the event is free, but since refreshments will be served during the dance intermission, those attending are requested to bring along a contribution in the form of a snack or non-alcoholic drink to share with the rest of the group.

At the open house event, regular class members will perform dances from various parts of Greece, and guests are invited to join in. No partner is required, since all the dances will be line dances, some of which will be easy enough for newcomers to pick up quickly. Some of the dances reflect the multicultural influences of other countries in the region.



Our sympathy to the Schultz family of Research Road on the death of Alan's wife, Michael's mother, Bryn Schultz on January 14. Arrangements were not final in time for notice in this week's News Review.

Condolences to Donald Brooks of Empire Place on the death of his grandmother, who raised him.

Congratulations to Dr. J.P. Dubey of Lastner Lane, who was recently identified as a top researcher in the nation in the discipline of plant and animal science.

The author of 1,000 articles, Dubey was the only veterinarian to make the list of the Thomson Institute for Scientific Information.

Army Pvt. LaShaw E. Gibson has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C.

During nine weeks of training, Gibson received instruction in drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics, military courtesy, the military justice system, physical fitness, basic first aid and the Army's history, tradition and core values. She also received special training in human relations. Gibson is the daughter of Brenda Gibson of Edmonston Terrace.

## Invasive Plants – Out!

The GHI Woodlands Committee will be removing invasive plants from Parcel W on Sunday, January 19 from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet at the corner of Research and Greenhill. Parcel W is on the west side of Research Road and north of Greenhill. For more information, contact Jonathan Murray at 301-345-7933.



**PRELIMINARY AGENDA MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Thursday, January 23, 2003  
GHI Board Room – 7:30 p.m.

**GHI Key Agenda Items**

- Member Request for Exception – 58G Ridge Road
- Fee Reallocations – Finance Committee Presentation to Board
- Over-expenditure on Medical/Dental Benefits
- Schedule a Stakeholders Session

Regular board meetings are open to members.

## Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club

# SPRING SOCCER


## Ages 5-17



Register at the following locations:  
**Greenbelt Youth Center**  
Wed., Jan. 22, 7-8pm  
Sat., Jan. 25, 10-11am  
Thurs., Jan. 30, 7-8pm

If you are new to the Club, please bring: small picture, proof of residency, birth certificate or passport, sports fee of \$65 payable by cash, check or money order. Don't forget to ask about family discounts.

For more information, call our 24 hour voicemail at 301-794-0100. COACHES ARE NEEDED! Please call to have an application mailed to you.



**NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS**  
**GUTTER CLEANING & LEAF REMOVAL PROGRAMS**

The wintry weather has hampered the progress of gutter cleaning on GHI homes. However, the majority of units within the community have been cleaned. The following addresses will be done the week of January 20th, as weather permits.

- 1 through 12 courts Plateau Place
- 56 through 73 courts Ridge Road
- 1 & 3 & 5 through 15 courts Laurel Hill Road
- 19 through 22 courts Hillside Road
- 1 through 9 courts Research Road

Scheduled updates will be published in the Greenbelt News Review. The contact supervisor for the program is Paul Hill. He can be reached at 301-474-4161.

The weather conditions that have occurred over the past two months have considerably slowed down the removal of leaves from common areas. To date leaves have been picked up from approximately 60 percent of the common areas. The GHI maintenance staff will continue to remove leaves as the weather permits.

# Obituaries

## Eve Simonson



Former Greenbelter Eve Simonson, 76, of DeKalb, Ill., died Tuesday, August 13, 2002, at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, Ill.

Born April 2, 1926 in Oak Park, Ill., she attended school in Oak Park and graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana, with honors in mathematics in 1948.

Tragedy struck early in her life. Her father, hit with poison gas in World War I that damaged his lungs, died at age 38. He left a widow with five children age 15 and younger. Eve's mother went to work full-time in a factory while Eve - age 11 - took over the grocery shopping and cooking the evening meal. At that point Eve vowed that regardless of what happened, she was going to enjoy life as long as she lived. That is exactly what she did.

She married Cliff Simonson in 1948. They had five children. Four were born in Washington, D.C., and one was born in Guyana, South America, where Cliff was carrying out a wetlands soil survey under the Technical Assistance Program for Underdeveloped Countries. The family then moved to Greenbelt.

During the 17 years the children were young, Mrs. Simonson was very active in community affairs. She was a leader in starting a kindergarten program and a foreign language program in Greenbelt's Center School and also served as treasurer for those programs. She helped bring a public library to Greenbelt. For 10 years she was the 4-H leader for the Greenbelt Cloverbuds, the club that she started. She was circulation manager for the News Review and was a member of Greenbelt Community Church.

As the children approached their college years Mrs. Simonson went to work at nearby NASA. She was soon put in charge of the OGO series (orbiting weather satellites). She worked there until her husband was hired by the Northern Illinois University (NIU) Geography Department.

Back in Illinois, she began work in computer services, soon becoming manager of the infant user services group, a position she held for most of her 21 years at NIU. Under her innovative leadership, the group became one of the top user services groups in the U.S. and Canada.

Mrs. Simonson taught many different short courses. She was a guest lecturer in graduate research courses in several NIU departments. She brought national recognition to NIU several times.

For example, she organized and ran the first-ever national workshop in SPSS (a statistical analysis package used especially in the social sciences), and made 11 videotapes for teaching SPSS that are sold across the country. She was elected to the Platinum Club (the top 20 users of SPSS in the world).

A longtime member of the Mayfield Congregational Church (U.C.C.), she served as moderator, treasurer, newsletter editor, president of Women's Fellowship, and historian. She was a longtime member of Altrusa, where she served as president and treasurer, and she was on the board of directors of DeKalb County Farmland Foundation. Three years ago she was honored as a Woman of Accomplishment.

She is survived by her husband, Cliff, of DeKalb; four daughters, Laura (Ray Pudwill) Simonson of Plymouth, Minn., Linda (Bill Brown) Simonson of Bowie, Md., Jenny (Roger) Burke of Athens, Ga., and Judy (David) Maffitt of University City, Mo.; a son, Carl (Ardis) Simonson of DeKalb; a sister, Helen (Bill) Hobson of Eldred; a brother, Harold (Evelyn) Lind of Sun City, Ariz.; 10 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held in August. A memorial fund is established in care of Quiram-Sycamore Funeral Home, 1245 Somonauk St., Sycamore, IL 60178.

## Hoyer Launches A Whip Website

On the opening day of the 108th Congress, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer launched a new Democratic Whip website at democraticwhip.house.gov. The website features resources for Members of Congress and their staffs, as well as the press and public.

The new Democratic Whip website posts scheduling information associated with House floor activity, in addition to other legislative, member and press resources. It highlights a Floor Feature each week to provide Democratic positions on legislation coming to the Floor or other policies important to the Democratic caucus.

## M-NCPPC Sponsors SMARTlink Service

To better serve the public, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation is implementing a new program called SMARTlink.

SMARTlink will allow people to register for classes and activities via touch-tone telephone or computer (with Internet access) 24 hours a day. It is anticipated people will be able to use SMARTlink to register for classes from the Winter/Spring 2003 Guide to Park and Recreation Classes and Activities.

SMARTlink was designed to be helpful - it is fast, efficient, secure and convenient. Users can register for a class at any time - day or night - from home, office or anywhere there is access to a touch-tone telephone or an Internet connection. They will receive immediate confirmation of acceptance to a class or have their name put on a waiting list if the class is full. Payment for classes will be made via credit or debit card.

Before using the system, people must register as SMARTlink clients at one of the commission's 37 community centers or other staffed commission recreation facility in Prince George's County. Documentation with proof of identity, residency and age is required. Each member of a family needs to be registered as a SMARTlink customer, so each needs to stop by with documentation. Once this step is completed, bar codes and PIN numbers allowing access into the SMARTlink system will be mailed to the home.

Acceptable proof of identity includes driver's license or MVA ID card, passport, resident/alien card, school ID card, military ID card or other government-issued ID.

For more information about registering as a SMARTlink client, call M-NCPPC Public Affairs Office at 301-699-2407; TTY 301-699-2544 or read about the program on M-NCPPC's web site, www.pgpc.org.

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)  
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community  
January 19, 10 a.m.

"Remembering Martin Luther King, Jr." A program of song and text with singer/actor Karl Gipson and pianist David Chapman



Barbara Wells and Jacob B. ten Have, co-ministers

## Recital/Drama Will Remember Dr. King

On Sunday morning, January 19, noted area singer and actor Karl Gipson joins with pianist David Chapman in presenting a "recital-drama about the life, achievements and memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." This portrayal will be featured at the 10 a.m. service at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church in Adelphi, 3215 Powder Mill Road, just south of Cherry Hill Road. All are welcome to attend.

A Washington, D.C. resident for the past 25 years, Gipson studied at the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and Arts, Hunter College in New York City and the University of Vienna. He toured Europe in a production of "Porgy and Bess" during the early 1970s.

David Chapman's current positions include teaching piano at the Landon School in Bethesda, pianist and assistant conductor of the Washington Civic Opera Chorus and interim music director and pianist for Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church.

He holds degrees and performance diplomas in piano performance from the Peabody Conservatory and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y. where he was concerto soloist and served as opera coach (in both conservatories).

## Volunteer Readers Needed for "Ear"

Volunteer readers are being recruited by the Metropolitan Washington Ear, Inc. to record newspapers and magazines for free telephone access by visually impaired and print-disabled people. Volunteers are asked to read at least two hours once a week or two hours every other weekend. An audition is required. For more information, call the office Monday through Friday at 301-681-6636. The office address is 35 University Boulevard East, Silver Spring.

## Interfaith Service Honors Dr. King

The Community Ministry of Prince George's County, a non-profit group in its 29th year of helping needy people, will hold its 21st annual county-wide interfaith worship service to commemorate the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The program will take place on January 19 at 7 p.m. in the Cheverly United Methodist Church at 2801 Cheverly Avenue in Cheverly.

The Community Ministry coordinates faith-based and other volunteers in providing direct services and operates the Answer Center, an online information and referral service. (See <http://www.cmpgc.org> for further information.)

The program's theme is "United We Stand ... Together We Stand." It will include representatives from various congregations across the county. Rev. Rachel Wangen-Hoch of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Riverdale will perform as soloist. The men's choir of Christ United Methodist Church, Aquasco, The Voices of A New Generation from Hemingway Memorial AME Church, District Heights and others will also be featured.

The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. William Robert Porter, civil rights activist and community leader. There is no charge for the program, but a freewill offering will go to support the on-going work of Community Ministry Services for the needy.

### Baha'i Faith

"O My Friend in Word! Ponder awhile. Hast thou ever heard that friend and foe should abide in one heart? Cast out then the stranger, that the Friend may enter His home."

-Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community  
P.O. Box 245  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-345-2918 301-220-3160

Information about the Baha'i Faith is on the World Wide Web at <http://www.bahai.org/>

### GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH



Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor  
Corner of Crescent & Greenhill Rds  
301-474-4212 [gbaptist@myexcel.com](mailto:gbaptist@myexcel.com)

Sun. Worship 8:35 & 11:00 am, 6 pm  
Wed. Praise and Prayer 7 pm  
Wed. Living Proof for Youth 7 pm

"BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FAMILY OF GOD THRU THE LOVE OF CHRIST"



### St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

7010 Glenn Dale Road (Lanham-Severn Road and Glenn Dale Road)  
301-262-3285 | [stgeogd@aol.com](mailto:stgeogd@aol.com) | [www.stgeo.org](http://www.stgeo.org)

Sundays: 8:00 am A Simple, Quiet Mass  
9:00 am Christian Education for All Ages  
10:00 am Sung Mass with Organ and Folk Music, ASL Interpreted



Nursery Provided 9:00-11:30 am

An inclusive congregation!

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.  
Saturday 5 p.m.

Daily Mass: As announced  
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.  
Rev. Thomas F. Crowley, Pastor  
Rev. R. Scott Hurd, Pastoral Associate  
Part Time Ministry

### ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Md.

### Greenbelt Community Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

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



### Catholic Community of Greenbelt

MASS  
Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building

### UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church



HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE  
[www.gbmgm-UMC.org/mowatt](http://www.gbmgm-UMC.org/mowatt)

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
301-474-9410  
SUNDAY

Children and Adults Bible Study 9:45 am  
Worship Service 11:00 am  
Mon. Disciple Bible Study 7:00 p.m.  
Tues. Lectionary Study 8:00 a.m.  
Wed. Prayer Meeting 6:45 p.m.

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

Jan 19, Sermon: "Drawn to the Lord" Human Relations Day  
Contemporary Worship

# CHERRY continued from page 1

New York.)

"My first job for Greenbelt was actually as park ranger," Cherry said. He was drawn to this job because of its dissimilarity from his job as a lawyer. "I needed some time to think outdoors," Cherry said. Since the Recreation Department supervises this program, they got to know Cherry during this time. (Greenbelters also learned of his performing arts talent when he was teaching an Alexander technique class for seniors in conjunction with Prince George's Community College.) The job as a park ranger was seasonal and Cherry started to work inside the Community Center after the cold weather hit in 1999.

### Greenbelt Employee

In the fall of 2000, Cherry became a full-time employee of the city. He is now one of the recreation coordinators. His responsibilities include hiring staff, coordinating events such as Halloween Haven and the Festival of Lights, and overseeing and developing performing and literary arts classes offered by the city.

During the summer of 1999 Cherry wrote his first play for Creative Kids Camp, "Magic in the Attic." Cherry now not only writes the plays for Creative Kids Camp, he coordinates their production. The musical plays, however, remain his forte with the camp.

When Cherry began working for the camp he created the unifying theme of a performance at the end of each session. Cherry writes both text and music for these original plays. He casts them, directs them and often acts and sings as well. When he was originally hired to write shows for Creative Kids Camp he was asked to produce a different play for each camp. Anyone familiar with theatrical production, playwriting and musical composition knows well that this is a "Mission Impossible" assignment. Cherry, however, actually managed to do it for one summer.

Nowadays Cherry usually writes one musical per season. Camps have biweekly performances at the Arts Center. This means that Cherry has to put together a production within two weeks with different children ranging in ages from six to 14. The size of the cast is ordinarily around 100 actors, dancers and singers (including adults).

How does he do it? Well, it is truly amazing. Carolyn Hammett, who is not only a parent of past campers but also designs and creates costumes for Cherry's shows, admires his gift with children. Hammett said, "It is brilliant what he can do in such a short time with so many kids. He never even raises his voice."

### Love for Children

In observing his rehearsals, one quickly notices that his patience, love and understanding for the children never falter. Noise cannot erase his radiant and contagious enthusiasm. He corrects actors in a non-judgmental way, always offering a smile for both the gifted and average talents. Further, he quickly praises the performers when they work their way through a new song, dance or scene. "Chris has a great way of explaining a difficult concept to children," said Jesse Goldberg-Strassler, a 20-year-old radio-broadcasting stu-



PHOTO BY MARILYN DIMARCO

**Chris Cherry, on right, discusses the next scene of his play "Buried Treasure" with actors during a Saturday rehearsal.**

dent who was the drama instructor for two sessions of Creative Kids Camp last summer. Goldberg-Strassler further explained that Cherry encourages the children to educate themselves about the play's content, which is a great way to introduce this age group to library research.

Cherry tries to cast the children according to their abilities. When children attend several sessions of camp during the same summer, they get the chance to act in different roles. Teen camp counselors often play roles that require major lines and solo performances of songs and dances.

Rehearsing the musicals is a lot of fun for Cherry. He remembers a funny incident, for example, when an adult actor – too "busy" to learn all his lines correctly – did not give the right cue to a child actor. Instead of saying his lines literally, he merely paraphrased them. The child thus just stood in anticipation and stared at the puzzled adult actor.

Cherry says he started writing children's plays because there are not enough shows suitable for children. Many of Cherry's plays take their inspiration from classical myths that he has always admired. "Part of the fun of doing some of this work for kids is getting to revisit things that you really loved as a child," he explained. This past summer, for example, Cherry's play was based on the Odyssey by Homer. Cherry not only turned the story into a musical, he also gave it a new twist by changing the storytelling perspective. On the program, he hinted at that by cleverly giving the play two titles. One of them was "Homeward Bound," the Tale of Odysseus. He then scratched out the "ward" and the "Odysseus" in the title and changed it to "Home Bound," The Tale of Penelope.

The children appreciate the opportunity and challenge of the camp and are fond of working with such dedicated staff. The same kids come back year after year and when they are too old to be part of the camp, many return as volunteers or counselors.

Cherry obviously just loves working with them. "They are so truthful, they are so unguarded, they are so excited and enthusiastic and their sense of wonder is intact. Those are all things that are important to me," he marveled.

Cherry noticed that even children with low self-esteem – who might not be great students at school – can excel at Creative Kids Camp. It is literally therapeutic for them to be able to present a play in front of an audience and do well in it.

Not only do the kids return, Cherry also works with a steady number of adult collaborators year after year. Maybe this is because Cherry is both gifted and modest. "I like to tap other people's talents," he explained. Aside from Hammett, his adult regulars include Laura Schandelemeier, Elizabeth Morissette, Jill Brandenburg and Stefan Brodd.

Cherry does not write only for Creative Kids Camp. His new musical, "Buried Treasure," which he recently started rehearsing, will be performed at the Greenbelt Arts Center February 14 through 17. Many of the performers have been Creative Kids Campers before.

The play is about three children who slip through a cave into an underground realm and meet magical characters. During their journey they discover deeper truths about wisdom, courage and goodness. Hopefully many will attend with their children to marvel at the amazingly talented people in whom Greenbelt can take pride.

## We Need Your Help Typing Copy!

The News Review needs volunteer typing support. Computer skills are particularly welcome, but we'll train. **Tuesday nights** Call Eileen at 301-513-0482

### St. Hugh's School Open House

Grades K-8  
145 Crescent Rd.  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4071

**Tuesday, January 28, 2003  
9:00 to 11:30 a.m.**

School information, as well as registration materials, will be available. Registration for 2003-2004 will take place on Saturday, February 15, 2003 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the school.



# City Information

### MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 20-24

**Tuesday, January 21, 6:00pm, PLAYGROUND MEETING**, Springhill Lake Recreation Playground.

**Wednesday, January 22, 8:00pm, CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION ON SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE OPEN FORUM**, Community Center.

**Thursday, January 23, 7:30pm, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, Community Center Dining Room.

## ELECTRONICS RECYCLING Saturday, January 25, 2003 9am-12noon, Buddy Attick Park



City residents, businesses and organizations can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items. Bring your items to the collection truck located in the lower parking lot of Buddy Attick Park. **Accepted Items Include:**

- central processing units • hard drives • monitors • keyboards
- printers and copiers • laptop computers • computer speakers
- scanners • computer mice • software • recording equipment
- cameras • telephones • radios • other small electronic equipment

(NO TELEVISIONS OR LARGE STEREO UNITS)

**For further information, contact the City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8308.**

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

**City Offices will be closed on**

**Monday, January 20, 2003**

**THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT OPERATE ON THAT DAY.**

### REFUSE/RECYCLING COLLECTION

Week of January 20th

Monday Route-Collected Tuesday

Tuesday Route-Collected Wednesday

Wednesday Route-Collected Thursday

Thursday Route-Collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, January 24th

### LEAF COLLECTION

All leaves must be bagged after January 15th.

The leaf vacuum will no longer be collecting loose leaves. **Detached Homes:** Place bagged yard debris at the curb by 7am on Friday and it will be collected. You do not need to call for pickup.

**GHI Homes:** Call Public Works at 301-474-8004 by 12 noon on Thursday to schedule a Friday collection.

Bagged yard debris must be placed in your service side yard.

**Churches:** Place bagged yard debris at the curb by 7am on Friday and it will be collected. You do not need to call for pickup.

### PLAYGROUND MEETING

**Tuesday, January 21, 2003**

**6:00pm**

**Playground behind Springhill Lake Recreation Center**

*Bill Phelan will be available to discuss plans for changes to the playground. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Info: 301-474-8004*

**GREENBELT ACCESS CHANNEL 71 Municipal Access: 301-474-8000: Tuesday & Thursday, 1/21 & 1/23, 6pm** "Greenbelt Museum presents How to Build a Community" **7pm** "Artful Afternoon presents Dragons of Rizvania" **8pm** "Roosevelt Center Market Study" **Public Access: 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, 1/22 & 1/24, 7pm** "Love Foundation-Experience God" **7:30pm** "Cinderella's Wish", **8:30pm** Greenbelt New Year Animation Festival" **Sunday, 1/26 9am & 6pm** "Love Foundation"

***Greenbelt Consumer Co-op Ad***

***Greenbelt Consumer Co-op Ad***

# POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department.  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

## Assault

Target department store, January 4, 9:17 a.m., an Upper Marlboro woman, 39, was arrested after officers responded to a report of a shoplifter in custody who was fighting with store employees. She was subdued and taken to a manager's office where she again allegedly assaulted the store's loss prevention person, kicking him several times. Charged with assault, theft and disorderly conduct, the woman was taken to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

## Burglary

7800 Walker Drive, January 2, 10:45 a.m., it was reported that someone used unknown means to enter an office suite and take a printer, a clock and a CD player.

9100 block Edmonston Terrace, January 3, 10:39 a.m., a man, 19, of no fixed address was arrested and charged with burglary after officers responded to a report of someone sleeping in a vacant apartment. The man was taken to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

9100 block Edmonston Terrace, January 5, 12:50 a.m., it was reported that someone used unknown means to enter a residence, taking a video game player and accessories.

100 block Westway, January 6, 5:54 p.m., it was reported that someone tried to enter a residence by tampering with a door. Entry was not gained.

## Vandalism

6900 block Hanover Parkway, January 7, 5:47 p.m., it was reported that someone used unknown means to break a kitchen window.

5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, January 8, 6:25 p.m., it was reported that someone used a tree branch to break a bedroom window.

## Vehicle Crime

Greenbelt Exxon, January 7, a woman reported that she had left her vehicle running while filling it with gasoline when a man got into the vehicle and drove away. The vehicle was recovered January 9 in the 8200 block of Canning Terrace. The thief is described as a black male, 20s, 6', 150 lbs., wearing a green hat and a gray T-shirt.

In the 5800 block of Cherrywood Lane, on January 8, a non-resident man, 29, was arrested and charged with theft and driving on a suspended license. After a traffic stop, a computer check showed that the driver had a suspended license and an open arrest warrant with county police. Further investigation found that the vehicle, a 2002 Ford Focus four-door, had been reported stolen to Howard County police. The suspect was taken to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner and service of the warrant.

The following vehicles were reported stolen: a purple 1996 Dodge van, Md. tags M444868, January 3, from the 7500 block Greenway Center Drive; a maroon 2001 Mazda 626 four-door, Md. tags KMY985, January 3, from the 7600 block Hanover Parkway; a white 1988 Chevrolet Blazer, Md. tags M889306, January 3, from the 6000 block Springhill Lane; a silver 1994 Mercury Cougar two-door, Md. tags DDX954, January 3, from the 6200 block Breezewood Court; a green 1993 Plymouth Grand Voyager van, Virginia tags JBP3587, January 5, from the 9100 block Springhill Lane; a black 1998 Honda Civic two-door, Md. tags ECC657, January 7, from the 5800 block Cherrywood Lane; a white 1997 Dodge Caravan, Md. tags M522421, January 8, from the 7500 block Mandan Road; a grey 1996 Dodge Intrepid four-door, Md. tags FCC507, January

## Police Car Gas Tank Upgrades Are Safer

At no cost to the city, the Greenbelt Police Department is now in compliance on 47 of its Ford Crown Victoria cruisers with recommendations designed to prevent cars from bursting into flames when struck in the rear. Fuel tank upgrade kits were installed by Ford-certified technicians assisted by city staff.

When the package becomes available, the department is also interested in purchasing a trunk package designed to help officers better carry sharp-edged, heavy equipment safely in Ford vehicle trunks. In some incidents, sharp or heavy objects have been rammed forward through the trunk wall and into the back seat, possibly damaging the fuel tank and injuring rear-seat occupants.

8, from the 6700 block Village Park Drive; a blue 1996 Mercury Marquis four-door, Md. tags BSL973, January 9, from the 7700 block Hanover Parkway; a green 1996 Mercury Marquis four-door, Md. tags JDL841, January 9, from the 8200 block Canning Terrace; a gold 2002 Chrysler Sebring convertible, Md. tags JVD461, January 9, from the 8200 block Canning Terrace.

Six vehicles previously stolen were recovered; no arrests were involved.

Vandalism to, thefts from, and attempted theft of vehicles were reported in the following areas: 4 Court Gardenway; 6000 block Springhill Drive; area of Edmonston Terrace and Breezewood Drive; 7700 block Hanover Parkway (two incidents); 52 Court Ridge Road; 9000 block Breezewood Terrace; 5800 block Cherrywood Lane; 7800 block Hanover Parkway; 6200 block Springhill Court; 8000 block Mandan Road; 9100 block Edmonston Court.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522. Victims of the theft of lawn ornaments, tools, lawn mowers, etc., should contact Criminal Investigations at 301-507-6530. Some items have been recovered and police would like to return them to owners.

## New Deal Board Views Operations as Upbeat

by Dorothy Sucher

Sales at the New Deal Café for the first part of January were up considerably from the 2002 average, according to Ray Stevens, president of the Café's board of directors, and if they continue at that rate the café should break even. That's the good news — although other news is more mixed. The board met on Sunday, January 12 to review operations and plan for the future of the financially troubled cooperative in the Roosevelt Center.

"It was a good meeting," stated Stevens. "We now have a good, solid board that's committed. Everyone was very pleased with the atmosphere at the meeting. It wasn't contentious and the relationships were very good." Present were board members, including Joyce Abell, the

new treasurer, Café staffers and members of the community.

The year 2002 was a tough one for the Café, as for most food businesses, due to 9/11, the depressed economy and the Washington area sniper attacks at the end of the year. "A lot of our customers are walk-ins. They live in Greenbelt and walk over from home. They told us they just weren't going out," said Stevens.

The New Deal still has a large back debt, much of it from the Café's underfunded initial moving-in and setting-up costs. Payment plans have now been arranged with most of the creditors and these debts are being paid off on a monthly basis.

The most significant remaining debt is with the Internal Revenue Service for back taxes

and payroll taxes and the café has been in negotiation with an IRS agent. Recently the New Deal submitted an offer for a substantial reduction and monthly payment plan, and is awaiting a response.

### Liquor Sales

The Café now has a liquor license for beer and wine and sales of alcoholic beverages have "helped, but not as much as we'd hoped," noted Stevens. Sale of alcohol began in November, bringing in \$1,500, but in December this amount fell to \$900.

The evening musical events are also a mixed blessing. "They're popular and well-attended," said Stevens. "The trouble is, we don't sell much. What we really need is for people to come earlier than 8 See **NEW DEAL**, page 9



**Leonard and Holley  
Wallace**  
**301-982-0044**  
Realty 1 In Roosevelt Center  
Your Greenbelt Specialists<sup>SM</sup>  
Since 1986

**GRI** Graduate - Realtor's Institute **CRS** Certified Residential Specialist

### Brick Townhome

Walk to the Center from this beautiful 2 br. home with 11'x17' mbr. Remodeled kitchen w. dishwasher & disposal. Very nice—call now!

### Stonegate

Beautiful 4 bedroom home in the sought-after community of Stonegate in Silver Spring. Separate living area on lower level. \$330,000 SOLD

### Stonegate

Outstanding colonial home with 5 bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths. Remodeled kitchen, large finished basement with new furn. \$374,900 SOLD

### Highland View

Large brick colonial with 3 full levels. Walkout basement, modern gas furnace, 3-season porch, large fenced yard & fireplace. Coming Soon

### 3-Story Brick Townhome

Why pay rent when you can own for less? This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home has modern windows & large backyard for kids. Coming Soon

### 2 Bedroom Corner Lot

Close to downtown Greenbelt and Roosevelt Center. Wide floorplan with fenced backyard, modern kitchen & upgrades. Coming soon

### 1 Bedroom Townhome

Great location near USDA Research Center. Upper level, end unit home with attic storage & private entrance. Washer & dryer included.

### End Unit With Large Corner Lot

Great townhome that has been completely renovated. Opened stairway & kitchen. Fenced yard with large shed. Nice! \$83,900 SOLD

### 1 Bedroom Upper Level - Corner Lot

Remodeled throughout with opened kitchen, dishwasher, carpet, large fenced yard, private stairway, big attic & modern bath. \$48,900 SOLD

### Greens of Warther

2-story condominium with private yard and rear entrance. New HVAC system, remodeled kit., new carpet, fireplace & more. \$169,900 SOLD

### Charlestown Village

2-Story home with lots of upgrades and improvements. Newer windows & sliding door. 3 brs., 1 full- and 2 half-baths. \$115,000 SOLD

### 2 Bedroom Brick End Unit

Near Roosevelt Center. Remodeled kitchen with dishwasher and modern cabinetry. 11'x17' Master br. Corner lot. \$119,900 SOLD

### 2 Bedroom End Unit - Next To Boiler Room

This townhome has many improvements and upgrades. Boiler room may be purchased from GHI to use as living space. \$73,900 SOLD

### 3 Bedroom Townhome

This home has a remodeled kitchen with breakfast bar and dishwasher. Large yard with shed that backs to woods. \$79,900 SOLD

### Forest View

Large deck in fenced backyard that overlooks protected woodlands. Beautiful home w/remod. kitchen, bath & hardwd. flrs. \$79,900 SOLD

### Woodland Way - Single Family Home

Rare! Detached home in GHI- structure maintained by the Co-op. Everything on one level; no stairs. Garage included. \$158,000 SOLD





## Magnolia Students Win Second Wizards Contest

by Mary Moien

For the second year in a row, students at Magnolia Elementary School have won a contest sponsored by the Washington Wizards. Their prize was a trip downtown for 23 students to see a game last Friday – the Wizards playing the Golden State Warriors.

The Wizards' program, "Our House, Our Rules," targets area schools and community organizations and works to keep youth on the positive road to success. The groups were asked to create a 30-second public service announcement (PSA) on how they would encourage their students to "stay on a positive road to success."

### Video Produced

The Magnolia students produced a video that showed a student saying he was lost and needed to get to Success. Other students then held up three-foot-tall road signs showing him the way. One sign said "Be Positive." A stop sign stated, "Stop - Don't Do Drugs." A yield sign encouraged "Yield, Stay in School." The winning PSAs are to be shown at half-time during selected Wizards games this season. The students hoped to see their PSA shown the night they

were there, but it was not to be.

Wendy Deemer, school counselor, directed the project. Those who worked on it and received the tickets included members of the student council and homeroom representatives in grades three to six. Each could bring a guest.

### The Game

It is obvious from talking with her that Deemer is dedicated to the children. "The students, as well as their parents, were so excited to be at the game," Deemer reported. "We made signs, banners and buttons showing we represented Magnolia Elementary. They felt very special being included in this event. The students worked very hard and deserved to be recognized. I felt proud bringing them. They are a great group of kids. For some it was the first time they had ever seen a basketball game and to see Michael Jordan play was great!"

Last year, the school also won a contest with the Wizards. Deemer submitted an essay on "how to keep a non-violent, peaceful school." She described Magnolia's peer mediator program. It was the peer mediators who attended last year's game.

## Engineering Apprentice Program for Students

An opportunity for talented high school students to work during the summer with scientists and engineers – the Service and Engineering Apprentice Program (SEAP) – is being administered by George Washington University under Defense Department sponsorship.

Students selected to participate receive an educational award of \$1,400 for the apprenticeship

from June 23 to August 15. Students must be U.S. citizens with interest and ability in science and mathematics. Scientists and engineers in participating laboratories will act as mentors.

Interested students should contact their science/math teacher or guidance department for an application form, go to [www.gwseap.net](http://www.gwseap.net), or call 202-994-2234.

## Plans on PTSA Agenda For Summer Programs

by Mary Moien

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School PTSA will meet on Tuesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. in the school media center.

A major topic will be learning about the variety of summer experiences available, including internships, lab positions and other opportunities that students can apply for. Several students have volunteered to come and give a short presentation of their particular summer 2002 experience. The students will explain how they applied and offer information about each of their experiences.

School staff will describe other possible activities as well as how students and parents can find out more about them and how to apply, etc. It is not too early to be thinking about the coming summer.

### Back to School Night

A second back-to-school night is currently planned for February 12 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The PTSA is happy that the teachers have agreed to hold a second such event. Those attending the January meeting will discuss plans for providing dinner at 5 p.m. on February 12 as a mark of appreciation to the teachers. More to come on this.

Please remember that back-to-school night is not a time to discuss your particular child, but instead to meet the teachers and hear about the teachers' curriculum, goals and plans for the semester.

### Principal's Update

Principal Sylvester Conyers will provide an update on school issues and activities, including whether ERHS has been exempted from the adequate public facilities tests, which reviews

overcrowded schools prior to granting building requests.

### Teacher Grants

The PTSA has been giving many teacher grants to support educational activities and staff development and school support funds. Results have been so positive that plans are being finalized to have a stay-at-home tea fundraiser to raise more funds for even more grants. Those interested in helping with the "tea" are invited to contact the PTSA at [tasky@erols.com](mailto:tasky@erols.com).

The PTSA is encouraging people to come to the PTSA meetings and support the school and students.

## NEW DEAL

continued from page 8

p.m., when the music begins and order dinner or a snack. When the place is full for a concert, if people come in because they want to eat, we can't seat them."

### Future Plans

The board has started to plan the Café's summer concert series in the Roosevelt Center, always an important contribution to Greenbelt's summer recreation picture. Also, kitchen manager Ellen Siegel presented a proposal for a coffee club or breakfast club, to increase repeat visits to the Café. There would be a punch card system entitling the cardholder to a free coffee or free breakfast after a certain number had been purchased.

## Bd. of Ed. Budget Forums Scheduled

The Board of Education of Prince George's County will hold three public forums where parents and the community can express their views concerning educational needs and priorities. This process will assist in further development of the operating budget for the school system for FY2004, which begins July 1. The chief executive officer held public forums on the proposed budget in November and December. All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. The forum dates and locations are as follows: Tuesday, January 21 at Central High School (auditorium), 200 Cabin Branch Road, Capitol Heights and Wednesday, January 22 at Oxon Hill Staff Development Center (auditorium), 7711 Livingston Road, Oxon Hill.

Public forums are instrumental in gathering community input and support for adequate public school funding. Input from these forums will assist in identifying a community's priorities for education and formulating an operating budget that focuses resources on meeting student needs. The Proposed FY 2004 operating budget was released on Saturday, January 11.

Public participation is encouraged. To register to speak, contact the Board of Education Office at 301-952-6308 by 4 p.m. the day of the forum. Each speaker will have two minutes to express his or her views.

**Editor's Note:** *There was a meeting at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on January 16 at 7 p.m., however the News Review did not receive notification until January 13, too late to be able to announce this meeting in last week's paper.*

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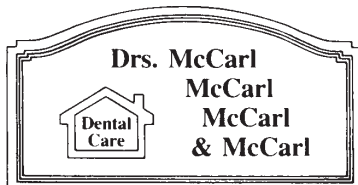
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### Motorcycle Rider Course Offered

The coming of spring presages a return to the open road for motorcyclists, and the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has changed its registration process for the basic motorcycle rider course it offers. "Ever since we began waiving the rider road test for the motorcycle license for all graduates of the course, we have been overwhelmed," said an MVA spokesman. For this reason, only walk-in registration for the course will be accepted for motorcyclists who wish to take the course at Prince George's Community College.

Call 301-322-0158 or log onto the college's web site at [www.pg.cc.md.us](http://www.pg.cc.md.us) for further information.

### See John Hadfield's Science Show

The College Park Aviation Museum, in association with the Smithsonian Institution, will present John Hadfield's The Science Show on Saturday, January 25 at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There is a fee. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available through SMARTlink or call 301-864-6029.

### Committee Seeks Aging Issue Info

The transitional teams appointed by new County Executive Jack Johnson are busy researching services for the residents of the county. Pauline Grant, a Greenbelt resident, has been appointed to the senior committee. She is seeking ideas, suggestions or questions on needs and concerns of the aging or related topics. She may be reached at 301-345-1787.

# CLASSIFIED

## RATES

**CLASSIFIED:** \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

**BOXED:** \$8.10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$12.15). Deadline 10 p.m. Monday.

**NEEDED:** Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

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## SIEGEL continued from page 1

plans to move, her mother said: "You're not going to bring your 500 cookbooks, are you?" Ellen, who has collected cookbooks all her life, left most of them behind and now says she wishes she had some of them so she could look up certain recipes.

### Commune

A year or two after moving to California Siegel wandered into a vegetarian restaurant on Telegraph Avenue, a few blocks from the University of California in Berkeley campus, looking for work. She didn't realize the restaurant was owned and run by a commune and that working there was more than just a job; it was a commitment to a lifestyle.

The commune, known as the "One World Family," had started in San Francisco in the Haight district and consisted of about 75 adults and 25 children. Some five years earlier the founder, a billboard painter ("this is where it gets weird"), after discovering LSD, believed he'd had a vision involving aliens telling him that people had to be vegetarians and live communally in order to save the planet.

Siegel joined the commune and remained for five years. "I liked the food experience," she says. "I wasn't really into the whole other part." Working at the commune's lacto-vegetarian cafeteria, she explored international food, adapting Chinese and Middle Eastern dishes to vegetarianism. "This kept it interesting," she says.

In those days, vegetarian cooking was far from easy. Soy was just being introduced into the American diet. "We used to make our own yogurt and tofu. There was no soy milk unless we made it, so we did." She also started a bakery that eventually supplied bread to other co-ops and health food stores in the area.

### Wide Experience

After leaving the commune she worked in a number of restaurants, several of them in California's wine country, steadily increasing her skills and responsibilities. Most recently she served as senior chef at a restaurant called the Ukiah Brewing Company in Ukiah, Calif., where she had lived for 12 years. Ukiah was the second of only two certified organic restaurants in the United States, the first being Nora's Restaurant in Washington, D.C. Siegel catered many winemaker dinners for the European chefs and bar managers the California wineries would bring over, to familiarize them with American wines.

Some famous chefs have visited her restaurants. "I always worry when someone comes in and right away says, 'I'm so-and-so from such-and-such a restaurant.' But I don't really worry. My food is tasty, it's creative – it speaks for itself."

Once a woman came into the Ukiah restaurant and announced she was the executive chef of a four-star hotel in Mendocino, Siegel recalls. "It so happens I'd been there a few weeks earlier. The food was so salty I couldn't eat it and I returned it to the kitchen. But I didn't say anything."

Julia Child, on the other hand, Siegel found to be "a lovely lady, not pretentious at all." She and her party of four were doing a California tour and stayed at the Thatcher Hotel where Siegel was working at the

time. Breakfast was included and Child ordered scrambled eggs and toast. "Nothing fancy. We had a nice, brief chat and she was very encouraging. She was in her 80s at the time and still a bundle of energy – a very vibrant person."

### Labor of Love

For Siegel, cooking was always a labor of love.

"I enjoy all aspects of cooking," she says. "I'm a frustrated artist. I studied art when I was young, but I couldn't afford to pursue it. I knew I had to find some other outlet." Her father had owned a pizza carryout shop and sometimes took her to work with him when she was five years old. She used to love poking her fingers in the dough. As a teenager she often cooked with her sister and was impressed when Bryna, the elder, got a subscription to Gourmet magazine. "We used to make experiments in the kitchen. Bryna's boyfriend Pete (now her husband) was our guinea pig." Bryna was an excellent cook and Pete owned a sandwich shop. So perhaps it was natural for Ellen Siegel to seek an outlet in cooking for her artistic impulses.

### New Deal

Although hired as the New Deal's kitchen manager, she has lately been "addressing more issues than just the kitchen. People tell me they've noticed an improvement in the overall feel of the place and appreciate it." Service is faster now, although "things happen. Like the other day, when a whole bunch of parents and kids converged on the Café all at once – all the kids hungry. There's a limit to how many grilled cheese sandwiches you can make at one time on two home-kitchen size griddles." And Siegel's young staff consists mostly of high school and college students with limited restaurant experience.

Some of Siegel's new dishes include a green Thai curry with tofu and vegetables and such new salads as the Mediterranean salad with hummus, feta cheese, and calamata olives. In addition to her paid work, she has begun to donate about 10 hours a week baking cookies, brownies and vegan sticky buns for the New Deal – in fact, last month she made all the baked goods in the glass case. Her vegan baked goods are made without eggs or dairy products of any kind and Siegel says the taste doesn't suffer. "You just have to know a few little tricks."

She says she would not be opposed to offering more meat dishes, but this is impossible as long as the cooking facilities are so limited. However, she can cook meat dishes for special events and catered jobs, which she hopes to do more often. Although the Café is closed on Mondays, it is available for special events such as breakfast meetings, business lunches and parties. Recently the Greenbelt Museum and the Greenbelt Writers Group held their holiday parties at the Café. Siegel also makes birthday cakes to order.

The New Deal has always depended on contributions from the community and right now Siegel's wish list includes a sofa and a couple of armchairs in good condition to replace the sagging specimens at the Café. And of course a stove would be nice....

## Comedic Folkie Will Play New Deal Café January 25

by Anne Sucher

Dan Hart is a tall, lanky ex-shrink who wears red hightop sneakers and brightly colored ties. He will be performing his songs at the New Deal Café on January 25. Recently moved to Maryland from Boston on the heels of his wife, who is working towards her doctorate, Dan now pursues music fulltime as a singer/songwriter. I saw him perform at the New Deal Café's first-Friday-of-every-month open mike, hosted by Richard McMullin.



Dan has a clear, full baritone voice with a slight folksy twang and a confident presence. He specializes in funny folk music – with allusions to subjects like vegan diets, Birkenstock sandals, aging hippies, millenium snafus, Ritalin addiction and shallow lifestyles in the 2000s.

When asked if he likes to play with other musicians, Dan says, "When people want to start playing in a key like F minor suspended, well, I don't know. I spent my time getting a doctorate in psychology, not learning professional musicianship, so I don't play much with others. I play enough guitar to accompany myself, but I have a lot of fun playing."

Why leave shrinkdom behind? Dan said that after 50 minutes in a session, clients would leave feeling worse than when they'd arrived. This bummed him out as he wanted to make people feel better, not worse. Dealing with insurance was a nightmare, he added.

So Dan began playing music in retirement homes. Dan said many of these places don't audition you and they really don't care how technically good you are. What they care about is that the patients like you and you like them, that you make positive

contact with the clients.

He has a whole set of songs from the 20s, 30s and 40s that speak to the people in these homes. He says, "A lot of these people are really out of it. All they have are their memories. But when I play a song they recognize from 1925, they light up and that makes me feel good."

When Dan started writing funny songs, people really liked them. His latest CD, "The Life of Dan," is being played on acoustic and comedic radio shows such as Doctor Demento and NPR's "Car Talk." For example, here are some lyrics from "Tofu Cowboy": "I read myself 'Diet for a Small Planet'. Gol-darned if it didn't make sense. So I'm driving my herd of fat-free bean curd to the the vegan stockyards tonight. But as I sing this tune underneath the moon, something just doesn't seem right." And from "Hey Ho 2001": "Where are those flying cars that run on solar power? All I see are SUVs going 60 gallons an hour. And where are all the robots? They promised there'd be robots. I want my robot. Al Gore doesn't count."

Dan Hart is creative, edgy, certainly doesn't take himself too seriously and has a great voice. You can hear Dan for yourself when he performs at the New Deal Café on Saturday, January 25 at 8 p.m.

### Sugarless Diets

Learn cooking strategies to help translate the American Diabetes Association recommendations into delicious and healthful recipes. The class will begin on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:30 p.m. at Washington Adventist Hospital, 7600 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park. To register call 1-800-542-5096.

## Diabetic Support Group to Meet

The Diabetes Care Center of Doctors Community Hospital will host a diabetic support group meeting in the Ambulatory Surgery Building, 5th floor meeting room on Tuesday, January 21 at 7 p.m. Myron Murdock, M.D., will present a program entitled Sexual Problems and Diabetes. All support group programs are open to the general public and are free. Call 301-552-5134 to confirm attendance.

## Share an Afternoon With Stephen Foster

On Sunday, January 26 at 4 p.m., Marietta House Museum presents "An Afternoon with Stephen Foster" with songs sung by Henry Wixon accompanied by organist Helen Smith who will play on an 1870s organ. Visitors will be seated in the historic 1870s Victorian parlor for the presentation and then have light refreshments in the newly restored exhibition room.

Reservations are required and there is a fee. Marietta House Museum is located at 5626 Bell Station Road, Glenn Dale. For information, call 301-464-5291; TTY 301-699-2544.

## Give a Cell Phone, Get a Tax Break

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, located at 6700 Riverdale Road, Riverdale, are accepting donations of used cell phones, cell phone batteries and chargers in any condition for use in the domestic violence program.

These phones are refurbished by Donate-A-Phone, preprogrammed with emergency numbers and distributed nationally to women's shelters. The cell phones are loaned to women considered to be at risk from domestic violence.

Those who donate cell phone equipment can request a form to use for a tax deduction. For information call Captain Barry Bratburd at 301-429-5653.

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