

Audubon Society Heads Group On Environment Opposing ICC

by Thomas X. White

Community opposition to the Intercounty Connector (ICC) is being led by a group of Audubon Naturalist Society volunteers and other organizations who have united under the banner, "Save Our Communities Campaign." In addition to the Audubon Society, organizations active in the campaign include the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Sierra Club, the Eyes of Paint Branch, Longmead United against the ICC, the Montgomery Intercounty Connector Coalition and a host of other civic and environmental organizations. Their rallying cry is "We can do better than an ICC."

For many of these groups this is the third or fourth time they have organized for community opposition to the ICC or its earlier, pre-1975 version of the "Outer Beltway." Given another life now by the administration of

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and the national administration's streamlined transportation planning and environmental impact procedures, this coalition of opposition groups find themselves up against a very "slick" campaign to justify a facility they see as devastating the environment in its path, while providing little or no real relief to traffic volumes and congestion.

"For its estimated \$3-billion plus price tag, this is essentially an under-performing highway," according to Brian Henry of the Audubon Naturalist Society. "[An ICC] will not provide any improvements to the congestion being experienced on the Beltway (I-495), I-95 or I-270. The proposed build alternatives will increase the number of vehicle miles traveled and will do nothing to ease or relieve traffic on local roads."

Henry has also noted the holi-

day release time of the voluminous Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS). He asserts that this strategic scheduling of DEIS hearings just after the holiday season shows enormous disrespect for citizens concerned about this project.

"This is part of a wider pattern," says Lauren Olsen, assistant director at the Coalition for Smarter Growth. "First the state defined the study not to meet the needs of the community but as a major highway facility, excluding an honest look at a range of viable [traffic management] solutions. Next, they've pushed agencies [at the] local to federal levels into accepting an artificially accelerated timeline - squashing or leaving behind any dissenting opinions."

Henry also took issue with the rhetoric contained in the pub-

See **OPPOSITION**, page 6

SHA Hearing on ICC to Focus On Environmental Issues

by Virginia Beauchamp

Eight years ago next spring, the State Highway Administration (SHA) held a public hearing at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Its purpose was to set forth plans for the proposed Intercounty Connector.

This superhighway, or ICC, was to connect Montgomery County from I-270 on the west with Prince George's County at or near I-95 south of Laurel. On display at the hearing were maps, charts and design modules set forth on easels; a formal presentation followed.

Something like that will happen again, at the same place and for the same reason on Tuesday, January 4 from 5 to 11 p.m. Public testimony will begin at 6 p.m.

Between these two forums much controversy has occurred. Proponents, mostly from Montgomery County, argue that commuters will experience a significant cut in travel time.

Opponents from both counties focus on how the environment would be impacted by what in 1997 was described as some "36 acres of impervious area." Former Maryland Governor Parris Glendening, persuaded by this more negative view, shut off further planning for the project.

But a new governor sees things differently. Governor Robert Ehrlich, supported by lobbying by Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan, has come out strongly for the new highway. And indeed during the last few years

traffic has so much increased between the two counties that movement east and west often stands at gridlock.

Environmental Answers

A major change in arguments for the ICC deals with environmental issues. Seven years ago a Montgomery County opposition group pinned their argument on a number of specimen trees that would be destroyed if the highway plans went through.

Prince George's County opponents were shocked by an ICC interchange design at New Hampshire Avenue that would have created 11 lanes of concrete at the watershed for Paint Branch. This stream, flowing along the northern boundary of the University of Maryland campus, incorporates Indian Creek as a tributary.

This time around, highway proponents will not be blindsided by advocates for the environment. As though to meet every possible argument, a number of federal and state agencies have jointly prepared a huge document, something over 1,600 pages. This is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the study that will be the center of the January 4 hearing on the ICC.

Agencies involved in preparation of the DEIS include the US Department of Transportation, the Maryland Department of Transportation (including the SHA), the Maryland Transportation Authority, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the US

Army Corps of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Environmental Stewardship

With the DEIS a new, positive concept has emerged. Called Environmental Stewardship and described as "unprecedented," this philosophy claims that in conjunction with the construction of the ICC, the "natural, cultural and community resources" will be "enhanced."

For example, stormwater management facilities will be retrofitted according to this study and water quality and stream habitat

See **HEARING**, page 6

What Goes On

Friday, December 31 - City and GHI office closed in observance of New Year's

7 p.m. to 1 a.m., Greenbelt New Year, Community Center, Youth Center, Old Greenbelt Theatre, New Deal Café, Greenbelt Arts Center
Sunday, January 2

1 to 5 p.m., Artful Afternoon, Community Center
Tuesday, January 4

5 to 11 p.m., Public Hearing on Intercounty Connector, Eleanor Roosevelt High School

Wednesday, January 5
7 p.m., GHI Worksession with Board of Directors, Audit, A&E and Ad Hoc Yardline Committees, Board Room

Top Stories 2004

Metroland

Throughout 2004 the City of Greenbelt stood in opposition to county, state and private plans for developing the proposed Metroland site. At a January public hearing by the State Highway Administration, the city argued against Beltway access plans as bringing heavy traffic on to city streets to advantage a private development. In April, however, Metro Land Developers LLC and the city were close to an agreement on other aspects of the proposed development, which would have led the city to withdraw its suit with the Court of Special Appeals concerning the concept plan and preliminary plan of development. But the expected agreement foundered on the developer's refusal of the city's request to annex the property.

In September the Court upheld the city's contention that according to current zoning law roads surrounding the development area were inadequate and that thus both the conceptual site plan and the preliminary plan of development, previously accepted by the County's Planning Board and the County Council, could not be approved. Both Metro Land Developers and the Planning Board filed writs of certiorari in October requesting reconsideration of the Special Appeals Court decision.

In the meantime owners of the former A. H. Smith sand and gravel facilities, Greenbelt Metropark LLC, began work without a permit to dewater old wash ponds on the site. Although the Maryland Department of the Environment issued a stop work order, the process was permitted to continue after a sediment control plan was submitted.

As the year ended, the Court of Appeals refused to reconsider the lower court's ruling. The Metroland approval process must start anew with a conceptual site plan based on the zoning ordinance.

Springhill Lake Reconstruction

In January, AIMCO, owners of the nearly 3,000-unit Springhill Lake apartment complex, sponsored a design charette conducted by the architectural firm of Duany Platter-Zyberk & Company that proposed tearing down all apartments over a period of six years and replacing them with 4,500 modern apartment units in a variety of building styles. While most apartments would be rental, a few would be owner-occupied. Rents for five percent of the units would be subsidized but the remainder would cost between \$1,500 and \$2,100 a month. Also considered for replacement in the plan were the Springhill Lake Elementary School and the city's Springhill Lake Recreation Center. City officials generally reacted favorably to the concept but expressed disappointment that there would not be more owner-occupied units. Although AIMCO hoped to make a decision on the project within six months, there have been no further announcements.

Nursing Home to Be Replaced

Baier Properties, contract purchaser for the Greenbelt Convalescent Center building located on Greenbelt Road next to the National Guard Armory and University Square Apartments, sought the Greenbelt City Council's blessing to tear down the existing building and replace it with a condominium apartment building of about 90 units. The existing building, through neglect during its many years of vacancy, is no longer considered useable or economically viable for nursing home, assisted living or other institutional use. Needed for the project to succeed are amendments to the zoning code, which were presented to the county council on the last day for filing legislation for the current council session. Meanwhile city officials, while generally supportive, worked with the developer to iron out the details of the building plans and obtain assurances that they would have a say in any plan changes. (According to City Planner Terri Hruby, legislation supported by the city was passed with one amendment.)

Movie Theater Renovation

Having acquired the Old Greenbelt Theatre in 2003, Greenbelt City Council met in 2004 with city staff and representatives from GTM Architects in worksession to review possible renovations to the structure. Council agreed that upgrades affecting safety were the highest priority. These included improvements to the emergency and exit lighting and aisle lighting, the fire alarm system and repair or replacement of the exit doors from the main auditorium.

Plans for upgrades to the restrooms, to include handicap access, were approved by council in October.

Other improvements considered were replacement or augmentation of the electrical system, improvements to the lobby area and adding more handicapped-accessible seating areas.

Specific costs for the projects could not be made at the time, but the total projected was more than double original estimates.

See **TOP STORIES**, page 8

*Editorial***Metroland Still Unresolved**

City officials are celebrating the final decision by Maryland's highest court not to reconsider the recent Maryland Court of Appeals decision supporting the city's contention that the conceptual site plan and preliminary plat of subdivision for the Metroland property were erroneously approved by the Prince George's Planning Board and County Council. Certainly City Attorney Robert A. Manzi deserves praise and congratulations for convincing the appeals court to reverse the decisions of the lower Circuit Court and the County Council. Whether, in the long run, this success in the court case proves beneficial to the city remains to be seen.

With the court voiding the conceptual site plan for the proposed mixed-use development of townhomes, apartments, retail stores, entertainment facilities and office buildings to be located at the Greenbelt Metro Station and the unincorporated property to the south, the Prince George's Planning Board now must consider adopting a new plan meeting zoning ordinance requirements for property developed within a designated Metro Planned Community. Among other things, that county law requires funding of needed public facilities to serve the development either by inclusion in an official capital improvement program or by the developer. The court-rejected plan failed to show funding for improvements that the Planning Board determined were needed, the most significant being construction of additional ramps from the Beltway to the Metro Station access road.

The Metroland property is too valuable for development not to take place. One way or another, sooner or later, it will be done. Whether the results will be to the city council's liking remains to be seen. Hopefully, the developer-owners of Metroland and the city, together with College Park and Berwyn Heights, can reach mutual understanding with the planning board and county council for a project that will benefit all.

Before the appeals court decision was handed down, Metroland representatives and the city council seemed to be close to reaching an agreement to settle the suit. The terms of that draft agreement were complicated and dealt with many issues. Perhaps they can now form the basis for a new plan. Previously, for unknown reasons, the developer-owner representatives withdrew from the settlement.

Besides the possibility of mutual agreement, however, it is also possible that the interests of the city could be ignored or that the city might make unacceptable demands of the other parties. If either happens, the county might go ahead and approve a plan meeting zoning ordinance requirements (which the county council can amend) in spite of how the city council feels. We hope that will not be the case.

We support a high-quality mixed-use planned community for the Metroland property. We think it makes sense to concentrate development at Metro stations that encourages the use of public transportation and reduces the need to drive automobiles. We think it is in the best interests of both the county and the city to assure that high-quality development takes place at the Greenbelt Metro Station. However, we strongly believe that any development must minimally impact upon sensitive environmental areas and not adversely affect existing Greenbelt businesses, residential areas and roads.

We urge everyone involved to work together in a positive way to devise a preliminary plan to enable the successful development of Metroland so it may become another one of the many benefits of living and working in this city and county.

Letters**THANKS**

Many thanks go out to all who so generously contributed to our toy drive; we filled our big box several times over with teddy bears, matchbox cars, books and much more. The toys were passed on to the Lions Club who will distribute them for the holiday to local families, churches and hospitals for children in need.

Thanks again!

*Sarah Phillips,
Community Affairs Director,
Greenbriar Condominiums*

Open Letter

Sgt. Michael Reiss
Maryland National Capital
Park Police
Prince George's County
Division

Dear Sgt. Reiss,

December 1 was an unpleasant day. It was cold and windy with gusts up to 45 miles per hour and I was on a stretch of Greenbelt Road where the cars race by. I was delivering Meals On Wheels and still had 16 houses to deliver to when I had a blowout on my front tire. The front tire, obviously, meant that I could not drive it to a service station. AAA may have taken hours before they could get to me. I am a senior citizen and may not have been strong enough to change the tire.

Officer Gustavo Perez stopped and introduced himself and said that he could help. I was concerned about the cost but he said there would be no charge. Very efficiently and quickly he changed my tire. I tried to give him some money but he said "No, it is part of my job." But I said "You are off duty." This made no difference to him! I told him that I would make a donation to Lou Gehrig Research (which I mailed this morning).

I thanked him and in just a few minutes I was on my way. Not only did he help me but the Meals On Wheels recipients were able to get their food while it was still hot.

Linda Curtis

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**January's Theme Is Peace
For Artful Afternoon Program**

When the hustle and blare of the holidays is over and the new year starts, people may be glad to find a little peace at the city's Artful Afternoon. The January Artful Afternoon program, with a peace theme, will be held on Sunday, January 2 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Peace buttons and posters will be made from 1 to 3 p.m. with Greenbelt Community Center Artist-in-Residence Pam Hagerhorst.

Greenbelt resident Sondra Holland will offer stories about peaceful leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from 1 to 1:30 p.m. and peace songs from 2:30 to 3 p.m., culminating in a Peace March around the Community Center at 3 p.m. Bring buttons and posters to the march.

In the Community Center Gallery see "A Gaze, Met and Unmet: Photographs by Harold Anderson." A resident of Greenbelt, Anderson shows photography from around the world: from Paris and Australia to Greenbelt. "Most of my photographs show people and multiple viewpoints: what I see, what they see and what I see them seeing," he says of his work. "... I think the best photo-

graphs are the ones that ask questions, that leave you feeling that you have witnessed something," says Anderson. The prints are available for sale, framed or unframed.

From 1 to 5 p.m., participants can visit the working studios of Greenbelt's own artists-in-residence on the third floor of the Community Center.

For historic perspectives on Greenbelt, there will be guided tours from 1 to 4 p.m. of the historic home at 10-B Crescent Road operated by the Greenbelt Museum. Visitors may also want to visit the museum's exhibit at the Community Center - "Living the Healthy Life" which explores the history of sport, health and fitness in the New Deal Era. This exhibit is open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

Artful Afternoons are held the first Sunday of every month from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, at 15 Crescent Road. Artful Afternoons are a suitable outing for families and people of all ages and offer an introduction to the many programs and classes available through the City of Greenbelt Department of Recreation. For additional information, call Barbara Dickey Davis at 240-542-2062.



The image, entitled "Mira," was taken by Greenbelt photographer and ethnographer Harold Anderson whose work is currently on display in the Art Gallery.

**Greenbelt
News Review**

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Pat Davis, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Al Geiger.

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—\$35/year.

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

**OLD GREENBELT
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Week of Dec. 31

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Saturday

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Being Julia *5:15, 7:30, 9:40

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Polar Express *1:00, *3:10
Being Julia *5:15, 7:30

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Community Events

Owners Move Back Into Restored Homes

by Jennifer Fullmer, Greenbriar Operations Manager

On Friday, December 17 nine of the 15 Greenbriar homes in 7806 Hanover Parkway received Use and Occupancy Permits. The first three homeowners moved back into 7806 over the following weekend. The remaining six units were scheduled for inspection by county and city inspectors the week of December 20. Mail delivery to the building resumed December 22. All but two owners of homes in 7806 have arranged their final walk through and the remaining two are pending the owners' availability. One unit will not be completed until after Christmas due to delays in selecting final touches, such

as carpet.

Sarah Phillips, the Community Affairs director, is coordinating "welcome home" baskets that the Fire Relief Committee put together. So far five homeowners have received baskets and have expressed deep gratitude.

The City of Greenbelt's Planning and Community Development Department has been very helpful and instrumental during this process. Inspector Willie Davis has been following the progress of 7806 since the night of the fire. Davis' dedication and commitment to the process is very much appreciated by Greenbriar.

Editor's Note: The fire occurred on November 21, 2003.

Strategy Games Club Starting

The Greenbelt Recreation Department is beginning a new Strategy Games Club. The Club will have its first meeting on Tuesday, January 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Youth Center. Many new strategy games will be introduced and played, including Carcassone, Quinto, Lost Cities, GO, as well as familiar games like chess, checkers and backgammon. Anyone age 8 and above is invited to participate in this club. There is no fee to join, just show up and be ready to give the brain a workout and have loads of fun at the same time.

Call 301-397-2208 x2054 for more information or email khaseley@greenbeltmd.gov.

New Homebound Book Program

The Greenbelt Assistant in Living (GAIL) Program is starting a Homebound Book Program in partnership with the Prince George's County Library System.

The goal of the program is to offer homebound residents access to books, including large-print books. Participants will be interviewed by GAIL staff and will choose the specific categories of books desired. A program volunteer would deliver books once every four weeks.

Those wishing to volunteer to deliver books to the homebound in Greenbelt once every four weeks or to enroll in the Homebound Book Program should contact Belicia Swinson at 240-542-2036. Enrollment begins Tuesday, January 4. Training for volunteers delivering books will be Monday, January 31 or Saturday, February 12 at the Greenbelt Library, 11 Crescent Road. All ages of homebound Greenbelt residents are welcome.

At the Library

Tuesday, January 4, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, newborns to 24 months with caregiver. Limited to 15 babies.

Wednesday, January 5, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime for ages 24 to 36 months with caregiver, limit 15.

Thursday, January 6, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20.

Mishkan Torah Hosts Café Tzedakah

On Saturday, January 8 at 7:30 p.m., Café Tzedakah, sponsored by Mishkan Torah's Social Action Committee, returns to present a smorgasbord of Mishkan Torah and the local community's young talents as well as "Quinto," a quintet of musicians who are recent graduates of Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The night's beneficiary will be Eleanor Roosevelt High School's new Jewish Student Association. For questions, call Dina Goldberg-Strassler at 301-345-8755. Admission will be a non-perishable food item for distribution to the area's hungry. Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road at the corner of Westway.

Greenbelt Artists At New Deal Café

The current show of Greenbelt artists at the New Deal Café will be extended through the month of January. Over 20 local artists have their work on display. People who have been too busy to see this exhibit should stop by before January 30. The monthly art shows at the New Deal Café are sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Café Arts, with a supporting grant from Prince George's County, arranged by County Councilmember Douglas J. J. Peters.

GHI Notes

GHI offices will be closed on Friday, December 31 for New Year's Day. Emergency maintenance will be available by calling 301-474-6011.

January 6 at 7 p.m., Investment Committee, Board Room

January 8 at 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room.

Register for Knit And Crochet Group

Anyone planning on participating in the new Knit and Crochet Group on Friday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenbelt Community Center will need to pre-register. Stop by the Community Center to fill out a registration form. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Tutoring Resumes

At the completion of the winter break, the homework and tutoring clubs will resume on Tuesday, January 4 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center from 3:45 to 5 p.m. and on Wednesday, January 5 at the Schrom Hills Park Center from 3:45 to 6 p.m.

The Greenbelt Moving Ahead Program will resume on Saturday, January 8 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information call Janet Goldberg at 301-397-2212. All programs are free.

Folk Dance Group Holds Open House

Sign up for International Folk Dance classes and burn off those extra holiday pounds. No experience or partner is needed. Come to the free open house on Friday, January 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Center. Roland Forbes' winter session of eight classes begins on January 14 at 8 p.m. There is a fee for the classes.

Film on Nigerian Refugees Exodus

On Wednesday, January 5 at 8:30 p.m., GATE will host Chike Nwabukwu's preview of "Father Diaspora," a documentary on the exodus of Nigerian refugees. The program will take place at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center. As the producer and director, Nwabukwu will talk about the inspiration for his documentary.

A re-showing of Mike McMullin's "Cicada Rescue Federation" mockumentary will follow. There is no charge.

Explore Historic Package Homes

Explorations Unlimited will open its winter session on Friday, January 7 with a presentation by George Denny, current mayor of Brentwood, who will talk about Sears, Roebuck and Victorian Mail Order Homes, using publications put together by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as his source. He will "explore" catalog styles, discuss where some of the ones that came to Prince George's County still can be found and talk about some real people who ordered them.

Denny is retired from the Prince George's County Public schools where, during a 34 year career he was a teacher, counselor and administrator. He has also been an elected official in the Town of Brentwood off and on since about 1970 or 1971, logging over 24 years as a councilmember and mayor. He is also the author of a book titled "Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland." It won an award from the Prince George's County Historical Society not long after it was published in 1997.

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.

Countdown to Greenbelt New Year 2005 Begins

by Patti Brothers

There are only a few hours to solidify last-minute New Year's Eve plans. Those who haven't already made plans for bringing in the new year are invited to join their friends and neighbors at Greenbelt New Year 2005.



Youth Center

The Youth Center will have lots of "get involved" activities for everyone – a huge twister game (can one's body stretch that far and that way?) and an obstacle course (try to out-run neighbors), both provided by

Talk of the Town. There will be a karaoke dee jay provided by Sight and Sound Entertainment playing music all night long for listening and singing. Don't forget the sounds of the wonderful group "Adrenalin" in the Multipurpose Room.

Other Locations

The Arts Center will have a teen cabaret and a reading of a new play. The New Deal Café will have live jazz and an after-the-celebration breakfast at 1 a.m.

During the later part of the evening, the movie theater will show the locally made film "Green Concrete," courtesy of GAVA.

Food will be plentiful for the entire evening, with great desserts by Chef Lou and delicious edibles provided by St. Hugh's Home & School Organization in the Community Center. Pizza and snacks will be provided by Girl Scout Troop 2142 at the Youth Center. Don't eat at home – eat at the celebration.

Discount tickets are on sale at the Community Center and Youth Center until 4:30 on December 30. They will be on sale at the Greenbelt Co-op until noon on December 31. Tickets at the door are slightly higher but still very reasonably priced. Children under 5 are free. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

The evening's activities are planned for five different locations. Among the planned events, the Community Center will host the sounds of the Latin Jazz All Stars – new to the celebration. Other events taking place there will be the KayDee Puppets, who return to the celebration to delight the audience with "let your imagination take you away" puppet shows.

Magic Mike, always popular, will delight both children and adults with his mystical magic and balloon-sculpturing skills. The Banjo Man, new to the celebration, will be playing terrific tunes and Tim the Storyteller returns with his tall tales. The children's craft room will be the creative quarters for Wizard of Oz crafts.

For those who feel like dancing, the St. Columba's Scottish Dancers will have everyone up on their feet. Lessons will be provided. John Hill, always a celebration favorite, will provide the partygoers with a full night of music from his acoustic guitar and wonderful voice. And don't forget "once in a lifetime" hairstyles, both artful and fun, in the Wacky Hair Salon courtesy of the Greenbelt Swim Team. DC Motors will begin the final celebration and ring in the New Year in fine style with nonstop sounds that span the last four decades.

**Don't miss Greenbelt New Year 2005.
A fun time will be had by all!**



NOTICE OF WORKSESSION

GHI Board of Directors
Audit Committee
A&E Committee
Ad Hoc Yardline Committee

Wednesday, January 5, 2005
GHI Board Room
7:00 p.m.

Planning Session

- Yardline Issues
- Standards for Additions & Exterior Modification
- Board Task List Review

Dorothy Lauber
Secretary

Obituaries

Vincent A. Gittles

Vincent A. Gittles (Vinnie), 55, of Greenbelt, died on Sunday, December 19, 2004, after a short, brave battle with cancer.

Mr. Gittles served in the U.S. Air Force in the 366th Security Police Squadron in Vietnam and later at Andrews AFB. After his honorable discharge, he went to work for the Cheverly Police Department until an injury in the line of duty forced him to retire.

He thereafter devoted many years of volunteer service to the American Legion and the Fraternal Order of Police where he held various officer positions including (past) president of the FOP Sheriff's and Municipal Lodge 9.

Most recently, his charitable efforts were devoted to the rescue and placement of homeless West Highland White Terriers locally and nationwide. He cherished his three West Highland White Terriers.

He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Angela M. Gittles; his daughter Stacie L. Maxwell and infant granddaughter Rachael A. Maxwell, of Fairfax, Va.; mother Theresa Gittles of Indian Orchard, Mass.; Aunt Janet Nurczyk of Haydenville, Mass.; sisters Michaelene Albright of Amesbury, Mass. and Felicia Jedrykowski of Chicopee, Mass.; brother Lawrence Armata of Chicopee, Mass.; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Services and inurnment will be held Thursday, January 6, 2005, at 2 p.m. at Arlington National Cemetery. Friends are to assemble at the Administration building by 1:30 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to WestieMed, Inc., 478 West Hill, Stamford, CT 06902 (<http://www.westiemed.com>).



Vincent A. Gittles and one of his cherished Westies.

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"Know thou of a truth that the soul, after its separation from the body, will continue to progress until it attaineth the presence of God, in a state and condition which neither the revolution of ages and centuries, nor the changes and chances of this world, can alter. It will endure as long as the Kingdom of God, His sovereignty, His dominion and power will endure."
-Baha'u'llah

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P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
www.bahai.org www.us.bahai.org

Children's Christmas Pageant At Community Church

by Rick Ransom

On December 19, the Greenbelt Community Church sponsored a Christmas pageant at their Sunday worship service that featured many children residing in and around the Greenbelt area. The play, titled "Wizards Watch at Night," was written by Greenbelter Amy Hansen. Three wizards discern the arrival of a new king using their special sources of knowledge: the stars, a book and a mysterious musical box. The question is "Where and Who." They journey to discover the answer.

Kristen Beauchamp, Cortnee Hamlin and Alma Knutson sang "How Could They Know," written by Rick Ransom, to introduce the play. The three wizards were played by Mairead Alexander, Scott Hansen and Samantha Scheff. During the play, each time one of the wizards opened the musical "box," portions of songs were revealed giving them clues to their destination. The children's choir had recorded all of these song snippets onto tape. Scott Burnett activated a cassette player when cued, to simulate the music coming from the box. In one scene, the angel choir joined the wizards while singing "Angels We Have Heard on High." Herald the angel (Colleen Costenoble-Caherty) spoke for the group as the other pointed to her and sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (puns and humor fully intended). Others in the angel choir included Clare Alexander, Kathryn Breon, Dawn Burnett, Anja Holland, Sara McCarthy, Abigail Moore and Skylar Scheff. On their journey, the wizards

were approached by a citizen (Jan Knutson) out to ring the bells to announce the birth of a savior. Upon hearing she had given birth to a royal heir, the wizards approached a queen, played by Lindsey Bearden. Alas, her baby was a future queen. As the angel choir left the stage, several shepherds ran in, having come from the fields to the City of David. Ryland Heagy, Matthew Kahan, Brian O'Neil and Allan Beauchamp were the shepherds. At the climax, Innkeepers Arnel Mbah and Atanga Mancho informed the wizards that they had so many guests they had started putting them in the stable.

The manger scene included Claire Costenoble-Caherty as Maria and Ashley Mbah as an angel offering explanations and assurance to the wizards that their journey had indeed been successful. Stephen Henderson, Rose Colby and a few adults served to fill in the traditional ending that had a slight surprise twist.

Klezmer Band Plays At Kennedy Center

The Kol Haruach Klezmer Band, managed by former Greenbelt resident Brian Choper will perform at the Millennium Stage of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, January 8, at 6 p.m. This concert is a free concert for those who attend. Kol Haruach performed at Mishkan Torah last May to a very appreciative audience. The band has a reputation for music with flair.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH
Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt_baptist@verizon.net
Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor

Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am
Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm
Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 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 & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org

Sundays:	8:00 am	Simple, quiet Mass
	9:00 am	Christian education for all ages
	10:00 am	Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
	1:30 pm	Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays:	7:00 pm	Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

STOP and REFLECT

STOP

This past week the world has witnessed an enormous natural disaster, the likes of which has not been seen in more than 200 years. Such events remind us of the power of the Creator and provide an opportunity. Allah, the Almighty, states in the Holy Quran that, "Every soul will taste of death." (3:185) Whether it be the death of a loved one or death on a massive scale as in Asia, we are reminded of the limited nature of our own lives on this earth. In this capacity we are given an opportunity to prepare for our own demise. Take a moment to reflect on how you can worship the Creator, exercise patience and understanding, foster peace, seek forgiveness and appreciate the fact that everything we know in this world happens through God's will.

For more information on Islam, contact 301-982-9463 or e-mail muslimguide@hotmail.com or visit www.islam-guide.com.

Thomas (Tom) Pacl

A memorial service will be held for Tom Pacl on January 2, 2005 at 2 p.m. at Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church. The church is located in Adelphi at 3215 Powder Mill Road. For directions call 301-937-3666.



Our sympathy to Angela Gittles and family on the death of her husband Vincent.

Condolences to Rose Haber on the death of her son-in-law Victor Goodman.

Congratulations to Thomas Matthews of the Planning and Community Development Department on passing the property maintenance certification exam.

Bereavement Support Group

The Patuxent Widowed Persons Service (PWPS) offers a program to help widowed persons adapt to their new circumstances. A six-week mutual support group, led by trained volunteers, will be given in St. John's Lutheran Church, 5820 Riverdale Road, Riverdale. This program is co-sponsored by AARP and the Greenbelt Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Both emotional support and practical information are provided. The group will meet Friday afternoons starting January 28. The six weekly sessions take place from 2 to 4 p.m. and last through March 4. The program is free and open to widowed men and women of all ages, races and creeds.

Registration is required. For details, directions and registration call either Leonie Penney at 301-441-8943 or Kathleen McFarland at 301-474-6892.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road,
Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)
*Welcomes you to our open,
nurturing community*

January 2, 10 a.m.
"Music that Moves Us"
Barbara W. and Jacob B. ten Hove

Barbara Wells ten Hove,
Jacob B. ten Hove,
co-ministers

Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS
Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
301-474-9410 www.gb-gm-umc.org/mowatt

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Fri., Dec. 31	5:00 p.m.	New Year's Eve Service
Sun., Jan. 2	8:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	8:45 a.m.	Fellowship
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
Wed., Jan. 5	7:30 p.m.	Evening Worship

Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/
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..."

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

New Year's Schedule

Masses

Friday, December 31 – New Year's Eve Vigil Mass of Mary Mother of God – 7:00 p.m.
Saturday Morning, January 1 – New Year's Day Holy Day Mass for Mary Mother of God – 10:00 a.m.
Saturday Evening, January 1
Vigil Mass for Epiphany – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 2 – Epiphany
8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

Pastor: Fr. Walter J. Tappe
Pastoral Associate: Fr. R. Scott Hurd



City Information

“SoberRide” Offers Free Taxicab Rides

Area officials have launched an anti-drunk-driving initiative designed to reduce holiday-time, alcohol-related traffic incidents in the Washington metropolitan area. Citing the fact that the winter holiday season is the deadliest time of year when it comes to drunk driving, a coalition of local law enforcement officials, business professionals and area citizens announced that free cab rides will again be offered throughout the winter holidays to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington Area.

Offered by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the annual winter “SoberRide” program will operate between 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. each evening through Saturday, January 1 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

Washington metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free “SoberRide” phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (1-800-200-8294) and be provided a no-cost (up to \$50), safe way home. (Cingular customers can call #8294 for the same service.) “SoberRide” is offered in the District of Columbia, throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George’s and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, eastern Loudoun and Prince William. In these areas local taxicab companies will provide this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise might have attempted to drive home after drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP’s “SoberRide” program has provided 26,693 free cab rides to potentially impaired drivers in the Greater Washington Area.

For details visit WRAP’s website at <http://www.wrap.org>.

ERHS “Ice Raiders”

by Ken Fox

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Ice Raiders are presently 5-1 in Maryland Scholastic Hockey League competition for the 2004-2005 season. In 2005, the Raiders’ schedule is highlighted by a rematch against Bowie High School on Monday, January 24, in the Bowie Ice Arena at Allen Pond. Game time is 4:30 p.m.

The league will be taped and aired on Bowie public access cable TV, channel 77.

All other Raiders’ MSHL ice hockey games are scheduled for Fridays on January 7, 14 and 21; and February 4 at 5:15 p.m. at Wells, and at 5:45 p.m. on February 11 at the Benfield Pines Ice Arena. Opponents will be Huntington, Southern, St. Mary’s Ryken, Old Mill and Severna Park High School.

In November 2004, Bowie edged Roosevelt 10-8 in non-league play at the Wells Ice Arena in College Park.

Games typically run 90 minutes (three 15-minute periods plus time-outs) and are open to the public with free admission.

Walking Tour

Discover the way Patuxent Research Refuge provides habitat and management for wildlife on this 45-minute guided hike at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 2. Suitable for ages 12 and older. No registration is necessary. Call 301-497-5763 for details.

Holiday Hours:

Greenbelt Recreation Facilities

	GCC	GAFC	YC/SHLRC
December 31	9am-1pm	6am-5pm	12- 5pm
January 1	12-4pm	12-5pm	12-5pm

GCC - Greenbelt Community Center
 GAFC - Greenbelt Aquatics and Fitness Center
 YC - Youth Center
 SHLRC - Springhill Lake Recreation Center

GREENBELT NEW YEAR 2005

Return to the Emerald City

Take a trip down the Yellow Brick Road to an alcohol-free New Year’s Eve celebration featuring entertainment for all ages, at these adjoining venues in the heart of historic Greenbelt:

Greenbelt Community Center • Greenbelt Youth Center • Greenbelt Arts Center • Greenbelt Theater • New Deal Café
The party begins at 7pm on Friday, December 31 and lasts till after midnight

Confirmed entertainment: DC Motors, John Hill, Magic Mike, Kaydee Puppets, Goddard Storytellers, The Banjo Man, Wacky Hair Salon, Scottish Country Dancers, DJ and Giant Action Games, Teen Cabaret, GAVA/GATE Animation Festival, Craft making in the Emerald City Workshop, Desserts by Chef Lou, Countdown to midnight. . . plus more to come!

Admission wristbands are \$5 until December 30; \$7 at the door. Wristbands go on sale Monday, November 29 at Greenbelt Cop, the Community Center, and the Youth Center. Hosted by the Greenbelt New Year Committee and the Greenbelt Recreation Department. For more information, call the Community Center at 301-397-2208.

SEE FULL SCHEDULE AT www.ci.greenbelt.md.us

An Artful Afternoon
Sunday, January 2~1-5pm
Greenbelt Community Center
Enjoy this free mini arts festival featuring a studio open house, art exhibits, projects, Greenbelt Museum tours, etc.

A PEACEFUL DAY

1-1:30pm PEACEFUL STORIES: Greenbelt resident Sondra Holland will offer stories about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2:30-3pm PEACEFUL SONGS: Culminating in a Peace March around the Community Center at 3pm. Bring your buttons and posters to the march.
ART EXHIBITS: In the Community Center Gallery: “A Gaze Unmet: Photographs by Harold Anderson”
MUSEUM EXHIBIT: “Living the Healthy Life” explores the history of sport, health and fitness in the New Deal.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed Friday, December 31st, in observance of the New Year’s Holidays. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating that day.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of December 27th

ALL Refuse and Recycling Routes on Regular Schedule
 There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, December 31st

WINTER GED COURSE

Greenbelt CARES begins the **Winter 10-WEEK-GED COURSE** on Thursday, January 13, 2004. Registration will be on Tuesday, January 11th ONLY beginning at 10:30am. Course for Greenbelt residents is free, \$150 for non-Greenbelt residents. Students will be required to pay \$10 for calculators and textbooks as well. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday, in the Municipal Building. GED I is from 10:30 - 12:30, GED II is from 1:00 - 3:00. For enrollment information, call CARES, 345-6660, ext. 2016 or email: jhering@ci.greenbelt.md.us.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Your discarded Christmas Tree can be recycled. The Public Works Department will pick up trees at the locations listed below. The chips will be used as mulch around trees and flower beds. Please bring trees to any of the following areas **beginning December 27, 2004 ending February 7, 2005.**

GHI

- 73 Court Ridge Road -Playground opposite
- Plateau Place & Ridge Road -Corner on Playground side
- Research Road & Hillside Road - Corner
- 44 Court Ridge Road - Area near playground
- Eastway & Crescent Road -Corner
- 21 Court Ridge Road - Across from Green Ridge House
- Crescent Road & Ridge Road-Playground at junction
- Parkway Road
- Corner across from Community Church
- Corner across from 58 Ct.
- 7 Court Southway Road-Playground at Little League Field
- 11 Court & 13 Court Ridge Road-Park area between courts

Boxwood

- Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane-Playground

Lakewood

- Greenhill Road and Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)

Charlestowne Village and Charlestowne North - Adjacent to Attic Park

University Square -Front of swimming pool

Lakeside North -Near Swimming pool

Springhill Lake -Community Building

Greenbriar

- Between buildings 7708 and 7710 Hanover Pkwy.
- Between buildings 7728 and 7730 Hanover Pkwy.
- Between buildings 7826 and 7828 Hanover Pkwy.
- Between buildings 8003 and 8009 Mandan Road

Glen Oaks

- Between buildings 7903 and 7905 Mandan Road
- Between buildings 7509 and 7511 Mandan Road

Hunting Ridge - Between buildings 6936 and 6978, Hanover Parkway

Windsor Green - Court entrances, picked up by Windsor Green staff

Greenbrook Village and Estates

- Southeast corner of Ora Glen Dr. and Matthew Dr.
- Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and Greenbrook Drive
- Mandan Road and Mathew St.-in front of barricade

Greenwood Village

- Opposite 8175 Mandan Terrace
- Opposite 7646 Mandan Road
- Opposite 7648 Mandan Road

Greenspring and Greenspring II

- Southwest corner of Megan Lane and Craddock Rd.
- Park area between 7926 and 8006 Greenbury Drive
- Corner of Spring Manor Drive and Springshire Way
- Open area between 6519 and 6515 Springcrest Dr.

Belle Point

- Corner of Vanity Fair Drive and Prince James Way
- Open area between 7800 and 7801 Vanity Fair Drive
- Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive

Greenbelt Lake Village

- Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Drive
- Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive
- Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Drive



GREENBELT STRATEGY GAMES CLUB

Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30pm
 Beginning January 4, 2005
 Greenbelt Youth Center
Fun for all ages!
Innovative and Challenging!
Social & Fun!

For more info call Karen Haseley: 301-397-2208 x 2054
 Earn Student Service Hours as a Games Volunteer!

OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups. Vacancies exist on the:

Advisory Planning Board

Public Safety Advisory Committee

Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Wishing all a Safe and Happy New Year from the City of Greenbelt!

HEARING continued from page 1

will be improved. Wetland and forest acreage will be increased as well and historic structures will be renovated and park facilities improved.

Some 900 or more "project opportunities" have been identified, according to promotional literature accompanying the DEIS. These include such amenities as bicycle/pedestrian trails, improvements to specific historic structures, community sidewalks and signage directing interest to historic sites. (In recent weeks, however, one proposed bicycle trail has been eliminated as a cost-cutting measure.)

Specifically focused on the natural environment are stream restoration, wetland creation and preservation, stormwater management, fish blockage removal and forest buffer enhancement along streams and waterways. Creating animal crossings will be one aspect of road design, as will erosion and sediment control during and after construction.

"No federally-listed plant or animal species are known to be present in the study area," the promotional literature says, though it lists three specific plant species to be avoided in creating the right-of-way: trailing stickwort, rough-leaved aster and halberd-leaved greenbriar. According to the DEIS, "no net loss of wetlands" has been set as a future goal.

Local Streams

Four streams draining into the Anacostia River are listed under the category of 100-year floodplains – Northwest Branch, Paint Branch, Little Paint Branch and Indian Creek. Paint Branch, described as "one of the least intensely developed watersheds in the Anacostia basin," has a significant brown trout population as one of some 20 fish species. At its upper levels, according to the DEIS, it has "some of the best overall aquatic conditions in the study." At the same time, it also has "the highest levels of metals of all the study area watershed," though, according to the report, these remain below state levels.

Little Paint Branch is in healthy condition in its upper reaches, though conditions decline downstream, where early development occurred before requirements for stormwater control were instituted. Twenty-eight different species of fish in Little Paint Branch have been documented.

Indian Creek, which flows through the proposed Metroland development property at Greenbelt's western boundary, is dominated by large amounts of sediment in its watershed. These are the residue from abandoned and active sand and gravel mining operations, especially in the Virginia Manor-Ammendale Road

upstream area.

Indian Creek's condition is described as "Poor." Nevertheless, it contains 32 different fish species – a "not unexpected" discovery, according to the DEIS, because of all the streams surveyed, this is the only one that falls within the coastal plain.

Wetlands

One definition in the DEIS surprised this writer – wetlands, a concept of great importance to Greenbelt environmentalists, who have focused on protecting such areas on the Metroland tract. According to the DEIS, many of these occur on "lands mined for sand and gravel," created by the excavation and subsequent abandonment of wash ponds or sediment basins.

"Over time many of these areas have been colonized by wetland plant species and many are now jurisdictional wetlands," the report says. They are described as "of relatively low quality" because they are manmade and usually comprised of "non-native vegetation."

In general, these comments appear to describe the upper reaches of the stream, however – not the Greenbelt area section, which was swampland during the 19th century, before such sand and gravel mining operations began.

OPPOSITION continued from page 1

lished DEIS under the heading of "Environmental Stewardship." This section is nothing more than lip service to environmental sensitivity, while ignoring the devastating impact the proposed build alternatives would have on the natural environment, he said. "The loss of forest cover and wetlands, adverse impacts on streams and animal habitats exceed losses identified even in the 1997 DEIS. The proposed facility would also put the region at risk of violating Clean Air Act Standards for unhealthy air pollutants," he noted.

Escalating Costs

The environmental organizations also take strong issue with the escalating costs for the proposed build options. "Bottom line, the proposed ICC is a misplaced priority. It would bankrupt the state's transportation system for a single 'Outer Beltway' segment. When it comes time to fund critical transit and Metro, repair our roads, make essential highway and local road improvements, we could find our coffers empty – leaving citizens to feel the burden of higher taxes or cuts to other programs. We need more choices for transportation, not a single project that fails to solve the problem," according to Olsen. The Audubon Naturalist Society adds that the ICC's proposed benefits claimed by the state are compared with doing nothing to address our traffic so-

lutions and that the massive debt incurred by the \$3 billion toll highway pushes a range of solutions off the table which could more effectively address our transportation needs.

Joint Public Hearings

Beginning next week opponents and proponents will have an opportunity to voice their concerns and raise issues with state and federal officials at joint public hearings on the DEIS that was released the day before Thanksgiving. The first hearing is at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Tuesday, January 4 from 5 to 11 p.m.

Other dates and venues for public hearings include: Wednesday, January 5 at Gaithersburg High School (314 S. Frederick Ave.) from 5 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, January 8 at James Blake High School (300 Norwood Road in Silver Spring) from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a final public hearing at James Blake High School on Saturday, January 22.

The Save Our Communities Campaign is organizing a rally in opposition to the ICC at the January 22 hearing at James Blake High School. For more information, visit the website www.SaveCommunities.org. For information on the draft DEIS and technical reports on the ICC, visit the Maryland Department of Transportation ICC Project website at www.iccstudy.org.

State Promotes the ICC, City Planner Disagrees

by James Giese

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich is leading the effort to honor his campaign commitment and build the Intercounty Connector. Once an effort to evaluate the pros and cons for building a superhighway across Montgomery County from I-270 to I-95, the Intercounty Connector (ICC) Study of the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) has become a promotional effort to obtain approval and finance construction of the road. Together with release of a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) that supports construction of the road, the SHA, has produced supportive brochures bearing headings such as "Focus on . . . Economic Impacts," "Focus on . . . Travel Benefits" and "It's About Time . . . for Solutions."

The next step in the state study is to hear public comment on the DEIS with the first one being held next Tuesday in Greenbelt. The draft statement is available on a state website, www.iccstudy.org and at 20 locations for review including the SHA offices on Kenilworth Avenue at Crescent Road. It took the city over four hours to download the more than 1,600 pages on its fast internet connection. (According to Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze, the city is not on the distribution list for ICC materials).

Cursory Review

In a December 23 report to council, Craze provided a "cursory review" based upon a 40-hour quick scan of the document. No council meetings are scheduled prior to the hearing to consider her report and many city officials have been out of town or on vacation during the holidays.

"The argument that construction of the ICC would not have a detrimental impact on natural resources and would be beneficial by providing environmental enhancements is counterintuitive to the projected impacts of the proposed ICC," such as loss of forested areas, wetlands, public parks, homes and historic resources and the impacts on streams, noise intrusion and required displacement of homes and businesses.

Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze

The difficulty in digesting all this material released a month ago in the midst of the winter holiday season has caused Greenbelt and other officials to cry foul and call for more public hearings and extended time in which to comment. However, another SHA brochure, "Focus on . . . Schedule," declares that, "It is anticipated that a decision will be made and necessary federal approvals will be in place by the summer of 2005 on whether an ICC will be constructed and, if so, on which alignment."

A controversial matter for many years and once thought dead because a previous negative impact statement caused then-Governor Parris Glendening to scrap the project, the ICC was brought back to life by Ehrlich. Although Craze, in her cursory review, finds the many negative impacts previously reported still exist, the SHA has put a positive spin on the report in its brochures prior to receiving comment. Headlines in the "It's About Time . . . for Solutions" brochure read "It's about Business . . . Maryland's Economic Development, It's about Mobility . . . Relieving Traffic on Local Roads, It's about Dollars and Cents . . . Saving You Money on Your Commute, It's about Being

Sensitive to the Environment . . . Every Day," etc.

Disagrees

Craze, however, disagrees with the brochure slogans, stating that, "The DEIS justifies a predetermined outcome, and does not reflect an unbiased analysis of the data." She continues, "The argument that construction of the ICC would not have a detrimental impact on natural resources and would be beneficial by providing environmental enhancements is counterintuitive to the projected impacts of the proposed ICC," such as loss of forested areas, wetlands, public parks, homes and historic resources and the impacts on streams, noise intrusion and required displacement of homes and businesses. Nor will the ICC improve Beltway congestion, she says. "The major benefit of the ICC is to open up western Montgomery County for more economic development," she concludes. "However, the construction of roads to make outlying areas more accessible is a process previously characterized as sprawl. What the DEIS is defining as improved community mobility might otherwise be called anti-smart growth," she told the council.

Any written testimony which was not submitted at the ICC public hearings must be received by February 15. Mail to Wesley Mitchell, Project Manager, Mail Stop C-301, Project Planning Division, State Highway Administration, 707 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

Cycle Advocates Can Protest ICC "Hiker/Biker" Deletion

After a year and a half of study, the proposed "Hiker/Biker" trail that had been part of project planning for the Intercounty Connector (ICC) has been removed from the project planning study. In the State Highway Administration's recently completed Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed 18- to 20-mile toll highway connecting I-95 in Prince George's County with I-270 in Montgomery County, the proposed hiker/biker trail considered in the ICC project planning study during 2003 and early 2004 has been removed from consideration.

Bicycle coalition members urge bike enthusiasts to avail themselves of the opportunity to let transportation officials know their opinion on this facility soon. Public hearings will be

conducted on January 4, 5 and 8 where citizens are encouraged to attend and speak. Online comments can be made at the following website: http://iccstudy.org/deis_form.php.

Written comments should be made to the following: Secretary Robert L. Flanagan, Maryland Department of Transportation, 7201 Corporate Center, Hanover, MD 21076 or by email rflanagan@mdot.state.md.us; or to Neil J. Pedersen, Administrator, Maryland State Highway Administration, 707 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, email npedersen@sha.state.md.us.

A public hearing is scheduled on Tuesday, January 4 from 5 to 11 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt. Presentations begin at 5 p.m. Monday, January 10 is the snow date.

Get plugged into the latest news about and events in YOUR community!

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.

This abbreviated blotter covers a five-day period from December 18 through December 22.

Carjacking

December 17, 8:42 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Court, a woman reported that she was standing near her vehicle when two males approached her and demanded the keys to her vehicle. One had his hand in his waistband as if he had a weapon. The woman began to yell to a group of people on the other side of the road for assistance and both suspects fled the scene on foot. A possible suspect, a 14-year-old nonresident youth, was located and released pending further investigation. The second suspect is described as a black male, 17 to 18 years of age, 5'10", 150 pounds with black hair and brown eyes and a dark complexion, wearing light grey sweatpants, a dark grey jacket, white socks and basketball shoes.

Robbery

December 18, 7:49 p.m., Beltway Plaza Mall, the victims reported that they were waiting at a bus stop when a vehicle, described as a black and green Ford Crown Victoria 4-door with possible Maryland tags MFR436, pulled up near the bus stop. The vehicle was occupied by five or six people. Two men exited the vehicle, one armed with a handgun, and announced a robbery. After taking the victims' coats and shoes the men got back into the vehicle and fled the scene. The suspects are described as a black male, 10 to 20 years of age, 5'8", 160 pounds with light blue eyes, wearing a black coat, blue jeans and a black knitted cap. The second was a black male, 18 to 20 years of age, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and a black knitted cap.

December 19, 1:12 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with attempted robbery, first degree assault, second degree assault and concealed deadly weapon when police responded to a report of an accident with injuries. Investigation revealed that a cab driver had picked up a man in College Park to give him a ride to the Greenbelt Metro Station. In the 5900 block of Cherrywood Lane the man produced a knife and demanded money. The cab driver lost control of the cab, jumped a curb and struck several vehicles and a wooden fence. As the vehicle struck the curb, the suspect attempted to jump out of the cab but the vehicle door closed on his ankle when the vehicle hit the fence, trapping him. He was arrested on the scene, transported to Prince George's Hospital for treatment and was then released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

December 19, 7:50 p.m., Beltway Plaza Mall, a woman reported that she was loading her vehicle in the parking lot, when she was approached by a man, who grabbed her purse from her hands. He ran to a vehicle described as a light green Honda with a large ladder on top, bearing Maryland tags MMC097. He entered the vehicle and fled

the scene. He is described as a white male in his forties, 6'2", 210 pounds with a mustache, wearing green camouflage pants.

December 21, 8:39 p.m., 5500 block Cherrywood Lane, the victims were standing at a bus stop when a maroon 1998 Maxima, occupied by five to seven males, pulled up next to them. Two men, one of them armed with a semi-automatic style handgun, exited the vehicle and demanded money from the victims. After obtaining cash the men got back into the vehicle and entered the Beltway Plaza parking lot by Giant Food. The vehicle used in the incident had been taken during a carjacking in Hyattsville and was later recovered unoccupied at the University of Maryland Department of Public Safety. The two suspects who exited the vehicle are described as black males, 18 to 25 years of age, medium height, black hair, wearing black T-shirts, dark colored puffy coats, jeans, and black face masks.

Handgun

December 19, 7:54 p.m., Southway and Greenbelt Road, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with transporting a handgun in a vehicle, driving while impaired and driving under the influence. Police observed a vehicle stopped in the roadway, with the driver possibly passed out behind the wheel. As a result of further investigation, the driver was arrested for DWI. Located under his seat was a .44 caliber handgun. He was released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

Theft

December 19, 7600 block Greenbelt Road, a man reported that he picked up a woman at the Greyhound Bus Station in Washington, D.C. When he drove to a gas station in the 7600 block of Greenbelt Road and got out to make a call, the woman drove off with the vehicle, a 1995 Geo Prism 4-door, while he was at the pay phone. The vehicle was recovered a short time later abandoned at Greenway Center. The suspect is described as a white female, approximately 24 years of age, 5'10", 130 pounds with brown eyes, wearing blue sweatpants with white stripes down the sides and a white T-shirt.

December 21, 11:15 a.m., 6400 block Ivy Lane, a nonresident man entered the victim's work cubicle and removed her purse while she was at the copier. The victim grabbed her purse from the man and other employees detained him until the police arrived. He was arrested, charged with theft under \$500 and released on citation pending trial.

Drugs

December 18, 1:57 a.m., 7900 block Mandan Road, a resident youth was arrested for possession of marijuana after police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. Upon approaching the vehicle police detected the odor of what was believed to be marijuana. A passenger in the vehicle was found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected marijuana. He was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

Disruption of School

December 17, 11:48 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a resident youth was arrested for disruption of school activities after he refused to adhere to school policy. He was released to his mother pending action by the school board and the Juvenile Justice System.

Trespass

December 22, 1:46 a.m., 7200 Hanover Drive, a resident man was arrested for trespassing after police observed him inside Willy K's Restaurant. Police knew that the man had been permanently banned from the restaurant a couple of months previously. He was released on citation pending trial.

Burglary

December 18, 12:58 p.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered a residence by way of an unsecured patio door. A watch and jewelry were taken.

December 18, 1:01 p.m., 18 court Crescent Road, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with burglary, strong arm robbery, second degree assault, theft and unlawful taking of a motor vehicle. A woman reported her son broke into her residence, pushed her to the floor, took medication from her purse and fled the scene on foot. A short time later the son returned to the scene and took the mother's vehicle. He was located in the car at Greenbelt Road and Kenilworth Avenue; the vehicle was stopped and the son was arrested. He was released to the department of corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

December 19, 12:57 p.m., 6 court Ridge Road, it was reported that unknown person(s) used unknown means to enter a residence. A watch and credit cards were taken.

December 21, 9:45 a.m., 100 block Westway, a guest inside an apartment observed a youth opening a bedroom window. He fled when the resident yelled at him. The suspect is described as a black male, 16 to 17 years of age with black hair, brown eyes and wearing a black coat.

December 21, 7 p.m., 20 court Crescent Road, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered a residence via an unlocked bedroom window and removed a camcorder.

Vehicle Crimes

Two vehicles were stolen: a 1999 Dodge Intrepid 4-door from the 9200 block Edmonston Road, recovered December 20 by the Prince George's County Police and a black 1996 Honda Accord 4-door, Maryland tags MMR934 from the 9100 block Edmonston Terrace.

A red and white 2004 Honda Wave Runner and trailer were stolen from the 9200 block Edmonston Road, Maryland tag 813070G on the trailer.

Vandalism to, thefts from and attempted thefts of vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza Mall, 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, 9100 block Edmonston Road, Market Lane and Springhill Drive, 6200 block Springhill Drive, 9100 block Springhill Lane and 7600 block Mandan Road.

TOP STORIES continued from page 1

New Post Office?

In March a postal official told the city that the site in Greenbelt East purchased in 2003 for a new Post Office facility would likely be sold. All direct public service would remain in the present building and a less expensive site would be sought to house carriers and distribution tasks. The city manager sought a public meeting with postal officials and on April 14 city and postal officials and representatives from Congressman Steny Hoyer's office met in executive session, where the two sides differed over retention of full retail services in the present location. Postal officials sought to place such services in one location – new or old – not two, but the USPS agreed to provide full service at the new site and retain some services at a retail location in Roosevelt Center as a contract postal unit. Council approved the plan.

Cicadas Come and Go

One of the biggest stories of 2004 was the emergence of billions of 17-year cicadas that serenaded Greenbelters from late spring through midsummer. White cicada nymphs squeezed out of cinnamon-colored shells, dried in the sun and stretched their lacy wings. Soon the male choruses began their mating roar, which reached decibel levels rivaling that of a power mower. The News Review announced a "cicada contest" for stories and photos and published entries describing cicada cuisine, a child's interpretation of cicada-talk and the musings of a backyard naturalist. By mid-summer they were gone and the world suddenly seemed to go quiet. They'll be back but don't wait up – the date of their return is 2021.

Skate Park

Plans for the proposed Greenbelt Skate Park advanced in 2004 and were discussed at a series of city council meetings with input by skateboarders, their parents, designers and representatives of the Recreation Department. The proposed site for the skate park, the sloping grassy area between the Youth Center and the Community Center, would include a 7,000 square-foot facility. In July, council was briefed by Joe McNeal of the Greenbelt Recreation Department about the preliminary layout plan and project costs. Also in the summer, council asked staff to begin developing use guidelines, rules and regulations for operation of the proposed park, which was slated to open in late summer 2005.

Outstanding Citizen

For three years Patti Brothers, the Labor Day Festival Committee chair, extensively involved herself in assuring the success of the festival, even though rain dampened the festivities for two successive years. With the festival short of funds, Brothers energetically undertook fund raising on a year-round basis, often selling her home-baked goodies as well as conducting raffles. As if that were not enough, she also chaired Greenbelt New Year festivities for three years and became active in other organizations. At this year's opening ceremonies for the festival, Outstanding Citizen Committee Chair Robert Zugby announced Brothers as Greenbelt's 2004 Outstanding Citizen.

New Refuse Ordinance

In July and on September 13 an amended ordinance on solid waste collection was introduced at the council meetings. Minor changes were made on September 27. The new ordinance requires that every residence and commercial establishment subscribe to a refuse service; that trash be bagged and placed in a secure container; that trash containers be located on all-weather surfaces and that access be free of snow, ice and debris. The biggest change, to take effect on March 1, 2005, will require that yard waste be placed in paper bags or bins/cans rather than plastic bags for collection so that it can be more easily recycled. The bags or bins will have to be purchased at local stores. Leaves will continue to be vacuumed from detached homes.

Because GHI residents must bag their leaves, they will be able to pick up 10 free bags each fall (starting in 2005) at the GHI Maintenance Facility. Also, each residential refuse customer was able to pick up 10 free bags at the Labor Day festival and at the hazardous waste collection this past fall at Schrom Hills Park.

1938 Fire Truck Restored

Restoration work was completed on the city's 1938 Ford Howe fire truck by Delmarva Fire Apparatus in East New Market, Md. in time for the Labor Day Festival. The truck received a new engine, rolled-and-tucked upholstery and was painted bright red. The hose bed of the truck has been fitted with casket rollers as well. The restoring company staff spent three weeks hand-sanding the truck's original ladder.

Old Curmudgeon Dies

Greenbelt's Old Curmudgeon Isadore "Izzy" Parker died October 11, at the age of 84, following several years of failing health. He became a member of the Cooperator – predecessor to the News Review – and served as editor in 1949. He also drew cartoons for the paper. In the 1950s and '60s his political cartoons appeared in the Washington Post. He returned several years ago to again create wonderful cartoons for this newspaper.

Co-op Celebrates 20 Years

In October the members of the Greenbelt Consumers Cooperative, Inc. (GCC) marked their twentieth anniversary. The co-op was formed when Greenbelt Cooperative, Inc. decided to divest its grocery and service station operations in 1984. The new cooperative took over operations of the store roughly six months after the divestiture announcement. Under GCC the food store has never had a money-losing year and this year passed the \$10 million mark in sales for the first time.

A Festive Exchange of Food



PHOTO COURTESY LINDA CURTIS

Greenbelter Linda Curtis and exchange students don decorative attire to make festive holiday Meals on Wheels deliveries. From left to right are Magdalena Pasztaleniec from Poland, Yee Man Chan from Hong Kong, Linda Curtis and Matilda Millican from Australia.

Spring Boating Classes Begin

Winter doldrums? Prepare for a safe spring boating season! The US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 72 is offering a course of special interest to all boaters and aspiring boaters, "Advanced Coastal Navigation." This class will meet twice a week, for six weeks on Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting Monday, January 3 at High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville. The only cost is for books and charts.

To register contact Steve at 301-464-8083 after 9 a.m., or email tsksk10@hotmail.com or call Jean at 301-779-3184.

Meals on Wheels Needs Volunteers

Make a difference in the life of one of your neighbors who needs a helping hand. Meals on Wheels of College Park needs volunteers to help pack daily meals for seniors and those who cannot cook for themselves. Also needed are drivers and runners Monday through Friday. Packers work from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Drivers and runners work from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteers may set their own schedules with work one day a week, once or twice a month or whenever they can. Call Monday through Friday 301-474-1002 for details and to volunteer.

Volunteer to Foster A Seeing Eye Dog

Guiding Eyes for the Blind, a nationally-recognized breeding and training center located in Yorktown Heights, N.Y. needs volunteers to help raise puppies until they are ready for formal training. A 501(c)(3) organization, the national organization and local chapters rely solely on the generosity of many individuals who volunteer their time and service for free.

The Maryland Bay Region, which began in 1996, consists of individuals who volunteer their time to foster specially bred Labrador dogs that will eventually guide visually impaired persons.

The greatest need is the recruitment of individuals and families who will open their homes for 12 to 14 months to foster a puppy, teach the dog proper manners and basic training skills and expose the dog to all types of everyday experiences. All of these skills will help the dog develop its confidence in making the right choices to further guide. The volunteers require no special training - everyone is taught skills they will need to have and is provided an endless network of support.

To learn more about the local chapter log onto the website at www.GEB-bay.org. The national organization website is <http://www.guidingeyesbcweb.org>.

Locally, Pat Clark, a volunteer puppy raiser for the Prince George's County Guiding Eyes for the Blind, can be contacted at pclark@guidingeyes.org or 301-809-9683.

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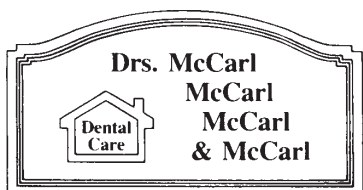
Mike Roberts of Greenbelt is the grand winner of the McCarl Dental Group Smile Makeover contest. Mike has spent years feeling self-conscious about his smile. His severely broken and decayed teeth affected his speech, appetite and overall well being. Providing Mike with an extraordinary smile was just the beginning; he now eats a variety of foods and his quality of life has greatly improved. "It's fantastic to be able to smile again, which I haven't done in a long time," Mike says. The McCarl Dental Group is pleased and proud to have been able to help a member of our community!



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Sudden Oak Disease Found in Maryland

Sudden oak death (SOD) – a disease that has killed thousands of trees in California – has arrived in Maryland. SOD is caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*, a fungus-like pathogen that spreads by sending spores from infected leaves and twigs. Maryland has two confirmed SOD-positive samples from rhododendron and camellia plants.

“The significance of this new disease would be the possible infection and probable decline of our Eastern forests,” says Dr. David Clement of the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension’s Home and Garden Information Center (HGIC). “Northern red oak, southern red oak and pin oak have shown susceptible reactions in laboratory tests. Native rhododendrons and mountain laurels would also be infected. The effects to Maryland forests and landscapes could add up and be similar to both Chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease,” said Clement.

The only way to confirm SOD is through laboratory testing. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) has surveyed plant material in Maryland nurseries and garden centers. In cooperation with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension (MCE), they are seeking help from the public in tracking down infected plant material that was purchased prior to the nursery inspections.

Of particular interest are any camellias, lilacs and viburnums that were purchased and/or planted in 2003 or 2004 and any rhododendrons (including azaleas) that are exhibiting foliar symptoms. In addition, samples of any other plants on the host list published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service that were planted in 2003 or 2004 and are exhibiting unusual symptoms should be tested. The list may be accessed online at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispn/sod/usdasodlist.html>.

Symptoms are highly variable but generally affect the foliage (leaves) or the trunk. Photos of infected leaves and more information on SOD can be found online at the website www.hgic.umd.edu. People who suspect they have an infected plant, whether it has symptoms or not, should call HGIC at 1-800-342-2507 (410-342-2507 in Washington, DC). Trained consultants will assist in determining if a sample needs to be sent to MDA. They will take names and addresses and forward them to MDA daily. Or people can send the HGIC their name and mailing address with a message requesting a postage-paid sample kit via the “Send a Question” link on the HGIC website. MDA will then send a postage-paid sample kit. Samples should only be sent to the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Do not send or hand carry samples to the HGIC or the county MCE office.

Patuxent Refuge Has New Programs

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service announces winter programs at the Patuxent Research Refuge.

Programs held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center on Powder Mill Road in Laurel are:

Nature Tots: Furry Friends, Wednesday, January 5, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. for ages 3 or 4 – introduce preschoolers to the world of mammals in this fun, interactive program.

The Three Bears, Sunday, January 9, 1 to 2 p.m. for ages 5 to 7 – learn all about the different kinds of bears that live in North America in this fun, hands-on program.

All programs are free but require advance reservations. Make reservations by calling 301-997-5887. Mention special needs when registering. The website is www.patuxent.fws.gov.

Bonsai Winter Silhouettes

The elegant silhouettes of deciduous bonsai are featured in a free annual exhibit at the U.S. National Arboretum’s National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. The exhibit runs January 1 through 9 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.usna.usda.gov or call 202-245-4523 for information.

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Also view the exhibit, “Sss . . . When the Iron Was Hot: African American Ironworkers in Laurel/Muirkirk 1730-1930,” which examines the contributions made by black ironworkers. Visit the recently established early 19th century replica kitchen.

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Brick Townhome

Beautiful 2 bedroom townhome with fresh paint, high-quality cabinets, parquet flooring, deck, landscaped yd., custom doors. \$189,900 SOLD

Single Family Home - Ridge Road

Sought-after location - this modern 4br 2 1/2 bath home was built in the 80's and has some amazing amenities. 3 full levels! \$469,900 U.C.

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Brick Townhome

This brick 3 bedroom townhome is just steps away from Roosevelt Center. Enjoy the benefits and convenience of Cooperative living! SOLD

Three Bedroom Townhome

One of the few GHI homes with a bedroom and full bathroom on the first floor. Remodeled kit., stacking w & d and fenced yard. SOLD.

U.C. = Under contract; seller may consider back-up offers



Oprah Creates a Miracle that Plays Out in Greenbelt

by Tiane A. Johnson

A children's holiday song says, "All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth" and another says, "All I want for Christmas is you." But for Lora Jackson, all she wanted for Christmas was her free, brand-new car.

Jackson's wish came true on December 17 when she went to the Capitol-Buick-Pontiac-GMC dealership in Greenbelt to pick up her new 2005 Pontiac G6 GT Sedan.

The D.C. resident was one of 276 lucky people selected as an audience member for the 19th season premiere of the Oprah Winfrey Show which aired on September 13, 2004. The show was titled, "Wildest Dreams with Oprah," and on this day, the billionaire television host pulled off the biggest surprise in the show's history when she gave every member of her studio audience keys to a brand-new car.

Oprah gave away 10 cars to viewers who shared their personal stories of struggle and challenges. Then she told her audience that one car was left and they each had a box. She told them to open their boxes. Then pandemonium broke loose.

"It was unreal. We were sitting there in the second row and my friend was the first one to open her box and she had a key. I went ahead and opened my box and I thought it would just be a key chain. I opened my box and I had a key too and I was confused because Oprah said there was only one car left. I thought it was a mistake and then everybody had keys. It was unreal and I was in disbelief," Jackson said.

Jackson, a Howard University Law student originally from Jacksonville, Fla., said she was surprised when she found out she was selected to be an audience member for the show because since January her friend had been trying to get tickets.

"There were actually four of us that went. One of my friends, it was her birthday weekend and we were trying to go to Chicago for her 30th birthday to celebrate. We wrote into the website and it said, 'Send your story.' There were three of us that wrote sto-



Above, a jubilant Lora Jackson, at Capitol to receive her free 2005 Pontiac G6, stands between company officials Joe Tyser (left) and Floyd Sheahan. Below, Jackson poses with the keys to the new 2005 Pontiac G6 GT Sedan she won in the "Wildest Dreams with Oprah" giveaway that launched the 19th season of the Oprah Show.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITOL BUICK-PONTIAC-GMC

ries to Oprah and they called two of us and we were able to bring a guest, so the four of us went. We didn't know the topic of the show. All we knew was we were just going to Chicago to see Oprah. And we all left the show with cars," added Jackson.

Concerning her personal story, Jackson said she just told the

truth about her situation.

"I wrote about being a broke law student and being stressed out. I was having a hard time financially. There was a lot going on because I am in the JD/MBA program so school was stressing me out and money was stressing me out. I just needed a break. That is what I sent in and

I got the call on a Saturday. They told me if I could come to Chicago on that Thursday then I could come to the show. It was really short notice and I got us together and we went."

The car's total cost is about \$28,000. Thus the total for over 200 cars equaled \$7 million. But for the lucky winners, all they had to worry about was paying the taxes.

"Uncle Sam is always going to get his cut. They told us immediately after the show that we were going to have to pay taxes on the car. It was not a surprise. It's a free car, it's a nice free car, so that didn't dampen my dream."

Another highlight of winning the car is that each winner was able to choose the car's specifications, such as color and other features.

"Being that it was a national promotion, the recipients had the opportunity to select the dealership they wanted to take delivery at and that is how we got involved," said Pontiac representative Mike Parrish. "All the recipients had the opportunity to order the car with the options they wanted. She seemed to get everything on hers and that is the same thing I would have done if I were her. It went through the process of being built, then it was shipped to us and then ready for delivery."

Jackson chose a gray color for the car. Some of the special features included remote starter, panoramic roof, heated seats, six-disc CD player, a leather interior and an Onstar system.

The new car came at a perfect time because Jackson's current car, a 2001 Toyota Corolla, has a broken window because someone broke into it and she is still making payments on the car note.

But that is all behind her now. She is selling her old car but initially when she won the Pontiac, she considered selling that car too.

"I thought about selling this new car to pay bills but I have a job coming up so I am very excited. Things worked out, so I can keep it."

After signing the paperwork and learning about her car's features, Jackson was able to drive home in her new car.

Essay Contest Open To High School Srs.

Ever thought about what advice to offer a celebrity who might not have made the best financial decisions? This year Maryland's high school seniors will have an opportunity to write about the guidance they would offer a celebrity who has not managed funds properly.

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) will again host its annual scholarship competition offering an opportunity for students to write about a particular consumer education topic. Recognizing the need for strong personal money management skills, the MBA is committed to helping Maryland students and adults learn their "financial ABCs" to become financially literate.

To help students develop money sense and sound financial skills, the 2005 essay contest asks them to write a two-page, typed essay on the following theme: Even the wealthiest people have trouble managing their money. Using a celebrity who has had financial failure as an example, act as their banker or financial advisor to assist them in reversing their financial downfall.

The winning essays will be selected in February. The award will be presented March 2 during the Maryland Bankers Day in Annapolis at a General Assembly event. Award recipients will receive a \$1,000 award for first place, \$500 for second and \$250 for third place. Entries must be postmarked by January 28.

To download an entry form or to receive contest rules or additional information visit <http://www.soundcents.com> or call Sarah Lifshin at 443-837-1606.

City Notes

The streets crew took delivery of 200 tons of road salt for the coming winter and the facilities maintenance crew continued working on the Municipal Building window project. The vehicle mechanics repaired the fuel system on the leaf vacuum and the parks crew refurbished the spring animals for the playground near 73 court of Ridge Road and made some new signs for the Christmas tree drop-off locations and installed them around the city. The horticulture crew continued staking newly planted trees throughout the city.

Planning Department

Staff responded to complaints from residents of two Springhill Lake apartments with no heat or light in the kitchen and responded to a late night pipe break at Greenbelt Lake Village. Staff also inspected the previously fire-damaged building at 7806 Hanover Parkway for occupancy. Meetings were held with representatives of Springhill Lake to discuss redevelopment plans and staff began review of the Prince George's County Green Infrastructure Plan.

Recreation Department

In conjunction with the Greenbelt Community Church, homeless individuals were permitted to take showers at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center on two consecutive evenings during the week.

The spring 2005 senior programs and trips are currently being organized and planned.

Blood Donors Urgently Needed

The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region of the American Red Cross is issuing a plea to community blood donors based on a drastic decline in blood donor appointments over the holiday period. There is an especially strong need for Type O and Type B blood.

To accommodate donors and make the process as convenient as possible, the American Red Cross has extended hours of operation at many community blood donor centers. Appointments are encouraged and are available by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543). Platelet donors are also needed immediately and can obtain appointments by calling 1-800-272-2123.

Through January 7, participants at all community blood drives and donor centers will receive a "Thanks for Giving"

T-shirt as a special token of appreciation from the American Red Cross on behalf of patients in local hospitals whose lives depend on the availability of blood and blood products.

To be eligible to give blood donors must be generally in good health, be at least 17 years of age or, in Maryland only, be 16 years of age with written parental consent, weigh at least 110 pounds, have not received a tattoo within the past year and have not donated whole blood within the past 56 days.

Members of the community are asked to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543) immediately to schedule an appointment to donate. Businesses and community groups willing to hold blood drives are asked to call 1-800-787-9282, ext. 4925 for information.

Artist Kurt Plinke at Wildlife Center

Kurt Plinke is the Artist of the Month for January in the Hollingsworth Art Gallery of the Patuxent Research Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center in Laurel. Plinke has had a lifelong career in the arts, starting with watercolors as a child. He studied fine arts and biology at Bowling Green State University in Ohio and Wilmington College, Delaware. While there he became interested in the historical aspects of various mediums used by artists throughout the ages. This led him to study historical egg tempera methods at Towson University.

A working artist for more than 25 years, Plinke has developed a style that uses careful observation of nature and creative interpretation. He enjoys creat-



ing scientific illustrations of nature, loose studies of wildlife and abstract images of nature, man and the human condition. His detailed wildlife studies in transparent watercolors are known throughout the eastern U.S. He has developed ideas about combining natural and human elements in abstract ways, using ancient and modern imagery to evoke an awareness of the frailty of man.

Plinke's art may be viewed daily throughout January at the National Wildlife Visitor Center located off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore/Washington Parkway and Rt. 197 south of Laurel. Visit the website at <http://patuxent.fws.gov> or call 301-497-5763 for more information.