

GREENBELT News Review

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JANUARY 27, 2005

Summit Coalition Reviews Top Four Environmental Issues

by Marat Moore

On January 17, the Citizens' Campaign for the Environment, a statewide network, sponsored the 11th Annual Environmental Summit in the Miller Senate building in Annapolis, where more than 300 concerned citizens heard legislators address legislative priorities to protect the state's environment in 2005. The coalition includes the Maryland League of Conservation Voters, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 1000 Friends of Maryland, the Sierra Club and other groups.

In the opening weeks of the 90-day legislative session, the four top environmental issues are protection of the state's public lands ("open space"), air pollution, clean cars and transportation equity – using transportation funds efficiently and equitably on projects that will benefit all of the state. Bills will be introduced in all four areas during the 2005 legislative session. The coalition opposes construction of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) as ineffective in solving traffic problems, costly and destructive to

the environment.

Participants heard remarks from Senate President Mike Miller, Speaker of the House Mike Busch, Department of Environmental Secretary Kendl Philbrick, the chairs of the Senate and House environmental committees, Senator Paula Hollinger and Delegate Maggie MacIntosh. Numerous other legislators were in the audience.

"Being good to the environment is being good to the economy," said Speaker of the House Michael Busch.

Referring to the Open Space program, he added, "Maryland has one of the most comprehensive land preservation programs in the U.S. It's a model for other states. We need to go back to that blueprint and protect our environmentally sensitive lands."

The keynote speaker was Eric Schaeffer, a former head of enforcement for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), who resigned in protest in 2002 after the White House enacted changes that weakened the

agency's ability to enforce anti-pollution laws. Schaeffer, who lives in Takoma Park, formed a nonprofit group, the Environmental Integrity Project, that uses advocacy and original research to improve enforcement of federal environmental laws.

"Maryland is behind the curve on the Clean Air Act, especially its power plants," Schaeffer told the crowd. Three-quarters of the state's energy comes from high-sulfur coal without "scrubbers" on the smokestacks.

"In 2004, 268,000 tons of sulfur dioxide were released in Maryland," he said. "That's a reduction of less than five percent in 15 years." Sulfur dioxide causes acid rain and reacts with ammonia in the atmosphere to create fine particulates, which Schaeffer said "you could put next to drunk driving in terms of its public impact."

According to the EPA, air pollution caused by six power plants in Maryland cost \$2.6 bil-

See **SUMMIT**, page 6

Mayor Davis Now Heads Council of Governments

by Carol Griffith

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) on January 12 elected Greenbelt's Mayor Judith Davis to chair its board of directors. The board also appointed two vice chairs, Arlington County Board Member G.N. Jay Fissette and District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams and several chairs of policy committees.

COG is an organization of Washington-area governments and representatives from state legislatures. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life and competitive advantages of the area in the global economy. This is accomplished through consensus building and policy making as well as implementing intergovernmental policies and plans and providing information. Most issues are recognized as requiring a long-term vision and commitment to action.

In 1957, the cities of College Park, Rockville and Takoma Park were among the founders of COG. Greenbelt and Gaithersburg joined in the 60s. Many of



Greenbelt Mayor
Judith Davis

these cities could not join today due to a base population requirement. COG membership now includes jurisdictions in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C.

Davis says she is "glad that Greenbelt had the foresight to add its voice to the regional discussion" and assist in adding a small-city viewpoint to COG. She notes that she is the second person from Greenbelt to be honored with the chair position, former Mayor Gil Weidenfeld was the first.

Issues

Davis explains that though many of the same issues are being addressed today as in earlier years, such as growth and traffic, there are currently added concerns. These include homeland security, air quality and the Chesapeake Bay. Davis adds that the Chesapeake Bay issues were initially addressed only by a panel but now by a full committee with more input and influence.

Davis said that it is "quite an honor" to be elected chair of the

See **DAVIS**, page 6

Part 4

Reporter Meets Pilot's Son; Together They Seek Closure

by Timothy G. Smith

The reporter searches on the ground, researches through the Navy's records and obtains a copy of a newspaper article with a photo of the crash site, now a cleared farm field he had already searched. Disappointed there would be no wrecked plane, he still has questions to answer and closure to find.

I was still awaiting word on my search permits from the National Fish and Wildlife Service and NASA when I received a call from Holliday Obrecht. Obrecht was a longtime employee of the National Fish and Wildlife Service who had heard about my activities through the grapevine. He had worked at the Beltsville site since the late seventies and was very familiar with the area. He

also was a light plane pilot who had actually flown into the Beltsville Airfield before it was closed.

Obrecht said he had heard stories about the crashed plane from World War II but was sure the wreckage was removed almost immediately afterward. He couldn't shed any more light on the incident I was researching but he gave me the name of Pete Godwin, an old friend of his, who possibly could.

I called Godwin and asked about the World War II crash. He only had second-hand information. He was working at the site of the water table contamination experiment 10 or 12 years ago when an old man stopped by and struck up a conversation.

They talked for an hour or so. The old man had worked at the nearby Hayden Farm when it was a dairy long ago and he wanted to share stories about all the things that had happened.

One of those stories was about the plane that crashed during the war. He remembered many details: the fire, the injured and dead and the crash location. He indicated where the wreckage came to rest on one of the farm fields and even pointed out signs of damage to the tree line caused by the crash. Godwin could not remember the old man's name and, since he had appeared to be in his late eighties 10 or 12 years ago, he was reasonably certain the old man was dead by now. The location given by the old man was one more confirmation of the map position I had estimated for the site of the crash.

I was beginning to accept the fact that the aircraft wreckage was gone, removed shortly after it crashed, but I had one last question: what is the source of the rumor that wreckage of a DC-3 was in the woods near the airfield?

Godwin had an answer for that one as well. He said that during

See **CLOSURE**, page 12

Greenbriar Condominiums Complete Renovations

by Carol Griffith

The Greenbriar Condominiums on Hanover Parkway has a bright, fresh new look after the recent renovation but the "real story," according to Steve Bupp, owner and president of Condominium Ventures, Inc. (CVI), is that "15 independent-minded people made an agreement and stuck with it, with the intent of seeing the project through from start to finish."

The lobby of each of the 50 buildings was paneled in part and repainted a lighter color with an arch design added around the mailboxes and bulletin board. The railings leading up and down the stairways were changed to a new design and light color and there are new stair treads. New carpet with a long life expectancy has been installed throughout the common areas as well as new tile floors around the trash room and its entrance on terrace levels. In every building new recessed lighting occurs on the top floor and in one building every floor has been renovated to include recessed lighting. The common areas are much brighter while using less energy because of the reflective quality of the new lights and

wall treatments.

The entrances to individual units now look very different. The new carpet includes areas of special doormat-like material in front of each door. New trim around each door and brass kickplates, knockers and peepholes are visually appealing.

This project owes a great deal to Larry Noda, a professional real estate appraiser and Phase I president. In the course of his business he had the idea of renovating Greenbriar, originally planned as a rental community in 1973-74 and constructed beginning with Phase I in 1974. The two subsequent phases began in 1976 and 1978.

Noda took pictures of projects he liked and brought them back to the boards of each phase with a questionnaire in 1998 to assess interest in renovation. As enough interest was expressed, the next step was to hold meetings with the residents who favored the idea and decided to move forward with the plan.

An architect, Rohit Anand of Design Concepts Architects, was hired after submitting ideas for

See **GREENBRIAR**, page 6

What Goes On

Saturday, January 29

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

Wednesday, February 2

7 p.m., Meeting on Revitalized Springhill Lake Community, SHL residents only, SHL Elementary School auditorium

Thursday, February 3

7 p.m., Meeting on Revitalized Springhill Lake Community, Greenbelt-wide community, SHL Elementary School auditorium

Folk Music, Sculpture Show Headlines Artful Afternoon

The city's next Artful Afternoon, to be held at the Greenbelt Community Center on Sunday, February 6 from 1 to 5 p.m., will feature songs and stories by Sparky and Rhonda Rucker. Artists' exhibits and a reception for the new Shayna Skolnik exhibit in the Municipal Building are also scheduled.

According to folk singer Pete Seeger, "Sparky Rucker is unique! He'll make you glad to be alive." Sparky and Rhonda Rucker will perform free at the next Artful Afternoon in their show, "Heroes and Hard Times: A Black Folk Odyssey." A Black Folk Odyssey.



Sparky and Rhonda Rucker will perform "Heroes and Hard Times: A Black Folk Odyssey" on Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Community Center.

Scheduled at 3 p.m. at the Community Center, the show is a journey of songs and stories through 400 years of African-American cultural and folk history from slavery and the Underground Railroad to the birth of the blues and the Civil Rights movement. Sparky's deft guitar, banjo and spoons-playing blends like a charm with Rhonda's harmonica and voice. This show is suitable for all ages.

Sculpture Exhibit

In the Gallery see Bruce Gugliuzza's vibrant wood sculpture evoking spores and otherwise out-of-sight creatures. Larger than one would expect, Gugliuzza's pieces bring to mind questions of "What could that be inspired by?" and "How ever did he create it?" Add to wonder about life by seeing this show.

The show continues through February 16 in the Community Center Gallery (open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week, except when the room is reserved). The artist's reception will be held during the Artful Afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Gallery.

A free, hands-on art project for attendees of all ages will be held earlier in the Community Center studios from 1 to 3 p.m.

Watercolors

The new show at the Municipal Building Gallery is called "Cafe Olé: Watercolors by Shayna Sara Skolnik." Those who have sat at a café or restaurant casually observing the other patrons stirring their coffee, reading the morning paper or chatting with the waiters will relate to this show. Skolnik explores this aspect of everyday life in her new series of paintings in watercolor and watercolor with ink. The series is the culmination of three years' work; most of

the paintings are based on actual places in southern Spain, where the artist resides for part of the year. The show will be on view through February 28 at the Municipal Building Gallery, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, whenever the room is not reserved. The artist's reception will be held during the Artful Afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m.

Other Activities

Throughout the afternoon from 1 to 5 p.m. artists will be creating artwork in the working studios of the artists-in-residence on the third floor of the Community Center. Studios are also open for visiting when artists are working throughout the week. This is a great time for artists who are interested in applying for studio space to view the location, as applications are now available for the artist-in-residence program.

For historic perspectives on Greenbelt, enjoy guided tours from 1 to 5 p.m. of the historic home at 10-B Crescent Road operated by the Greenbelt Museum. Also 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, 15 Crescent Road. Artful Afternoon programs are a suitable outing for families and people of all ages as well as an introduction to the many programs and classes available through the City of Greenbelt's Department of Recreation.

For more information call Barbara Dickey Davis at 240-542-2062.

Ice Raiders Hold Lead in League

by Ken Fox

In the game on January 21 the Eleanor Roosevelt Ice Raiders squad went 7-2 in Maryland Scholastic Hockey League competition with a 6-4 victory over the Ryken Knights from St. Mary's County. (Roosevelt's record changed to 8-1 after a loss became a win as a result of a forfeiture.) The Ice Raiders skated to a 4-0 lead in the first 19 minutes of play and then led to the finish.

Mike Kerdock topped the Raiders' scoring with two goals and two assists, team captain Matt Fox and forward Alyssa Walker each tallied one goal and one assist, and assistant captains Tony Buemi and Dan Adkins each notched a single goal. Raider goalie Josh Harab had 25 saves.

On Monday, January 24 the Raiders scored two historic firsts at Bowie Ice Arena when they beat Bowie High School (BHS) and extended their winning record to 9-1.

The ERHS v. Bowie ice hockey game was shortened by 10 minutes because of scheduling and refereeing glitches. The winning goal was scored by Mike Roberts with assists from team captain Fox and forward Kerdock with 25 seconds remaining in the second full period of play. Kerdock had scored three goals earlier. Fox and Harab also tallied one each. Further assists were credited to Fox (2), Kerdock (2), Thomas Schwenn and Andy Somich.

Bowie co-captain Evan Guinn and defenseman John Constable each scored two goals and forward David Austin scored one. Assists went to Austin, Gwinn, Navid Marvi, Jonathan Monroe and Mike Vaughan. ERHS goalie Grant Mitchell made 24 saves. BHS goalie David Newton stopped 19 shots.

Bowie public access cable TV channel 77 will telecast the game as a special by "Science Links."

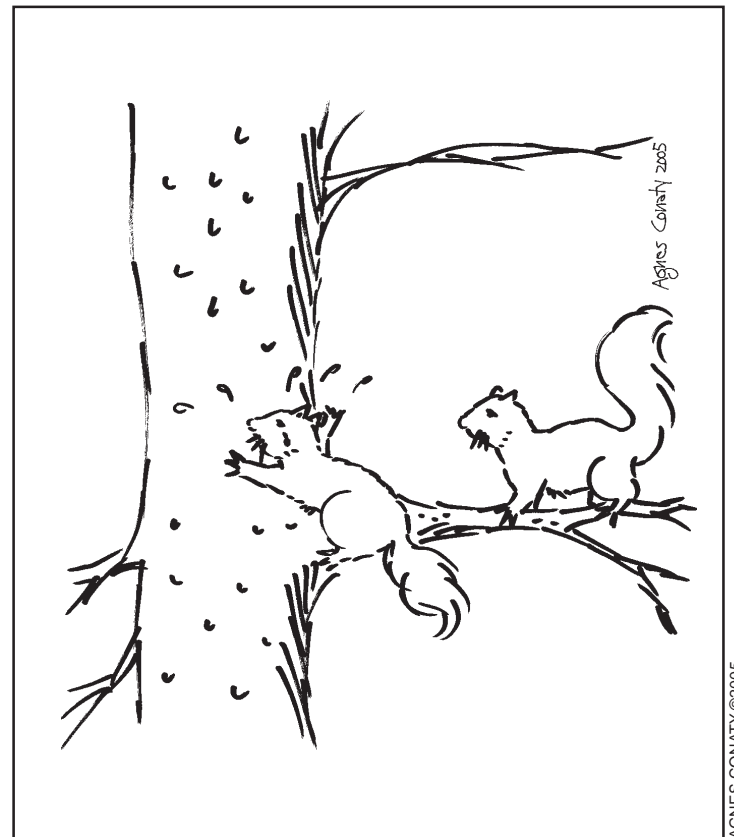
SHL Revitalization Community Meetings

Two meetings will be held next week concerning plans for the revitalization of Springhill Lake.

On Wednesday, February 2 residents of Springhill Lake are invited by the owners of the complex to hear a presentation on their future plans. A question and answer session will follow.

On Thursday, February 3 the wider Greenbelt community is invited to a similar meeting. Both meetings will be held at 7 p.m. in the Springhill Lake Elementary School. (See ad on page 3.)

Grin Belt



"Jerome, are you upset because the ICC might uproot this maple tree or because your football team is not going to the Super Bowl?"

AGNES CONATY ©2005

Help the Bluebirds At the Nature Center

Help naturalists maintain bluebird nest boxes and kestrel trails and learn to identify different kinds of bird eggs and baby birds at the Nest Box Work Day on Saturdays, February 5 and 26 from 1 to 4 p.m. These are outdoor activities, so dress for the weather and bring a bag lunch. Meet at Clearwater Nature Center, located at 11000 Thrift Road, Clinton for a vanpool to various locations. Reservations are required. Teens, ages 14 and up, can earn community service hours. For information call Clearwater Nature Center at 301-297-4575, TTY 301-699-2544.

Nature Tots Features Squirrels

Children ages 3 to 4 are invited to "Nature Tots: Bright-Eyed and Bushy-Tailed," an interactive program about squirrels on Sunday, January 30 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. at the National Wildlife Visitor's Center of the Patuxent Research Refuge. The program is free but reservations must be made by calling 301-497-5887.

The National Wildlife Visitor's Center is located on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 197.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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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.

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Community Events

Explore Landscaping with an Expert

The Explorations Unlimited program for Friday, February 4 is titled "The Rise of Invasive Ornamentals: Plant Collecting and Landscape Traditions." It will be presented by John Peter Thompson at 1 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center Senior Classroom. Thompson will briefly cover Western garden traditions and talk about their origins in the "Garden of Eden." He will discuss how fads in gardening were encouraged by plant collection/exploration and how those fashions in turn encouraged more exploration. Various trends – the search for "new," the desire to have one's own English estate and the infringement of the suburbs into the country have resulted in some ornamentals escaping cultivation and causing problems for natural lands managers. The need to plant the "right plant in the right place" requires that gardening professionals and the gardening public carefully evaluate what they are planting. Thompson distinguishes between the native plants gardening movement and the problems posed by invasive plants.

Thompson is president, C.E.O. and chairman of the board of the Behnke Nurseries Company. The company was founded in 1930 by Thompson's grandparents, Albert and Rose Behnke. Thompson has a diverse background. He spent most of his childhood learning to garden from his grandfather, one weed at a time. He attended the University of Maryland majoring in music and languages and his pastime is history. After a stint in the restaurant business he returned to Behnke Nurseries in 1988. He spent a number of years at the growing facility where he oversaw the perennial production and sales and then moved to the business offices in Beltsville.

In addition to directing the company, Thompson is very ac-

tive in community organizations such as the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of the Library, the Laurel Hospital, the Union Cemetery and the United Communities Against Poverty among other things. He is a frequent lecturer at the University of Maryland Senior University where he presents courses on topics as diverse as the History of the Papacy, the First Ladies, Modern Music and the History of the Supreme Court.

Over the past few years Thompson has become quite knowledgeable of the issues surrounding invasive plants and the aspects that affect the green industry. He is president of the Maryland Nursery and Landscape Association (MNLA) committee on invasive plants. He represents MNLA as a nursery representative to the Maryland Invasive Species Council. He also represents MNLA as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Exotic Pest Plant Council, for which he is a founding board member and currently serves as president. Thompson was recently appointed to the Invasive Species Advisory Committee which advises the White House on invasive species issues. He is also the nursery industry representative to the Chesapeake Landscape Council which advocates landscaping that is beneficial to the Chesapeake Bay.

His goal is to act as a channel between nursery and environmental groups with the hope that they can work together to both fight and prevent what are essentially weed problems in natural areas.

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 always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

ACE Is Looking For Young Writers

Time is running out to enter the Third Annual ACE Reading Club Youth Writing Contest. Students in grades 6 through 12 who live or attend school in Greenbelt are eligible to enter the writing contest, which focuses on poetry and short fiction. The theme for this year's contest is "New Beginnings." There are two divisions: Junior (grades 6 through 8) and Senior (grades 9 through 12). Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three selections in each division. Entries are due by February 28 and should be addressed to ACE Reading Club, Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

There is no charge to enter the contest. Questions should be directed to Liz Murray, coordinator of the ACE Reading Club, by phone at 301-345-6660 or by email at lmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

The ACE Reading Club is a community-based reading program originally established through a grant acquired by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education and now funded by the City of Greenbelt.

Goddard Hosts "Eyes on the Sky"

In honor of the World Year of Physics 2005, NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center invites people to a special series of lectures and discussions on cosmology and astrophysics with some of the world's leading scientists. These lectures "Eyes on the Sky – Peeking into the Universe's Past, Fathoming the Future" are open to the public but are geared toward the high school/college level and above.

All lectures will take place on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. from February 10 through May 12 at NASA Goddard's Visitor Center. While the events are free, registration is required.

For more information on "Eyes on the Sky" or to register for an event, visit <http://university.gsfc.nasa.gov/eyeonthesky/> or call 301-286-8102.

The first lecture will be on February 10. It features scientist Mike Turner, University of Chicago, National Science Foundation, who will talk on "Beyond Einstein: Eleven Science Questions for the New Century."

Special Education Public Forum

The Special Education PEER Committee reviews issues and recommends improvements to better meet the needs of special education students. The community is encouraged to share their suggestions for the Special Education Program in Prince George's County by participating in their upcoming forum on February 2 at 7 p.m. at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, 7601 Hanover Parkway. To register to speak, call 301-952-6336 the day of the hearing.

Rid Greenbelt Park Of Invasive Plants

Help remove invasive plants from Greenbelt Park. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area at 11 a.m. on Saturday, February 5. This is a hands on nature activity for all ages. Dress warmly and bring gloves and water. For more information call 301-344-3944 or visit the park's website at <http://www.nps.gov/gree>.

ACE Club Workshop Is Huge Success

Twenty-two 7th and 8th grade students attended a Creative Writing Workshop hosted by the ACE Reading Club at Greenbelt Middle School on January 12. There were interactive writing exercises as well as lecture and discussion. The workshop was held to encourage students to enter this year's ACE Reading Club Youth Writing Contest. The workshop generated ideas for future writing projects. It was such a success that the club plans to hold a workshop again next year in partnership with Wayne Davis, a guidance counselor at Greenbelt Middle School.

Info Offered On MSA Tests

On February 1 from 7 to 8 p.m. the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA is having a presentation on the upcoming Maryland School Assessment (MSA) tests. Peggy Harrington, from the Prince George's County Public Schools, will give the presentation and take questions at Greenbelt Elementary School, 66 Ridge Road. For directions call 301-513-5911.

At the Library

Tuesday, February 1, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime, newborns to 24 months with caregiver. Limited to 15 babies.

Wednesday, February 2, 10:30 a.m. – Storytime for ages 14 to 36 months with caregiver, limit 15.

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

Service Projects At Greenbelt Park

Greenbelt Park has service projects available for Scouts and other groups. Cleanup projects are one of many opportunities for groups or companies to help. Greenbelt Park's entrance is located between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at 6565 Greenbelt Road.

For more information, call Park Ranger Kevin P. Barry at 301-344-3944.

A Reading: Letters Home From the Ukraine

by Matt Schultz and Bill Varettoni

Bill and I met in Chicago in the summer of 2000 during the staging of Peace Corps Ukraine group number 18. Staging is the time when all members of a Peace Corps group get together to sign forms and meet each other before departing for their country of service. Traveling from Chicago to Kiev was a harbinger of the chaotic nature that my life would take on for the next two years. Our plane was delayed in Chicago due to heavy thundershowers and we missed our connecting flight from London. We ended up in Moscow briefly although none of us had Russian visas. Luckily a member of our group spoke Russian and was able to explain the situation to the authorities in Sheremetyevo Airport. When we finally arrived in Kiev we were exhausted and fell into our beds. The next trip was down "a central transportation artery" to Cherkassy, in central Ukraine. The "artery" turned out to be a two-lane highway. At least it seemed to be a two-lane highway. There was no central yellow line and no white lines on the edges. Our bus would pass a slower vehicle such as a horse-drawn cart stacked high with vegetables or hay. Oblivious to oncoming traffic, I learned that there actually was space for three lanes on the "highway."

After our time in central Ukraine, Bill went east almost to

the Russian border, to Kharkiv which was briefly the capital of Ukraine after WWII.

I went west, to the beautiful spiritual homeland of Ukraine, where churches still stood and the Ukrainian language was revered. My destiny was not to be the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Market Square Lviv, famous for architectural masterpieces of the 16th and 17th centuries. No, it was humble Sosnivka, a mining town carved out of lovely pine woods.

I learned to love Sosnivka despite the black smoke belching out of the two mines and the humongous coal processing plant that at times made it tough to breathe. I loved Sosnivka despite the cruel irony that sometimes in winter, we didn't have enough coal to heat the school where I taught English. Our town was Sosnivka and it wasn't our place to complain, even though practically the entire male population of the town worked in the coal mines

For more stories from Ukraine, come to the New Deal Café on February 2 from 7 to 8 p.m. and hear the authors read excerpts from letters that they wrote home during their service in Ukraine from 2000 to 2002. After the readings there will be time for questions about Peace Corps service.

Greenbelt Arts Center Presents

Cole Porter's

You Never Know

January 28, 29, February 4, 5 at 8 p.m.

Sun., January 30 at 5 p.m.

Sun., February 6 at 2 p.m.

Tickets \$15/Students & Seniors \$12

Greenbelt Arts Center
123 Centerway (next to the Post Office)
Reservations: 301-441-8770
www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Community Meeting Concerning a Revitalized Springhill Lake

Apartment Investment and Management Company (AIMCO), owner of Springhill Lake Apartments, will host a community meeting to discuss its vision for the 157-acre community in Greenbelt, Maryland, and to hear the community's ideas.

Springhill Lake, with construction begun in 1963, is in need of renovation. AIMCO is considering a totally new community which provides an historic opportunity to rebuild the area using the best planning techniques. Mike Watkins from the firm Duany Plater-Zyberk and Company (DPZ) will present the vision for the community and answer questions. Springhill Lake management also will be available for questions.

WHEN: Thursday, February 3 at 7 p.m.

WHERE: Springhill Lake Elementary School Auditorium

6060 Springhill Drive

Greenbelt, MD 20770

INFORMATION: Call 301-474-1602, X16.

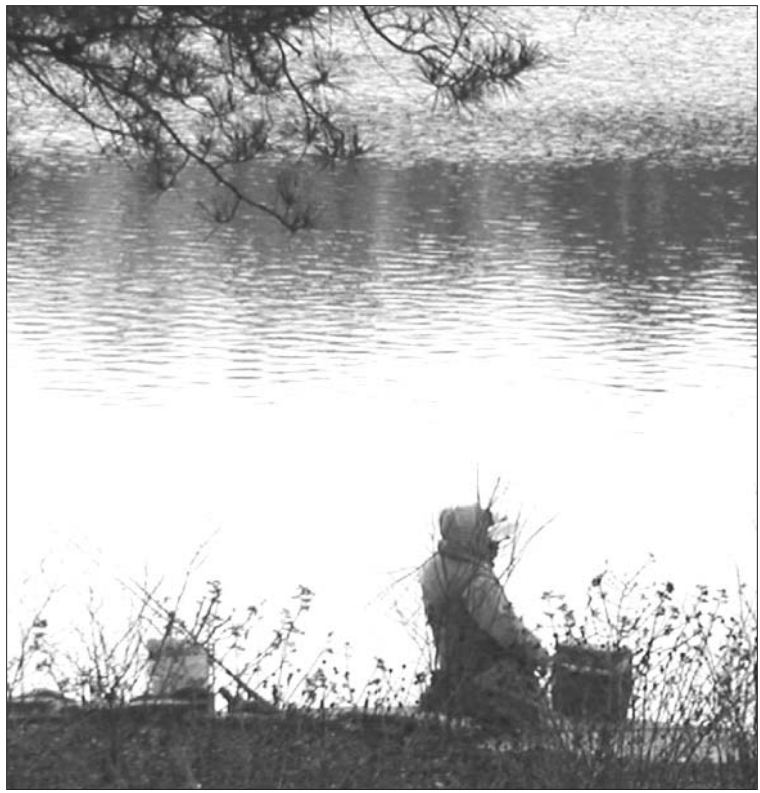


PHOTO BY JAMES GIESE

A lone fisherman sets up shop on the banks of Greenbelt Lake.

SUMMIT continued from page 1

lion in public health costs – \$2 billion from sulfur dioxide and \$600 million from fine particulates – but cleanup of that pollution is much cheaper at \$250 million, he said.

“How can we afford not to clean it up?” Schaeffer asked.

Open Space

The potential sale of up to 3,000 acres of Maryland’s public lands to solve budget problems has ignited strong opposition across the state. The Baltimore Sun released polling data on January 9 revealing that 68 percent of those polled opposed the sale of lands purchased through the state’s “Open Space” conservation program to ease budget shortfalls.

“Open Space” funds come from a real estate transfer tax on property sold in the state since 1969. This model conservation program created a revenue source to build parks, conserve forests and open land, and maintain farms. For three years, the Ehrlich administration has diverted up to 75 percent of Open Space funds to unrelated purposes.

More than 60 state organizations have joined “Partners for Open Space” to ensure the full funding for Maryland’s land conservation programs. For additional information, visit <http://www.partnersforopenspace.org>.

4-Ps Bill

Maryland has an air pollution problem – and it’s not just the gray haze visible from the Beltway on sultry code-red days. The air breathed by the state’s residents has high levels of mercury and other fine particulates that can’t be seen but lodge in the lungs and have contributed to a significant rise in asthma and the expanding “dead zone” that now affects 40 percent of the Chesapeake Bay.

Sen. Paul Pinsky and Del James Hubbard have introduced the “4-P” bill that would require Maryland to control emissions of four pollutants – mercury, smog-forming nitrogen oxides, soot-forming sulfur dioxide and the “greenhouse gas,” carbon dioxide. Smog and soot in Maryland cause an estimated 20,000 asthma attacks and 900 premature deaths each year. Smog also leads to the onset of asthma, which afflicts 150,000 children in the state.

Mercury stunts the ability of the developing brain, which makes it particularly dangerous for pregnant women and children.

Out of 12 states evaluated in a recent study, Maryland had the highest average concentration of mercury in its rain. Mercury contamination has resulted in a fish consumption advisory in Maryland that covers every river and lake in the state. Recent data on mercury contamination in rockfish (striped bass) in the Chesapeake Bay, however, were not announced to the public.

Where does the pollution come from? According to the coalition’s issue brief, in 1970, when the Clean Air Act was enacted, existing power plants were exempted on the theory that they would soon be retired. Thirty-five years later, Maryland still has seven “grandfathered” power plants up to 60 years old that continue to produce hazardous particulates without pollution controls.

Clean Cars

To date, eight states have passed legislation to achieve the maximum practical reductions in toxic emissions from cars and trucks and the Maryland Clean Cars Act would add the state to the list. Cars and trucks are a major source of cancer-causing chemicals like benzene – in Maryland, nine times higher than safety standards – and formaldehyde, at ten times the safety standard in the state’s air.

The Clean Cars Act has slightly higher standards for the fleetwide average emissions of all new cars and light trucks and a requirement that a percentage of new cars sold be advanced technology vehicles. This bill would result in 23 percent less air toxics and 14 percent less hydrocarbons than the default federal standards by 2020. It requires little public expense. New Jersey adopted the higher standard at no cost to its budget.

Transportation Equity

At the summit, opponents of the proposed \$3 billion ICC passed out stickers saying, “No ICC.”

In the issue brief, alternatives were listed including more and better transit services, improvement of existing roads and highways and planning development of homes and jobs by creating incentives to build closer to transit centers and reduce commuting time.

The ICC’s environment impact would be significant – the loss of more than 4,000 acres of land, around 30 miles of streams and additional losses of farms, wetlands and floodplain.

DAVIS continued from page 1

board of directors and an honor to the City of Greenbelt and city council. During her one-year term, her role will be to preside at meetings, serve as an ex officio member of all policy committees, be the principal spokesperson to the press, serve on the Board of Trade and appoint chairs and vice chairs of policy committees.

As chair, she intends to promote the issues of Greenbelt and make use of her role in promoting the agenda of decisions discussed by the city council. Davis would like to use her year as chair to emphasize issues of “Smart Growth” and the environment and revitalizing and redeveloping certain areas. The challenge, she explains, is to maintain the unique character of the center of small towns while addressing these issues. She adds that, in her travels, she enjoys leaving the suburbs of a city and experiencing the unique qualities of the city center.

Davis has previously represented Greenbelt in various capacities to COG, most recently as vice chairman of COG’s board of directors. She was appointed to COG’s Ad Hoc Digital Divide Task Force, Strategic Planning Committee and Chesapeake

Policy Committee and has been COG’s liaison to the Potomac Regional Education Partnership Advisory Board and to the Advisory Board of the Institute of Regional Excellence.

In addition to her work with COG, Davis has worked in various capacities with National League of Cities and several state and county municipal groups. She was selected as Woman of the Year 2000-01 by the Business and Professional Women/USA.

Since moving to Greenbelt in 1975, Davis has been active in many local civic organizations. She is in her sixth term on the city council. A retired educator, she was also active in that profession.

COG

COG is composed of two independent committees which address regional transportation and air quality; two environmental-issue task forces; the National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council; three public-private partnerships; and several policy committees.

COG also has a cooperative purchasing program to reduce costs to member jurisdictions. It provides issue briefs on its website, www.mwcog.org, to fos-

ter understanding between elected officials and the public. The position of chair rotates between officials of Maryland, D.C. and Virginia.

The policy committees of COG include the Committee on Noise Abatement and Aviation at Dulles and National Airports, Public Safety, Human Services, the Chesapeake Bay and Metropolitan Development. There are also committees for chief administrative officers and public works directors.

Some examples of recent work include a green infrastructure project, a national storm-water management conference, several health-related task forces, a housing opportunities program and a hydrogen technology forum. COG also has assumed authority over the new Regional Incident Communications and Coordination System, which allows rapid contact between regional officials during an emergency. A specially-created panel to study funding sources of WMATA recently released its findings to the board of directors.

Greenbelt is well represented on these policy committees, with several councilmembers and other city officials serving on at least six.

GREENBRIAR continued from page 1

interior and exterior renovations. Fifteen volunteer residents representing all three phases reviewed the plans and chose a final plan and colors.

Once the project began, only slight changes became necessary. Buildings were placed on the schedule for renovation by a lottery method, ensuring that all phases were represented on the schedule in equal numbers.

Construction Process

Construction began in March 2000, with a plan for a six-year period for completion in order to avoid depleting reserve funds or necessitating an increase in condo fees. However, as CVI hired many of its own workers rather than mainly using contractors, work proceeded at a faster rate. Renovations were complete in March 2004, two years ahead of the estimated completion time. At a rate of approximately \$27,000 per building, the total cost of the project was \$1.35 million.

Phase III opted to spend additional funds from its budget for a landscape architect and landscaping, due to its location next to parkland. It added brick walkways and islands of plantings. Similarly, Phase II added trees along Hanover Parkway.

Noda believes that the renovations are having a positive effect on resale values. For example, a two-bedroom unit recently sold for \$20,000 more than its original asking price. Jennifer Fullmer, operations manager of CVI, believes that the renovations have “definitely increased property values.” She adds that CVI has received “very positive comments” and that the renovations went smoothly with minimal disruption to the residents.

CVI, the management company that oversees all of Greenbriar, has an onsite office. It is assisted by the Greenbriar Condominium Association and the board of directors of each

phase. Their interest in the community is evidenced by its many amenities and renovation in 2004 of the Terrace Room and of the pool area several years ago.

Possible future plans to continue renovations involve the exteriors of each building.

Meeting to Be Held On School Budget

A FY2006 budget worksession for the Prince George’s County Board of Education will be held in Upper Marlboro on February 5. The location is the Board Room of the Sasscer Administration Building at 14201 School Lane.

The meeting is open to the public; however, there will be no public participation. No time has been indicated, so call the Board of Education at 301-952-6308 for more information.

Live Broadcast At Owens Center

A live one-hour broadcast of the Jason Expedition from Louisiana will be held at the Howard B. Owens Science Center from January 31 through February 5. Students and teachers from the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center area will have the opportunity to interact with scientists and researchers from NASA, NOAA, Louisiana State University and other institutions during this expedition. The expedition host is Dr. Bob Ballard, discoverer of the Titanic and founder/chief scientist of the Jason Foundation for Education.

Public broadcast times are: Thursday, February 3, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; Friday, February 4, 3:30 to 5 p.m.; Saturday, February 5, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 5, 12:30 to 2 p.m. and Saturday, February 5, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Call 301-918-8750 during school hours to reserve seating space.

There's a new Bingo starting at the Fire House on Thursday, February 3.

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Greenbelt Consumer Co-op Ad

Greenbelt's Newest Rapper Takes a Bow (Wow) Trip

Ten-year-old Greenbelter Issa Thompson won \$10,000 and the chance to meet the rap and film star "Bow Wow" as part of the grand prize in Hawaiian Punch's "Bow Wow Unleash the Punch" contest.

The contest began in May and "rapped up" in early September. It gave kids ages 6 to 14 the chance to write, sing and submit their own rap song. Ten semi-finalists were picked from more than 300 amazing entries. From those semi-finalists, Issa's original rap song, "Hawaiian Punch, Keeping It So Close," was handpicked by Bow Wow himself.

"Meeting Bow Wow is a dream come true," said an excited Issa Thompson. "I've been a huge fan of his for years and I hope I can be as good a rapper as he is one day."

In addition to meeting Bow Wow and winning the \$10,000 grand prize, Issa and his mother also attended a Los Angeles filming of an episode of Steve Harvey's "Big Time," where Bow Wow made a special appearance.

"I love giving young kids the chance to showcase their talent," said Bow Wow. "I was given that same opportunity when I was younger and I am so grateful for that today."

In addition to being a talented rapper, Issa is also active in sports. He plays football for the Boys and Girls Club's Greenbelt Raid-



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAWAIIAN PUNCH

A smiling Issa Thompson (left) poses with rapper Bow Wow during the Los Angeles trip he won for writing an original rap song for the contest.

ers, undefeated division champions this year. Issa, a fifth grader at a performing arts school, is active in his student government and was elected president of the school's Student Government Association for the 2004-05 school year. In addition, Issa was recently nominated to travel to England and Ireland next summer as a "People-to-People Student Ambassador."

Issa is the son of Jada and Karim Thompson-Peterkin of Breezewood Court. His mother is a full-time student at the University of Maryland University College and a part-time substitute teacher for Prince George's County. His father is a research library technician for the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda.

A Snow Storm and My Grandfather's Brush

by James Giese

While clearing the snow off of our cars after last weekend's big snow, I began thinking about the brush I was using. This is the 51st winter that I took my grandfather's carpenter brush out from under the car seat to remove snow. It's about the only remembrance I have of him.

I never knew him well. When the youngest child in his family married he moved out and left my grandmother on her own. My grandmother was a devout Lutheran with no real vices. My grandfather loved to smoke, drink and dance.

He had a bad childhood. Born on a farm in Wisconsin of German immigrants, his mother died when he was three. His father remarried and died when he was six. He was raised by his stepmother and her new husband. They treated him badly. He ran away from home as a teenager.

He was handy at many things and for the most part earned his living as a carpenter. Once, in the early days of the automobile, he shared ownership of a dealership. They were brands we never hear of now. His partner took off with the company funds, leaving him with the debts.

He helped build houses in Milwaukee and owned land in various locations. Some of that land is quite valuable now but not when he sold it. He did, however, provide comfortably but frugally, for his family until the marriage breakup.

At Christmas, I would go with my dad to give him his gift. He



PHOTO BY JAMES GIESE

The author takes a nostalgic look at the snow and his grandfather's brush.

lived in rooming houses - gloomy, big old structures sparsely furnished with hand-me-downs and second-hands. His room smelled of pipe tobacco smoke. He had gray hair, a white mustache and a round face, somewhat stern, but he could smile. The encounters were quite stiff. Occasionally, he would come to our house for dinner. We never did anything as a grandfather-grandson.

I remember Dad would ask if he was still dancing and he would say yes and tell of some of the places to which he would go that had dancing. Although in his 70s, he still did odd jobs. I remember one year he was upset because he had fallen from a two-and-one-half story building roof and sprained his ankle. It wasn't the fall, it was that he had been injured and laid up for a while.

In 1954, the year my grandfather died at 81, I got out of the army and enrolled in graduate school in Kansas. I needed a car. My dad, as executor of grandfather's estate, arranged for

me to get his 1946 Buick. It was my first car.

In it was a well used carpenter's brush - a long row of strong but bent bristles along one side of a wooden handle. He obviously had used it to remove snow from his car and I continued to do so. The strong bristles dig in

to grab the snow and push it away. When there is ice, once the car warms up a little, gentle taps with the wooden handle are enough to break it up so it can be swept away.

Since then I have had many cars. I have had the opportunity to use many devices to remove snow and ice from them. None work as well or have lasted as long as my grandfather's brush.

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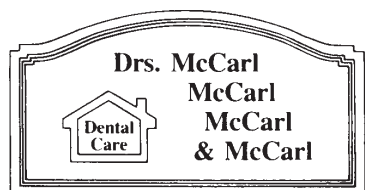
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Bill Addresses Student Medications

Delegate Anne Healey (District 22 in Prince George's County) has introduced a bill in the Maryland House of Delegates that would require the State Board of Education to adopt a policy allowing public school students to carry and self-administer their prescription medications for asthma and other airway constricting diseases when they are in school, at school-sponsored activities or on school property.

"It has come to my attention that the guidelines for the use of inhalers and epi-pens for children with asthma or allergies are unevenly followed throughout the state. These conditions can be life-threatening and we need to take action immediately," said Healey.

House Bill 143 requires a student who needs this option to have a note from a healthcare professional which states that the student has the skills and knowledge to self-medicate. The school nurse also will review the student's technique to ensure proper and effective use of the medication. In addition to these measures, students who are minors are required to have written permission from a parent or guardian to carry the medication.

If enacted, this legislation would create a uniform self-administration policy for all Maryland schools.

Blood Donations Needed Immediately

This past weekend's snow has resulted in a decrease in blood donations, and consequently the Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Region of the American Red Cross is reporting a shortage of lifesaving blood products for local patients in need. The region's ability to ship blood products to area hospitals on a daily basis is dependent on a strong and immediate response from members of the community. Whole blood and apheresis (platelet) donors are needed immediately and appointments are available at all community blood drives and blood donor centers.

Whole blood donors are urged to call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE for appointments and apheresis donors can call 1-800-272-2123.

Who is eligible to give blood? Donors must be generally in good health; be at least 17 years of age, or in the state of Maryland only, 16 years of age with written parental consent; weigh no less than 110 pounds; have not received a tattoo within the past year and have not donated whole blood within the past 56 days. Visit online at <http://www.my-redcross.org>.

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



WRECKAGE continued from page 1

his activities on the property he had visited the Entomology Laboratory Building on Entomology Road. Behind that building the laboratory staff had erected what he thought was a storage-shed built from recycled materials. The main article used in the storage-shed construction was the fuselage from an old DC-3 airplane. It sat for years near the Entomology Lab. The wings and engines had been removed but most of the rest of the plane was clearly recognizable as a DC-3. Godwin said that the plane is gone now and believes it was removed six or seven years ago.

After a few calls to the BARC Entomology Department, I located Ken Wilzer, a longtime BARC employee from the Bee Research Division. Wilzer confirmed the story of a DC-3 fuselage being placed near the Entomology Lab. However, he said the original purpose of the fuselage was to test the effectiveness of certain aerosol insecticides to decontaminate planes arriving from outside the country.

He believed that the placement of the fuselage probably contributed to the rumors of a crashed plane. It was set up behind the laboratory building and at the edge of the tree line. From the air or even from the road it may have appeared to be a crashed plane. He said the fuselage eventually fell into disrepair and abandonment. BARC property management staff removed it.

I still wasn't satisfied with the way things had turned out. I needed some kind of closure.

One Sunday afternoon in late April I drove out with my son to the suspected crash site to look around. It was a cornfield still bare from the previous year's harvest. I walked the field and carefully searched for any sign of debris from the crash. There was nothing. The tree line along the road near the farm field did have a gap that could have been damage caused by the crash. I photographed the area with my digital camera so I could compare it to the pictures in the old newspaper clippings I had collected.

When I got home and made the comparison, I was satisfied that I had found the right place. There were cars in the picture and, based on their angle in relation to the camera, they appeared to be near a road intersection. That intersection could only have been what is the present day corner of Beaverdam and Springfield roads. It was a good closing. But I still wasn't completely satisfied that I had done everything I could. I didn't know what else to do.

By late May, Bill Needham and I had been communicating by phone and email for more than three months and had never met face to face. He offered to buy me breakfast if I would meet with him someplace. I told him we should get together and visit the cornfield where I believed the

plane had crashed. He had been searching for the site of the crash for the past 30 years with no luck, so he was all for it. We decided to meet at a Denny's restaurant in Greenbelt, have breakfast and drive over.

Ironically we got together at Denny's on Memorial Day 2004. While the rest of the country was busy watching dedication ceremonies for the World War II Memorial Monument, Bill was showing me a large collection of letters, pictures and documents about his father. We discussed my findings and how I became involved in this whole endeavor. After about an hour, we packed up and headed over to the airfield.

I brought my digital camera, metal detector and hand shovel along. The plan was to go out to the cornfield and try to judge the exact location of the crash, based on the old newspaper clippings and photographs. We would then try to discover any small buried pieces of the plane with the metal detector to confirm the crash site. I didn't expect to find much.

Just after we arrived at the cornfield it started to rain but not hard enough to stop us. After about ten minutes of walking the cornfield and comparing the pictures with the actual site, we settled upon what we judged to be the right spot and switched on the metal detector. Ten minutes into the search we got a good signal and started digging.

We hit pay dirt. We found a large shiny stainless steel nut buried about eight or nine inches below the surface. This had to be a part from the airplane; the quality of the machining was much too high to be from a tractor or other farm equipment. The nut was about one and one half inches in diameter and there was no sign of rust or corrosion. The place where we recovered it was in the exact spot where we estimated the crash site to be.

Thirty minutes later we found another nut, same size, at the same depth under the surface of the soil. It was about 20 feet away from where the first one was found. This was an unbelievable discovery, much better than anything I had expected to find.

We were now both satisfied we had accomplished our goal, we had confirmed the site of the crash. After all his years of searching, Bill was extremely happy to have an actual piece from his father's plane. We kept working for about a half hour longer but didn't find any more.

There was a large area of the cornfield remaining to be searched but by then we were getting cold and wet from the rain and decided to stop. We returned to the cars. Bill kept one of the stainless steel nuts and I kept the other as a souvenir. We took some pictures, shook hands, congratulated each other and headed home. We were done.

So now all the mysteries are



At top left, Timothy Smith, the reporter, points to where stainless steel nuts were found.

Bottom left, the author's son Brian, 9, enjoys the initial outing which sparked an adventure in a cornfield and on the internet.

Bottom right, Bill Needham holds the two stainless steel nuts recovered from the field directly behind him. Needham's father, a Navy pilot, died in the 1945 crash. This photo was taken on Memorial Day 2004.



solved. The large patch of land laid out in the shape of the small letter "t" to the northwest of Washington is the site of the former Beltsville Airfield. There had been a crash of an R-50 Lockheed Lodestar airplane there in the spring of 1945. U.S. Navy Lt. William O. Needham and one other crewmember died in that crash. Seven other people on the plane survived with injuries. The exact location of the crash was found and it was determined that the wreckage was removed years ago, shortly after the accident.

The rumor about wreckage from a DC-3 lying somewhere in the woods near Beltsville Airfield turned out to be untrue and unrelated to the crash of the R-50. The main fuselage section of a DC-3 that had been used as a test bed for aerosol insecticides by the BARC Entomology Department most likely was mistaken for aircraft wreckage and became the source of the crashed airplane rumor.

I am happy I had the opportunity to help Bill Needham and hope that it took him a few steps closer to the memory of his father. Perhaps this makes another payment toward my debt to all veterans and their families.

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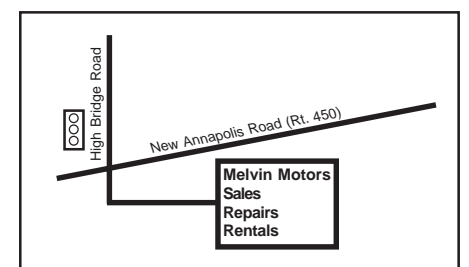
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