

GREENBELT News Review

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JUNE 16, 2005

Council Meeting Is Dominated By GHI Additions Oversight

by Thomas X. White

The issue that dominated the recent annual membership meeting for GHI – previously unre-membered county legislation requiring detailed site plans for additions of larger than 25 percent of the house – also dominated the Greenbelt City Council meeting on June 6.

To begin discussion, Mayor Judith Davis introduced the Residential Planned Community (RPC) Zoning/Additions issue by reading the extensive background included in council's agenda comments booklet that had been prepared by Celia Craze, director of Greenbelt's Planning and Community Development Department. In this background section, Craze noted that during the Sectional Map Amendment process for Greenbelt in 1989, it had been decided that the RPC zone would be drafted to impose the physical elements of the original city over the historic city, locking in place the specific parcel densities of the GHI super blocks and the overall density of the city.

As a result, historic areas of

Greenbelt, as well as the adjacent neighborhoods of Lakewood, Woodland Hills and Lakeside, were designated with the traditional Euclidian zoning categories applicable to Town Houses (R-T) and Single Family Residential (R-55). The RPC overlay zone would modify requirements of the underlying Euclidian zones. This process was intended to protect the city plan. It was never intended to be a design tool.

Control

Attempting to control land use in the historic community through traditional Euclidian zoning was acknowledged to be of limited utility, especially since GHI homes are located on what is known as super blocks and, as part of a cooperative, are not on fee-simple subdivided lots. The yard, bulk, coverage, green space and set-back criteria of the R-T zone cannot be applied to GHI homes because they do not have individual lots.

As it stands, the only things the R-T regulations could control in GHI would be building height,

density and uses. In the single-family neighborhoods, the homes sit on individual lots but since many were built before the current R-55 regulations were drafted, many do not conform to all R-55 setback and coverage requirements.

In the final drafting in 1989 of the RPC legislation, language was added requiring that additions to units in the RPC category would be subject to a Detailed Site Plan (DSP) review in cases where the area of the proposed addition would exceed 25 percent of the floor area of the original unit. At the time, the city registered concern that the DSP process would be onerous for individual home owners or GHI members and suggested a simplified review process. Unfortunately, in the final version of the legislation, the language requiring such DSP approval remained.

What is amazing, however, is that apparently for the past 15 or more years, the DSP requirements

See **GHI ISSUES**, page 8

Council Okays Budget, Ups Taxes Five Cents and Signs Agreements

by Thomas X. White

The agenda for the June 6 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council was very full, including a send-off for former Mayor Gil Weidenfeld and his wife Muriel; a welcome to a new city intern; approval of covenant documents for the Metroland development; adoption of the city's Fiscal Year 2006 Budget, including a five cent tax increase for Greenbelt property owners; city election and voting issues; and the selection of a new auditor for the city's financial records. But all of those items were eclipsed by the monster issue of GHI additions and how best to amend or repeal recently discovered county legislation. (See separate story.)

With the council chamber at nearly standing room-only capacity, Mayor Judith Davis turned the gavel over to a very young DeAndré Andrews to bring the meeting to order and to lead the council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Young Andrews was a winner in the Maryland Municipal League's (MML) annual essay contest in Maryland elementary schools on "Why I Want to Be Mayor." Sitting in Councilmember Leta Mach's chair (she was out of town) DeAndré then read his prize-winning essay which emphasized "... keeping the city tax rate down."

Council also said farewell to

the Weidenfelds, who will be leaving Greenbelt and moving to Annapolis. Gil served on the city council from 1971 to 1993 and as the city's mayor during eight of his 11 terms. While living in Greenbelt, Muriel served as an election judge in municipal elections and on the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County. She was also active in the Greenbelt Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club. Former mayor Weidenfeld used the occasion to present to the city the original sculptor's model of the "Deer Statue" that is located on Hanover Parkway opposite the entrance to the Hunting Ridge Condominium complex.

City Manager Michael McLaughlin introduced to council the city's new intern Brent Elrod, who began his MML Fellowship/Intern Program with the city on June 1. Elrod is pursuing a master's degree in public policy. He received a B.S. in philosophy at George Washington University and will be working full time in the city manager's office until early August.

Metroland Covenants

With most of the citizens in attendance for the GHI Additions/RPC Zoning issue and with representatives of the Metroland development on hand for the Metroland Covenants approval,

council modified the meeting agenda to move those items forward on the business agenda.

First was approval of the covenants for Metroland. Two covenants had been prepared – one each for the proposed North and South Cores of Metroland. Since the Metroland principals have not yet acquired ownership of the North Core from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, that covenant will be approved, signed and held in escrow by the city solicitor until such time as the purchase of the property is complete and the covenants can be recorded.

Once approved, covenants for the South Core will be signed and recorded immediately. With very little discussion, council unanimously approved both property covenants.

Budget Adoption

Council took action on the city's budget for FY06 generally reflecting the consensus reached at the final budget worksession on May 18. In its final action council adopted a FY06 budget that increases the city's property tax rate by 5 cents to 76.6 cents and the personal property tax rate to \$1.68. Total general fund revenue is expected to total \$20,339,100 and total general fund expenditures are expected to total

See **COUNCIL**, page 9



PHOTOS BY JUDI BORDEAUX

The News Review Staff celebrated News Editor Elaine Skolnik's 80th birthday on Friday, June 10 at the Greenbelt Marriott. Richard Skolnik, Elaine and Jeannette Zubkoff are seated at the head table.

Elaine Skolnik Looks Back Over 50 News Review Years

by Sandra Lange

The grand dame of the Greenbelt News Review turned 80 this month. Elaine Skolnik has spent nearly 50 of her 80 years at the helm of the News Review. It has been a long journey. The News Review, she explains, is a metaphor for her life, the cause of many joyous moments as well as occasional sorrow.

Her journey began shortly after she arrived in Greenbelt in 1952 with her husband Al and her two daughters, 4 year-old Barbara and 1 year-old Rita. Their son Richard was born in 1957. Elaine describes Greenbelt as love at first sight. "Oh, those tall pines and oaks, the lake, the large green areas on which the playgrounds beckoned to the children, the cooperative babysitting club, the co-op nursery school and kindergarten. It was such a sweet life," she remembers fondly.

The Skolniks lived first in the 45 Court of Ridge Road where several members of the News Review resided. Later they moved to the 2 Court of Northway. Al's full time job was chief of Inter-program Statistics for the Social Security Administration. But his dream of being a journalist became a reality when he joined the News Review staff. Of her own skills, Elaine modestly proclaims, "I had no talent for writing" although she took over the "Our Neighbors" column in 1954. She saw her role as supporting Al's keen interest in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) board meetings and his fascination with city budgets.

During the 1950s the News Review suffered its own budget crisis. The paper depended then as now on advertising. Deliv-

See **SKOLNIK**, page 6



News Review Staff members listen while Elaine revisits her years with the newspaper: from left are Pat Davis, Al Geiger, Pat McCoy, Eileen Farnham, Meta Lagerwerff and Marie Wong.

What Goes On

Monday, June 20

8 p.m., Regular City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, June 22

8 p.m., Council Worksession re: Towing Policy with Public Safety Advisory Committee, Community Center

Thursday, June 23

8 p.m., Council Worksession, SHL Conceptual Site Plan, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)

*Editorial***Thinking Outside the Box
On Springhill Lake Changes**

Some time ago the Greenbelt City Council told representatives of Apartment Investment Management Company (AIMCO), owners of the massive Springhill Lake development, to think outside the box in considering improvements to the project. Well, they have done just that. Not only does AIMCO propose over time to tear down all the present apartment buildings and replace them with new, modern, transit-oriented structures but they also propose to tear down and replace the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Springhill Lake Elementary School and Greenbelt Middle School. According to the plan, replacement structures for all three of these public facilities will be situated on the present middle school property.

Located at a prime site on that property, however, is a 30,000-square foot building, the original Greenbelt High School, which now forms the front façade of the middle school. Declaring it "historic," council has called this section untouchable. On the other hand, according to Mayor Judith Davis at a recent budget worksession, school officials have advised the city of their lack of interest in utilizing that building. They wish to create a totally new facility.

We ask council: Is this building sufficiently significant from an historical perspective to be preserved? From a design standpoint we have heard no one claim the building to be unique or significant or worthy of preservation. (Contrast this lack of interest with the earlier public concern about the former Greenbelt Center School, now the Greenbelt Community Center, which had been designated one of the top art deco structures in the Washington area.)

The middle school's historic claim is that it was built by the federal government when the model planned community, now an historic landmark, was laid out. But the school was never really part of that plan. It is not located in the planned community, as is the high school of Greenbelt's sister planned city, Greenhills, Ohio. This local school was situated, instead, close to the town of Berwyn Heights, apparently to appease that town's residents who were concerned about a community of low-income housing being built nearby. Greenbelt High School students had to walk a long distance through the woods on a path now mostly destroyed when the Beltway was constructed. Then they had to walk through an underpass at Edmonston Road (now blocked off and unusable) in order to reach the school.

Students of the former high school, now older, may have a sentimental attachment to preserving the building. But the same can be said of any old school slated for demolition.

We are not prepared at this time to endorse the proposal of AIMCO, still being formulated, for a complex new plan for the Springhill Lake area. But we see, in the name of historic preservation, the optimal potential of that plan being boxed in, and lessened, to preserve a structure whose own worthiness seems very much in doubt.

Letters to the Editor

Last week's editorial on finding the proper oversight of additions to GHI units caught the attention of many residents whose letters appear below. In most instances the letters were edited in order to fit them all into this issue. Letters on other subjects will appear in a future issue.

County Oversight Would Duplicate Efforts

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors for Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) in response to the editorial titled "Think it Through" that was printed in the June 9 issue of the Greenbelt News Review.

Our Board of Directors shares your view that CB-134-1988 is not the right way to regulate and control the construction of additions in GHI. However, your article states that there is no governmental oversight of building construction in GHI and appears to advocate such involvement. In fact, co-op members are required to obtain permits from Prince George's County and the City of Greenbelt before constructing or altering any GHI structures, including additions. While these two bodies do not regulate the sizes or locations of additions, GHI maintains a rigorous in-house review process that ensures additions are built in conformance with the co-op's rules. These rules regulate the sizes and locations of additions. At present, our Architecture and Environment (A&E) Committee is working on a project to clarify some of the rules governing the

construction of additions and exterior modifications. The A&E Committee will report to the Board of Directors in July 2005.

We feel that any additional governmental oversight of building construction in GHI will only duplicate the efforts of the GHI review process and add another layer of unnecessary review that could be costly, time-consuming and frustrating to our co-op members.

*Julia Eichhorst, President,
Board of Directors*

Let's re-think last week's News Review editorial. Since GHI became a cooperative instead of a government town, it has had a very strongly regulated review process with strict rules to keep the size and the design of additions in line with the rest of the units. Neighbors have veto power on proposed additions that impact them. GHI consists of about 600 masonry units which are small by today's standards (apartments in the area often have more living space) but these blocks and bricks have at least twice as much living space as do the nearly 1,000 frame

units, which by the way usually border the woods. In order to save America's one large housing co-op and its woodlands in the long run, the frame units, as many units as can accommodate additions at all, need to continue to be improved and enlarged so that the cooperative stays viable. A law that allows for no real additions, especially for the numerous tiny frame units, is a dangerous situation that needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Barbara Stevens

My vote goes to keeping local control of additions within GHI and I'd like to see more coverage of the GHI board's position on this issue. As a GHI member and frame-unit owner, I am concerned that adding another layer of regulations won't help resolve the problem but will result in young families deciding it's not worth the hassle to stay in a too-small unit. (Frame units average around 835 square feet.) Also, frame-unit owners, who own nearly 1,000 of GHI's 1,600 units, need to volunteer in greater numbers for committees involved in these discussions.

Marat Moore

Your June 9, 2005, editorial posits the need for increased government oversight of building permits for additions to GHI homes. I fear that as presented, this position discredits the long-standing preservation efforts of GHI and threatens the democratic functioning of our cooperative.

In many respects, GHI serves as an oasis in a county suffering from endemic development. GHI members have evinced a rare commitment to preserving open space, protecting woodlands, maintaining infrastructure and attending to the aesthetics of architectural space. Our in-house regulations for additions impose strict size limitations; they require that members implement structural designs that visually complement surrounding buildings and that members obtain written consent from adjacent neighbors. Furthermore, there currently is movement within GHI to adopt additional guidelines that would demand even closer attention to the niceties of historical design and materials. Over the years and overall, GHI has proven to be a good steward and it appears that in future years it will work even harder to protect its unique legacies.

That is not to suggest that a green light ought be granted to all proposed additions. Indeed, a review of current guidelines may be in order and perhaps further restrictions made. But this is a matter calling for exploration and dialogue within our cooperative. It is not an occasion for relegating our decision-making process to an outside governing body.

These past few weeks have witnessed overflowing attendance at GHI and city council meetings in which additions were topics of discussion. Nearly all attendees who spoke expressed their dissatisfaction with CB-134-1988. Some came to the microphone because they are either awaiting an addition or are entertaining the possibility of one day building one. But others revealed they had no intention of ever increasing the square footage of their units. They were there simply to address their main concern,

that the spirit of cooperation and commitment to dialogue that drew them to live in GHI not be diluted.

Monica Mische

I was surprised and disappointed to see the Greenbelt News Review's editorial urging consideration of more county-level review of the building of additions in GHI.

Certainly additions can negatively affect neighbors but this is true for an addition anywhere in the county. And although GHI members do not go through the same review process for additions that other homeowners in the county do, GHI does have a process in place, one that is far more stringent and thorough.

The editors assert that although "good in-house review standards may now be in place at GHI, the "long-term history in regard to new additions is not that good." Yet they give no particulars to support this assertion. Surely the editors do not mean to suggest that there is a consensus of opinion that on the whole GHI additions are "failures"? Many members would beg to differ and to make such an assertion without support or qualification is very questionable.

GHI's regulations concerning additions may not be perfect. And GHI currently is involved in internal discussion on the subject (with some urging revisions that will further restrict what members can do). I support the slow, difficult process of GHI membership forging a consensus on regulations concerning additions. Unfortunately, the discovery of CB-134-1988 has hijacked the process, bringing the matter to a wider public that does not share the concerns of the GHI membership or understand the strictures which the GHI membership has to live under.

I see two concerns: whether there should be county-level oversight concerning additions in GHI and whether CB-134-1988 should be amended. There may be reasons for county-level oversight of additions in GHI – but I doubt it would be the same kind of oversight that is in order for fee simple homes in the county. Nevertheless, if citizens are concerned, they should begin the process of making the case that there should be county-level oversight concerning additions in GHI and what that review should be.

See **LETTERS**, page 3

Corrections

In the obituary for Rubye Mikesell in the May 26, 2005, issue, a wrong address was given for memorial donations. A postal forwarding order for the hospice has expired; the News Review learned donation mail is being returned and has obtained the current address. The correct address for Aspen Homes Health & Hospice is 3470 Washington Parkway, Idaho Falls, ID 83404.

Last week's review of the currently-running GAC play "Over the River and Through the Woods" was actually written by Altoria Bell Ross, although it was erroneously attributed to another of our regular bylined contributors. The News Review regrets the error.

**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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The editorial admits that CB-134-1988 is not "the right way" to regulate GHI additions. So then, what are we waiting for? It should be amended along the lines suggested by the city's staff to the city council without delay.

Mark D. Commins

Having been through the process of putting an addition on my unit in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), I feel I must disagree not only with your characterization of the process but also your conclusions.

The county reviews all building permits for new additions in GHI exactly as it does for all other building permits and inspects the construction progress on a schedule to assure that all county regulations are met. GHI Technical Services and the Architecture and Environment Committee review the requests for all new construction to a unit for compliance with size, style and location regulations as defined by

GHI rules. These rules were reviewed and approved by the county's historic district personnel.

I have always believed that it was a basic part of our American way of life that any topic of concern to the citizenry should be dealt with at the level of governance closest to the topic and most likely to be responsive to the people concerned. This has been the system within GHI for 50 years and the results are here to be seen by all. To suggest that we now have to move to higher and more remote levels of government to save the world from potential misgovernance by the GHI Board of Directors is vaguely unAmerican, definitely undemocratic and potentially disastrous to the cooperative community spirit of GHI.

And finally to try to tar the GHI Board in this way is wielding a wide brush. Why should we trust the city council or the county council (or for that matter the News Review editors) any more than the GHI Board?

Ray Stevens

"The Blues Man" Turner To Play at Blues Festival

by Shirl Hayes

Clarence "The Blues Man" Turner will be featured June 18 at the second Annual Café Blues Festival at Roosevelt Center. A musician for the last 30 years, Turner credits his father for getting him started.

"I've been playing music, I guess I started when I was around eight or nine years old. My father is a musician. He plays blues guitar. He and some family members and friends of his played and got me exposed to it early," said Turner.

Being too bashful to sing for many years, Turner started out just playing the guitar with other people but eventually the power of the blues and the encouragement of his family and friends overcame his shyness.

"I do it because other people like it. It took me years to even attempt to start singing. My father used to tell me as a kid growing up - 'Son, as good as you are playing the blues, people wanna hear you scream and shout.'"

Later, a band in which he played bass broke up. A few of the members told Turner that if he ever decided to form his own band, they wanted to be a part of it because they felt he had great potential to be a front man belting out the blues instead of a side man playing the bass.

"You could have bought me for a nickle. It almost brought

tears to my eyes because I didn't like my singing and I still don't sometimes. In 1999 was the first time I even attempted to sing the blues," said Turner.

Other performers scheduled for Saturday include: Zach Sweeney Band, Matt Kelly and Rich Sampson, The Shakers, The Paulverizers, Blue Lou and Friends and Ronnie Ray and The Coolers. The music starts at 12:45 and goes until 8:30 p.m.

Turner looks forward to his first time performing in Greenbelt, seeing it as an opportunity to share the energy and vitality that is the blues.

"The music is an expression of life. For me, music is a way to express myself . . . my thoughts and some of my feelings. It allows me to express beliefs about society. To be able to communicate through an instrument sometimes without having to use words [is great] because words just can't describe what feelings you have inside but music can communicate to the whole world even if you don't know the language. One of my music teachers taught me that music is an international language and you can understand anybody with it. A lot of people misinterpret blues as being some sad, lonely kind of music but in actuality it helped keep me revived, motivated . . . it gave me a lot of pleasure. It's about stories," said Turner.

Summer Programs At the Library

The Swing into Summer Reading program began June 1. It's not too late to join in. There are programs for different age levels including one for adults. Call the Greenbelt branch library at 301-345-5800, TTY 301-808-2061 for details.

Saturday, June 18 at 10 a.m. learn how to successfully incorporate herbs for landscape and culinary pleasure. Join master gardeners as they share environmentally sound advice. A question and answer period will follow and literature will be available.

Ask the Experts Discuss Clutter

"Clutter - Trash or Treasure?" will be the topic of discussion for the "Ask the Experts" cable show on Tuesday, June 21 from 11 a.m. to noon at Green Ridge House. Laura Rosenthal from Simplicity Matters Earth Institute will present a general overview of how to determine when a person's papers and items should be discarded. Attendees will learn how to determine when treasures become clutter or trash and how to avoid hoarding behavior.

Community Events

Explorations Views Mountain Rail Film

On Friday, June 24 the summer Explorations Unlimited travel video series continues with the film "The Canadian Rockies and The Adirondack." This is the second video in the Reader's Digest "Scenic Rail Journeys of the Americas" series. Viewers will ride the rails on The Skeena from the Rocky Mountain town of Jasper to the fishing village of Prince Rupert Harbor. Along the way there are 191 bridges to cross, 14 tunnels to wind through and countless tranquil lakes and tumbling waterfalls.

The film includes a helicopter ride above glittering Glacier Fields and a visit to a Kitwano village renowned for intricately carved totem poles. It spans the continental divide with views of Mount Robson, Canada's highest peak.

Next climb aboard The Adirondack and ride through one of the most historic and beautiful regions in the United States, along the shores of the rolling Hudson River, with stunning views from the Adirondack Mountains to Montreal in Canada's Quebec Province.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. This presentation will be held in the Senior Lounge. Everyone is welcome to attend. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club meeting on June 8 was presided over by Vice President Bill Souser. Pauline Bordas was the greeter for the day. It's nice to receive a friendly handshake and smile of greeting at the door at each meeting. So here's a big "Thank You" to all the greeters.

Members will be playing board games at the July 22 meeting. Quinto has been popular, so come and try a hand.

On July 13 the speaker will be from the Alzheimer Foundation.

We'll all be tapping our toes to "Broadway Melodies" at the Timonium Dinner Theater on August 23. This is a bus trip so there will be plenty of seats. You might even bring a friend.

Jane Love, Laurita Pranger, Bernie Giese and Pat Hand are all on our get well list and we hope they will be back with us soon.

Enjoy the summer but keep cool.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE
Week of JUNE 17
Cinderella Man (PG13)
 Special Engagement
 No Passes

Friday
 *4:30, 7:30, 10:15

Saturday
 *1:30, *4:30, 7:30, 10:15

Sunday
 *1:30, *4:30, 7:30

Monday - Thursday
 *4:45, 7:30

*These shows at \$5.00
 Coming: **Ladies in Lavender**
 301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
 129 Centerway
 www.pgtheatres.com

CARES Summer Babysitting Course

Greenbelt CARES will offer the summer session of the babysitting course on Wednesday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the conference room of the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.

The course is free. Each student will receive a packet of materials to bring home. The course is targeted to teach students, completing grades 5 to 8, the safety and responsibility issues of babysitting.

For additional information call Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau, 301-345-6660, ext. 2016.

Summer Tutoring At Springhill Lake

The first summer tutoring session on June 11 was deemed a huge success with four tutors providing their services. For those who did not attend the first session, there is still time to attend the second on Saturday, June 18. Call Janet Goldberg at 301-397-2212 for information.

Water Polo Sessions Open on Thursdays

The Greenbelt Swim Team and the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center will host water polo instruction and play in the outdoor pool on Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m. on June 23, June 30, July 7 and July 14. The Thursday opportunities will continue if there is sufficient interest. The sport requires a combination of swimming ability and teamwork to play in the deep end. A second "beginner" game is played on the shallow end where swimming will be encouraged but the team play and water polo ball handling skills will be emphasized. A drop-in fee "donation" is suggested for the Greenbelt Swim Team and will be collected "at the gate" to the outdoor pool. The target age group is 12 to 19 year-olds. Exceptions can be made based on swimming skills and understanding of the learning environment.

CARES Offers Mini-GED Course

Greenbelt CARES will begin the summer four-week mini-GED course on Tuesday, July 5. It will end on Thursday, July 28. Registration will be held on July 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. only. The first class of instruction will be held on Thursday, July 7.

GED I is held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. GED I is for students who need a review of basic math (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, percentages and work problems) and English grammar skills.

GED II is held from 1 to 3 p.m. GED II is for students who have successfully completed GED I and/or are ready to learn algebra and geometry, English literature and writing skills and to prepare to take the GED test.

GED is held every Tuesday and Thursday for four weeks in the Municipal Building Conference Room, 25 Crescent Road.

Students are required to show proof of residency (i.e., current lease, phone or electric bill, driver's license or Motor Vehicle I.D. card.)

There is no charge for Greenbelt residents in either course, non-Greenbelt residents are required to pay a \$75 registration fee. All students are required to purchase a copy of the GED textbook and calculator from Greenbelt CARES.

Students do not have to be 16 years of age in order to take the GED course. Students are eligible to take a GED pre-test given at Greenbelt CARES at no cost. The actual GED test is given by the State of Maryland, not Greenbelt CARES. However, students who are ready to take the test can obtain the application forms from Greenbelt CARES.

Questions and enrollment information regarding either course should be directed to Judy Hering, course instructor, at 301-345-6660, ext. 2016 or email jhering@ci.greenbeltmd.gov.

Greenbelt Arts Center Presents

AUDITIONS
 Shakespeare on the Green

HENRY IV, PART 1

Monday & Tuesday
June 20 & 21, 7:30 - 10pm
 26 characters, ages 8-80
 ethnic diversity encouraged
 performs 8/14 - 9/4

ACTORS: readings from script, some movement & stage combat work possible.
VOCALISTS & MUSICIANS: prepare one piece to perform, accompanist provided.

Greenbelt Arts Center
 123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770
 (Next to the Post Office.)
301-441-8770
www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Obituaries

Corrine Merritt

Corinne "Corri" Merritt (Siegel), 79, formerly of Brookline, Mass., Greenbelt and Santa Fe, N. Mex., died June 7, 2005, at Andover Subacute & Rehabilitation Center in Andover, N.J. In Greenbelt she lived about 20 years on Maplewood Court.

She was a technical illustrator for Medical Reference Books and also worked as a jewelry-crafter.

She is survived by five children and five grandchildren and by a sister and brother.

Services were handled privately by Goble Funeral Home of Sparta, N.J.

Charles B. Farrall

Charles B. (Charlie) Farrall, Greenbelt resident and the grandfather of Little Miss Greenbelt, Emily Scites, died of cardiomyopathy and respiratory failure on June 9, 2005. He lived in the City of Greenbelt for 32 years.

Mr. Farrall's deceased parents were former Greenbelters as well. His mother Lucy Farrall was the manager of the Greenbelt Plaza Apartments for over 11 years. Charlie loved Greenbelt mainly because of the closeness and family-oriented feeling and history of tradition the city possesses. He had no desire to live any other place. He passed those feelings about the city on to his eldest daughter Tina Scites, who still lives in Greenbelt. Both his daughters Tina Scites and Kimberly Cragg graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Now his grandson attends the same school.

Mr. Farrall is survived by his former spouse and best friend Judy Farrall; two daughters Tina and Kimberly; sons-in-law Chuck and Kyle; three grandchildren, Charles, Jr. (CJ), Emily and Koke; sister Patricia Downing and her husband Ernie, who are former Greenbelters; and six nieces and nephews, Michael, Missy, Christy, Candy, Dennis and Nikki.

Funeral services were held at Lee's Funeral Home in Clinton on Wednesday, June 15, 2005, followed by private burial.

Pastor Tappe to Be Installed Sunday

Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington, will formally install Father Walter Tappe as Pastor of St. Hugh's Church on Sunday, June 19 at the 11 a.m. Mass. All are invited to attend the Mass and reception following.

Charles Cormack, Jr.

Former Greenbelter and long-time member of the Greenbelt Lions Club Charles Marshall "Bud" Cormack, Jr., 81, died on June 9, 2005.

His father Charles Marshall Cormack, Sr., at one time the federal government housing manager for Greenbelt and his wife Vilma Vigert were also residents of Greenbelt. Mr. Cormack resided with his parents at 6 Court Ridge and later, after marriage, at 35 Court Ridge.

Mr. Cormack was born May 8, 1924. Due to family moves, he attended several high schools, graduating from Central High in Washington, D.C. He attended the University of Maryland but left expecting to be drafted. Instead, he worked at Fort Belvoir testing synthetic rubber. Following the war, he graduated from Duke University in Durham, N.C., with a B.S. in chemistry.

Mr. Cormack worked for the Navy Department his entire career, providing systems safety engineering support. His job included support to NATO allies. He retired in 1980 from government service and later worked for KSA, Inc., a consulting firm from which he retired in 1996.

In the Greenbelt Lions Club Mr. Cormack served as president, treasurer and secretary and held

many other offices. He also served as a zone chairman and newsletter editor for Lions District 22C. He was awarded a Melvin Jones Fellowship by Lions International and made a Lifetime Member.

Mr. Cormack was married to Elizabeth Dolores Taylor for 37 years until her death in 1987. They had three children. In 1989 he married Josephine Marks.

Survivors include his wife, his children Margaret "Holly" Cormack of Salisbury, N.C.; Charles M. Cormack, III, and his wife Kathy of Greensboro, N.C.; and Dolores Derrington and her husband Darrell of Burke, Va.; and a grandson, Benjamin Cormack of Greensboro. He is also survived by stepchildren Janice Marks and Carol Mahon; step-grandchildren Maya and Marvin Marks; Julie Mieras; great-grandchildren Roger Mieras and Jonathan Marks; and a brother Robert and his family.

A memorial service was held at the Good Samaritan Lutheran Church in Lanham on June 14. Private interment was at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Greenbelt Lions Club, P.O. Box 677, Greenbelt, MD 20768.



Condolences to Josephine Cormack and family on the death of her husband Charles "Bud" Cormack, Jr.

Our sympathy to the family of Charles B. "Charlie" Farrall who died on June 9, 2005.

Congratulations to Ryan Peck who graduated from the University of Maryland Police Academy on June 10. He is now a member of the Greenbelt Police Force.

Congratulations also to Greenbelter Robert Defibaugh who graduated from the UM Police Academy and is now an officer at the University.

Joyce Hom was named to the dean's list at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga., for the spring quarter. Fulltime undergraduate students who earn a grade point average of 3.5 or above for the quarter receive recognition on the dean's list. Hom, an illustration major, is the daughter of Chuck and Kathrine Hom.

Outstanding job - kudos to seven city Public Works employees who were recognized this week for perfect attendance for Fiscal Year 2005. They are John Baluch, Thomas Butler, Lewis Carroll, Gene Diest, Hoa Nguyen, Mike Rall and William Smith.

Vacation Bible Camp

Greenbelt Baptist Church will hold its Ramblin' Road Trip Vacation Bible School for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade during the week of July 11 to 15 from 6:15 to 8:45 p.m. The church is located at the corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads. To pre-register for this free event contact 301-474-4212 or visit <http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org>.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
 June 19, 10 a.m.
 "Not Your Father's Father" by Leo Jones with Drex Andrex, worship associate
 Summer fun for children also at 10 a.m.
 Barbara Wells ten Hove, Jaco 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.gbmgm-umc.org/mowatt
 Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor
 Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am



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: 8:30 am, 11:00 am
 Weds. Worship: 7:00pm (Adult Bible Study/Prayer & Children's Ministry)

Helping People Connect with His Family through Loving Service

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
Mass Schedule:
 Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
 Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
 Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
 Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.
 Pastor: Fr. Walter J. Tappe
 Pastoral Associate: Fr. R. Scott Hurd



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111
 Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship Service
 9:15 a.m. Sunday School/
 Bible Study
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
 Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net



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

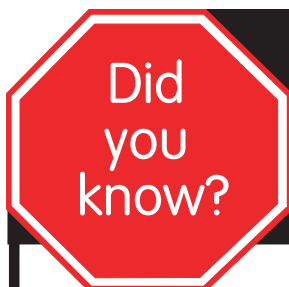


An inclusive congregation!

Baha'i Faith

"The mightiest of structures, the most solidly established, the most enduring, standing guard over the world, assuring both the spiritual and the material perfections of mankind, and protecting the happiness and the civilization of society - is religion."
 -Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
 P.O. Box 245
 Greenbelt, MD 20770
 301-345-2918 301-220-3160
www.bahai.org/www.us.bahai.org



Peace and humility in all actions are among the key principles in Islam.

When praising the righteous, God says in the Holy Qur'an: "And the servants of (God) The Most Merciful are those who walk on the earth in humility, and when the arrogant confront them, they say, 'Peace'." -*The Holy Qur'an 25:63*

To find out more about Islam, call 301-982-9463 or e-mail us at searchislam@mail.com or visit the website www.learnaboutislam.com.

Congregation Mishkan Torah

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223
mishkantorah@hotmail.com - www.mishkantorah.org
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the twenty-first century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation





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301-474-2000

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City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Municipal Building - Regular Meeting
June 20, 2005 - 8:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

Oath of Office for Police Officer

Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

***Committee Reports** (Items on the Consent Agenda marked by * will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Advisory Planning Board, Interim Report (Springhill Lake Conceptual Site Plan)

LEGISLATION

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 11, "Motor Vehicles and Traffic," of the Greenbelt City Code for the Purpose of Increasing the Fine for Various Violations of This Chapter, Effective July 1, 2005 (2nd Reading, Adoption)

A Resolution to Repeal Resolution Number 973 and Establish Service Charges for Garbage, Trash, and Recycling Collections in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, Effective July 1, 2005 (2nd Reading, Adoption)

End-of-the-Year Budget Adjustment Ordinances (1st Reading, Suspension of the Rules; 2nd Reading, Adoption)

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article 11E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1957 Edition as Amended), Title, "Corporation-Municipal," Subtitle "Home Rule" to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition as Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Repealing and Reenacting with Amendments Section 27, Titled "Absentee Voting" (Charter Amendment Resolution #2005-1) (1st Reading)

OTHER BUSINESS

- RPC Zoning Regulations
- Proposed Amendment to County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance Related to Greenbelt Station
- *Resignation from Advisory Group

MEETINGS

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail kgallagher@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

Meetings for June 20-24th

Monday, June 20, 8:00pm, Regular Council Meeting, Municipal Building. (Live on Channel 71)

Wednesday, June 22, 8:00pm, Council Work Session, re: Towing Policy with Public Safety Advisory Committee, Community Center.

Thursday, June 23, 8:00pm, Council Work Session, Springhill Lake Conceptual Site Plan, Municipal Building. (Live on Channel 71)

Greenbelt Recreation Department and American Red Cross

BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, June 28th
2:00-8:00pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building
25 Crescent Road

Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule your LIFE-SAVING donation.

GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71

Due to lightning damage to our switcher, we will not be able to show videotaped programming next week. We will however, carry the City Council Meetings of June 20th and 23rd live on the Channel. We regret any inconvenience this temporary outage may cause.
Info: 301-474-8000.

GREENBELT CARES BABYSITTING COURSE



Wednesday, June 22nd
from 10am-1pm
Municipal Building

1st Floor Conference Room

This free course is targeted toward students completing grades 5-8. Students will learn responsibility and health and safety issues of taking care of children, as well as learning about poison control and fire prevention. Students completing the course will receive a certificate and be eligible to participate in the Greenbelt CARES ODD JOBS/JOB BANK program.

Info/Enrollment: 301-345-6660, ext 2016 or jhering@greenbeltmd.gov

ASK THE EXPERTS CABLE SHOW PRESENTS:

CLUTTER – TRASH OR TREASURE?
Tuesday, June 21
11am-12noon
Green Ridge House Community Room

Featuring Laura Rosenthal, Simplicity Matters Earth Institute.

OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups. Vacancies exist on the: Arts Advisory Board Employee Relations Board Park and Recreation Advisory Board
For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

REGISTER NOW
2005 MISS GREENBELT SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

\$2000 Savings Bond Awarded 2005 Miss Greenbelt!!

Miss Greenbelt Pageant, Ages 14-19

Junior Miss Greenbelt, Ages 11-13

Little Miss Greenbelt, Ages 7-10

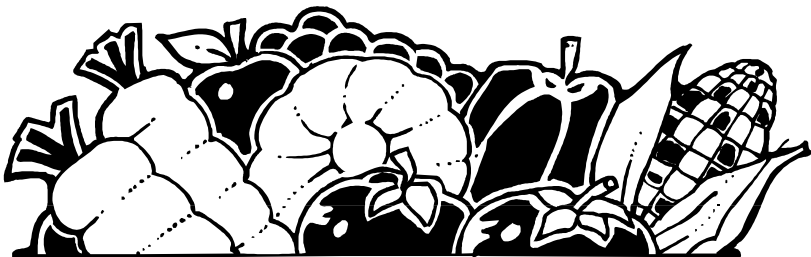
Make New Friends - Learn New Skills

Scholarship, Prizes, Awards, Professional Photo Session, Television Appearances, Make-up and Modeling Sessions

Only 6 Rehearsals – All on Thursday Nights

Website: www.missgreenbelt.com

Call Natasha Jewell at (301) 352-8665 or Kathy Patsas at (301) 352-9853 to register or for more information.



Come to the COLLEGE PARK FARMER'S MARKET

Local farmers and vendors offering fresh fruits, vegetables, garlic, bakery goods, jellies, potted herb plants, bedding plants, cut flowers and herbal products

5211 Paint Branch Parkway
(formerly Calvert Road)

in College Park – across from Airport

Saturdays from 7am – 12noon
May 7 through November 19

CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH

At the New Deal Café on June 20th, 2005

GREENBELT PRIDE

A newly formed organization of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Greenbelt residents invites you to an evening of socializing and information. Ask how you can get involved, or just drop by and say "hi." ALL interested persons are welcome! Meet your GLBT neighbors, and learn about what is happening on the state level with issues that concern our lives.

6:00-9:00 PM, Monday, June 20th

Join GreenBeLT Pride at the New Deal Café (113 Centerway). Look for the table with the rainbow flags. For more information, call **Frank DeBernardo** at 301-474-5294 or email at FDeBernardo@aol.com

Stay tuned for future events!

GreenBeLT Pride: You can't spell Greenbelt without GBLT!

SKOLNIK continued from page 1

ered free to every home in Greenbelt, the all-volunteer staff struggled financially from week to week to print the news. Elaine chaired the first of several fund drives held over the years. "We went from court to court," she states. "Greenbelters gave \$1 or \$5 to save the newspaper." It was her first taste of civic activism and her first foray in fighting for a cause she held dear.

Her first big development story occurred in 1964 when the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) presented the Greenbelt/College Park Master Plan. "Who could forget the nearly 1,000 persons protesting the Master Plan at the Center School (now the Community Center) gym," she recalls passionately. Citizens fought against high density zoning within the core of Greenbelt. The next bitter fight a decade later brought the community together to prevent a high school from being built on Northway extended which would have caused the widening of Ridge Road to accommodate school bus and automobile traffic. She laughs while remembering how "we got no respect from the Board of Education. In fact we were dubbed 'those Greenbelt kooks,'" she recalls. But after a five-year battle, in 1976 "the much needed high school, prestigious Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was built in Greenbelt East." She smiles with satisfaction.

As Elaine describes the packed carloads of angry citizens trekking to Upper Marlboro to protest against the Master Plan or the school site, she is proud of the role the News Review played in galvanizing Greenbelt residents into action. The Save Our Community Committee and the Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt Committee were formed to preserve the green areas. And the News Review was the spark that ignited the actions by the citizens and the city council. Elaine attended most of the meetings, notebook in hand. Later she would confer with Al, passing on her notes to him. He wrote the stories. But she was the eyes and ears. Her activism was in full gear, she explains. Those were her happiest times on the News Review.

The low point came with what she describes as the "devastating four year law suit against the News Review and its president, my soul mate Al" It was the summer of 1966 when Elaine stood in the kitchen of her house on Northway stirring chocolate pudding. A knock came at the door, and a man in uniform handed her some papers. She was stunned to discover that the News Review and Al Skolnik were being sued for \$2 million by a local real estate developer. The suit charged that the paper had

published defamatory remarks made against the developer by citizens at public sessions of the Greenbelt City Council in October 1965. A Prince George's County jury in January 1968 found the remarks libelous and a \$17,500 judgment was awarded to the developer. The case went to the Maryland Court of Appeals a year later and was upheld. In a 1970 landmark decision, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously overturned the lower court's ruling. The Greenbelt News Review was responsible for updating the libel laws of Maryland and broadening the constitutional defenses of reporters against libel suits, Elaine proudly proclaims.

The victory was sweet, coming after four agonizing years. They looked forward to a normal happy family life once more. Elaine recalls that "Al dream[ed] that when he retired he would devote himself full time on his beloved newspaper." He would ensure "that its goals served the public as originally intended . . . to remain non-partisan in politics, to print the news accurately and regularly, to make its pages an open forum for civic affairs, to develop a staff of volunteer writers and to develop a Greenbelt philosophy of life," Elaine quotes from the first 1937 issue of the Cooperator, later renamed the Greenbelt News Review.

But such was not to be. Al suffered a fatal heart attack on his way home from work in March 1977. He was 56 years-old. The late Roger Clark, the attorney who represented them in the libel suit, described Al as a person who "responded with courage, vigor, perseverance and a healthy outrage. It is because of men like him that our freedoms remain inviolate."

Elaine assumed the presidency of the News Review to carry on Al's dreams and keep his spirit alive. For the next nine years, she performed the dual role of president and assignment editor for most news stories. She relinquished her role as president in 1986 but she never stopped worrying about the financial health of the paper or whether or not someone was available to cover a particular GHI or city council meeting. She cherishes her role as investigative journalist on development issues although she is dismayed by the loss of her personal contacts with developers. Today, she says regretfully, "a developer could be a conglomerate and I'm told 'Talk to my attorney.' I can't have a dialogue with the developer anymore," she muses.

Though she is no longer a fixture at the news desk on Tuesdays when the work on the News Review is accomplished, she is in touch with its writers and editors and mostly gets into the office every other week. She thrives on being able to identify the current



PHOTO BY JUDI BORDEAUX

Luncheon chair Judy Bell confers with Mary Lou Williamson (standing), while Marat Moore and Pat Davis chat (seated at table).

issues and to assign a reporter to cover a story. Her forte is her remarkable institutional memory. She will spend hours with young University of Maryland journalism interns distilling the history of Metroland or some other complex development issue.

She will hand them a dozen or more old issues of the News Review so they can bone up on the pertinent facts. She will tell them what to look for and who to interview. With a gleam in her eye, she says that the Metroland development will go on for years just like the ICC (Inter County Connector) controversy which she has assiduously followed for the past 40 years.

Elaine reluctantly embraces change. She has seen the News Review go from a four-page paper printed by offset and later letterpress processes to today's 16-page papers using the latest in computer technologies. She is proud of the computers and fax machines that line the walls of the News Review office. She can't imagine returning to what she calls the dungeon, the cluttered basement at 15 Parkway where the News Review staffers toiled for many years before moving into sunny quarters in the Community Center in 1995.

She married her second husband Victor Nicholson in 1985 and soon after immersed herself in Vic's dreams concerning the future of cable TV. Vic was a pioneer in the cable TV industry and worked tirelessly for years to establish a broad-band two-way video highway. Elaine attended meetings with Vic and helped him

with his correspondence and press releases. He also supported her, waiting patiently outside the city offices where the then city manager Jim Giese accused her of snooping. He drove her wherever she needed to go, her constant companion and soul mate.

Sadly, Vic is now in a nursing home suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Elaine is close by, living in Leisure World in Silver Spring. Her slight frame belies a tough inner strength that she calls upon to endure the pain of seeing Vic decline. She is keenly aware of loss and quotes from a book "Real Moments" by Barbara DeAngeles that she says echoes some of her own thoughts. In it, DeAngeles states "loss will come as we age and are no longer vital . . . when our children grow up and we lose their innocent, unconditional love . . . when death takes our grandparents and then our parents from us and suddenly we are the elders in the family The journey," DeAngeles writes, "between what you once were and who you are becoming is where the dance of life really takes place."

Elaine Skolnik Nicholson is still

Women Democrats To Hold Forum

With the co-sponsorship of Prince George's Community College and the Women's Action Coalition (WAC) of Prince George's County, a newly-formed Women's Leadership Network of the Maryland Democratic Party will present an open forum for interested women of all political persuasions. "Listening and Hearing Each Other: What Issues Matter to You?" will take place on Saturday, June 25 from 9 a.m. to noon in the Rennie Forum at the college, 301 Largo Road, Largo. There is no charge for this event.

A professional facilitator will moderate a grass roots discussion by attendees and lead a "summing up" session.

In addition to Pat Unger of Greenbelt, who serves as ad hoc chair, members of the Prince George's Planning Committee are Donna Edwards of Fort Washington, Joseline Pena-Melnyk of College Park, Karren Pope-Onwukwe of Hyattsville, Melanie Miller of Bowie, Lori Morris of Bowie and Augustine Pounds of Glenn Dale. A Howard County subcommittee is convening this summer.

Refreshments will be served during registration; for additional information contact Pat Unger: Pmdu@aol.com; h: 301-474-1052; c: 301-518-0267 or nsmith@mddens.org.

engaged in her journey – not along the quieter edges, she says firmly but looking forward to each day's challenges to stimulate her mind. With a mischievous twinkle in her clear brown eyes she says that she plans to write a book entitled "Developers I Have Known" to be published after her demise.

"You pick your niche" in life, she affirms. Surely the citizens of Greenbelt have benefitted from the niche this grand lady has carved.

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Amazing New Seminar Reveals ... Hosted by Jim Cantwell

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Greenbelt - Virtually all retirees are routinely making financial mistakes that literally cost them thousands of dollars each year. A free seminar hosted by the financial experts heard each week on a highly acclaimed local financial radio talk show will show you:

- One strategy to **avoid capital gains taxes**
- How to **reduce or eliminate taxes on Social Security**
- How to **avoid the costs and delays of probate**
- **Why most mutual funds don't beat market averages**
- How to structure investment income that is **largely tax free**
- How to **eliminate long term care insurance premiums**
- 4 other remarkable, specific savings strategies

This meeting is **absolutely free**, includes a **free famous Marriott dinner**, is informational only and runs a **lightning quick 76 minutes**. **You will receive no sales presentation** making this meeting unlike anything you've ever seen before. This meeting will be held on **June 21** at the **Greenbelt Marriott in Greenbelt: 6400 Ivy Lane**. It will begin at 4:30 PM and conclude 76 minutes after beginning when a free dinner is served. Reservations will be taken **on our 24 hour automated line until our seating capacity is reached at 1-800-371-1049**. Just leave your name, address, and the number of tickets you'll need after the tone and we'll rush them out to you. **Special Bonus for all attendees: Your choice of two free reports: Mutual Fund Management Secrets Money Managers Don't Want Published or 6 Deadly Mistakes Made in Setting Up a Will or Trust and How to Avoid Them** (Limit one report per household). Call our 24 hour automated response line today at **1-800-371-1049**, as reservations will be taken on a **first come, first serve basis**. **Virtually everyone attending this meeting learns never before heard of, money saving strategies** with no sales presentation or pressure. **Don't wait to call. We fill up quickly.**



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apr=annual percentage rate
Rate can change without notice.

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.

Rape

June 5, 1:04 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Court, a woman reported that she met four men at a club. They offered the woman a ride home to Langley Park. Once in the vehicle, the men drove the victim to an apartment building in the 9100 block of Edmonston Court and forced her into a laundry room, where two of them sexually assaulted her. All four fled the scene after taking money and a cell phone from her. The suspects are described as four Latino males, one wearing a black tank top shirt and blue jeans and another wearing a red shirt and blue shorts.

Robberies

June 5, 6:37 p.m., 7800 block Mandan Road, a man reported that he was walking to a residence when two people approached him from behind. One of the suspects pushed the man to the ground and went through his pockets as the second suspect produced a handgun. After taking the man's wallet, both fled the scene, in a vehicle described as a 1998 to 2000 Mitsubishi Lancer 4-door with unknown Maryland tags.

June 6, 10:39 p.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway, a woman reported that she was walking to an apartment when she noticed two men following her on foot. One of the men produced a handgun and ordered the woman to get on the ground. The second man took her purse then both fled toward the high school. The suspects are described as two black males, 18 to 23 years of age, 5'8" to 5'9" with thin builds and black hair. One had braids and a light complexion, wearing blue jeans, no shirt and a blue and white hat. The other had a dark complexion, wearing a white baggy T-shirt, blue jean shorts and a navy blue hat.

June 7, 2:58 a.m., 6400 Ivy Lane, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with attempted robbery, use of a handgun during the commission of a violent crime, transporting a handgun in a vehicle, handgun possession and two counts of assault. A desk clerk at the Marriott Hotel reported that he was walking from the back offices to the front desk when he observed a man, wearing a mask, jump over the counter. The man, armed with a revolver, demanded money from the desk clerk and then fled the scene without taking anything. Responding police observed a vehicle leaving the area at a high rate of speed. A vehicle pursuit ensued involving several jurisdictions, with the suspect vehicle becoming disabled in the area of Eastern Avenue and Sheriff Road. The suspect bailed out of the vehicle and was apprehended after a short foot chase. He was transported to the department of corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

June 8, 3:21 p.m., 200 block Lakeside Drive, a man reported that he entered an apartment building followed by another man. The man knocked on the apartment door and when the oc-

cupant opened the door, the second man pushed his way into the apartment. Both victims struggled with the suspect and managed to push him through a closed sliding glass door pane. The suspect then fled the area. He is described as a black male, 20 to 25 years of age, 6'1", 200 pounds with black hair in shoulder-length dreadlocks, wearing faded blue jeans, a white shirt and gloves.

June 8, 10:28 p.m., 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a clerk at the Shell Food Mart reported that a man entered the store, picked up several cans of beer and attempted to leave without paying. When the clerk confronted the man, he pulled a handgun from his pocket, showed it to the victim and left the store. The suspect is described as a black male, 25 years of age, 5'11", 180 pounds with short black hair and brown eyes and several tattoos, wearing black shorts with a white stripe. The same suspect returned to the store approximately one hour later and again displayed the handgun to the victim, possibly in an attempt to intimidate him. The suspect then fled the scene a second time.

Drugs

June 6, 8:37 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a nonresident youth was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of marijuana on school grounds, trespass and disruption of school activities. A school resource officer observed the youth in the hallway while class was in session. The youth was found to have been suspended and in possession of a quantity of suspected marijuana. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the school board and the juvenile justice system.

June 9, 1:26 a.m., Citgo Service Station, a resident man was arrested and charged with possession of heroin, possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia after police responded to a report of several disorderly persons in the area of Gardenway. A group matching the description given was located in the parking lot of the service station. Police observed a hypodermic syringe sticking out of one man's shirt pocket and he was found to be in possession of a quantity of suspected heroin and of suspected marijuana. The suspect was transported to the department of corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Theft

June 8, Greenbelt Road and Southway, police stopped a vehicle for an equipment violation. A computer check revealed that the tag on the vehicle had been reported stolen. The driver was released on citation pending trial.

Vandalism

June 7, 6:47 p.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive, a Greenbelt youth was arrested for malicious destruction after he allegedly used a can of spray paint to vandalize a laundry room. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the juvenile justice system.

Greenbelt Student Is Outstanding Patrol

On Thursday, June 2 Rosa Leath, a sixth grade student at Springhill Lake Elementary School, was presented with the Outstanding School Safety Patrol Award at a luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Reston, Va.

The Outstanding School Safety Patrol Awards Program recognizes the most exceptional school safety patrols in the 18 jurisdictions in the Washington Metropolitan Area. Selection criteria include dependability, academics, promptness, neatness and industriousness. Each honoree receives a plaque acknowledging their accomplishments and a \$150 U.S. Savings Bond.



Pictured at the award ceremony are (left to right): Executive Director/CEO Norman E. Grimm, Jr., of AAA Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education; Rosa Leath of Springhill Lake Elementary School; and Alison Starling, co-anchor of "Good Morning Washington" at WJLA News.

Open Alcohol

June 5, 12:23 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with possession of open alcohol in public. Police responded to a report of a fight and located the man in possession of an open alcoholic beverage. He was released on citation pending trial.

Vehicle Crimes

Four vehicles were reported stolen: a 1999 Toyota Avalon 4-door from the 6100 block Breezewood Court; a 2002 Dodge Intrepid 4-door from the 6300 block Golden Triangle Drive; a white 2002 Ford F250 truck, Maryland tags 77P911 from the 6400 block Golden Triangle Drive; and a 2005 Yamaha YZFR6L motorcycle, blue with silver trim, Maryland temporary tags 05065P from the 100 block Westway.

Five vehicles were recovered, two by Greenbelt police and three by other departments with no arrests in any of the recoveries.

Vandalism to, theft from and attempted theft from vehicles was reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza Mall, 6100 block Breezewood Court, 6100 block Breezewood Drive (two incidents), 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, 9100 block Springhill Lane, 9200 block Springhill Lane, 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive, 6300 block Golden Triangle Drive, 18 Court Crescent Road, 2 Court Eastway and 7500 block Mandan Road.

GHI ISSUES continued from page 1

for any additions to homes in the RPC affected area have not been enforced. That is, until this spring, when the requirement in the law for DSP approval in the RPC zone was brought to the attention of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and City of Greenbelt officials. Now all plans for new development and additions of 25 percent or more over the original floor area have been put on hold.

For the city, this means that the permit process for the proposed Public Works project, the observatory project at Northway Fields and the skateboard park adjacent to the Community Center are on hold as is at least one GHI addition.

Legislative Efforts

In response to GHI concerns raised at the cooperative's annual meeting on May 18, County Councilmember Douglas J.J. Peters drafted legislation that would remove the DSP requirement for GHI properties. Since the DSP requirement applies to all properties in the RPC zone, the city staff has also drafted alternative language for council's consideration to remove the DSP for additions to or alterations of single-family residential units in the RPC zone, as well as for all public buildings. The DSP requirement would be retained for apartments, commercial properties and new construction.

In addition, the draft legislation contains a new "purpose" section which states that the intent of the RPC zone is to protect the town plan, providing context for the interpretation of the requirements of the overlay zone. City staff recommends that council support the proposed legislation and transmit it to Peters with a request that it be substituted for the original (GHI only) corrective legislation.

During discussion it became apparent that council was not ready to accept the city staff recommendation. Davis posed several questions to Craze regarding the level of reviews that would be available to control additions if the DSP requirement were removed by legislation. She expressed concern that the city could be faced with a situation where there were more additions and larger additions. She felt there was need for greater assurance that an effective review and control mechanism was in place within the GHI community and for other residential areas

in the city.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts expressed similar concerns. He suggested that the city legislative proposal include a limit where only additions less than 100 percent of the original floor area would be exempted from the DSP requirements. He was interested in having protections for what your neighbor might be planning to do as an addition.

Currently GHI has a 100 percent limit for additions in their review system. Larger additions would require an exception and approval by the board of directors.

Most GHI members in the audience urged council action at the earliest time possible to support the GHI legislative proposal or an amended version. Several speakers noted that their plans for additions were being held up by the new requirement for a DSP. Others spoke about future plans for additions and wanted control for additions to be applied by the city and GHI mechanisms and not to be subject to the county DSP requirements.

When it was clear that council wanted to take a more careful approach in considering possible solutions to the DSP problem, City Manager Michael McLaughlin suggested that even though Peters' proposed legislation would be considered at a meeting of the county council's Planning and Zoning Committee on June 15, he believed that Peters would still be able to work with the city's recommendation if it were submitted following the next meeting of council scheduled for June 20.

This suggestion pleased Davis, who suggested that council could have another opportunity to discuss the review and control mechanisms that GHI employs when the council and GHI have their stakeholders meeting on June 13. After that meeting council would be in a better position to make a decision on the appropriate legislative remedy to recommend to Peters and his committee.

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COUNCIL continued from page 1

\$20,083,300. The difference of \$255,800 will be used to rebuild the fund balance.

With Councilmember Leta Mach out of the city and unable to attend the meeting, council had only four members for critical votes on the budget that in some cases required all four votes in the affirmative in order to suspend the rules to complete action prior to June 10, as required by Maryland law. During parts of the budget voting, council membership was down to only three members when councilmember Edward Putens had to temporarily leave the council chamber.

At several points in acting on specific budget accounts, Roberts was put in the difficult position of voting for items he had clearly opposed during the final budget worksession. Most of these votes involved a council consensus to fund positions for new employees that had remained vacant during the past year. Roberts did not want to subvert the agreed upon consensus and, with Putens out of the chamber, reluctantly voted for some of the things he had earlier objected to. By the time council moved to act on the items requiring suspension of the rules, Putens had returned to the chamber.

Election Issues

Following the June 1 worksession with the city's Board of Elections council gave direction to the city staff regarding several issues.

Council agreed, first, to implement the board's proposal for expanding absentee voting for city elections. The process for requesting and casting an absentee ballot

would remain essentially unchanged but any eligible voter would be able to choose to vote by absentee ballot, not just those who could demonstrate that going to the polls on election day would be impossible. Staff will prepare a resolution to amend the City Charter's definition of the acceptable use of an absentee ballot.

The Board of Elections had recommended that council consider eliminating or modifying the informal agreement regarding signs on private property as a way of enhancing the visibility of elections. This proposal will be con-

sidered further but in the meantime staff will explore increasing the number of sites on public property that would be appropriate for campaign signs.

Council expressed interest in reconsidering the city's law prohibiting electioneering (e.g., handing out literature on election day) within 300 feet of the entrance to polling places. Staff would mark distances of 100' and 150' at each precinct so council could examine their impact. All of these directions were passed unanimously.

The final item on the agenda was the selection of a new firm to provide audit services for closing out the Fiscal Year 2005 financial

records for the city. The accounting firm of Clifton Gunderson, formerly known as Wooden Benson, was selected by council.



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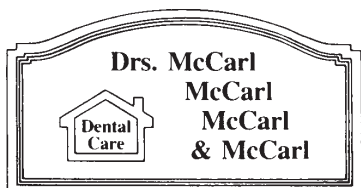


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■ A grant for 2% of total loan amount

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4.875%
(5.139% APR)^{1*}
2 POINTS

5.25%
(5.429% APR)^{2*}
1 POINT

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(5.590% APR)^{3*}
0 POINT

5.875%
(5.968% APR)^{4*}
0 POINT
with a 2% grant

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Secretary

Shawn S. Karimian
Deputy Secretary

¹ The annual percentage rate (APR) quoted represents a typical \$99,200 FHA-insured, 30-year fixed rate loan on a \$100,000 home with a down payment of \$2,250 and financed Upfront Mortgage Insurance Premium (UFMIP). This APR is based on 1% origination fee, a 1% discount point, \$201.50 of prepaid interest (this APR calculation assumes 15 days of prepaid interest) and \$750 in Mortgage Loan Fees paid by the borrower.
² The annual percentage rate (APR) quoted represents a typical \$99,200 FHA-insured, 30-year fixed rate loan on a \$100,000 home with a down payment of \$2,250 and financed Upfront Mortgage Insurance Premium (UFMIP). This APR is based on 1% origination fee, a no discount point, \$217.00 of prepaid interest (this APR calculation assumes 15 days of prepaid interest) and \$750 in Mortgage Loan Fees paid by the borrower.
³ The annual percentage rate (APR) quoted represents a typical \$99,200 FHA-insured, 30-year fixed rate loan on a \$100,000 home with a down payment of \$2,250 and financed Upfront Mortgage Insurance Premium (UFMIP). This APR is based on no origination fee, a no discount point, \$227.33 of prepaid interest (this APR calculation assumes 15 days of prepaid interest) and \$750 in Mortgage Loan Fees paid by the borrower.
⁴ The annual percentage rate (APR) quoted above represents a typical \$99,200 FHA-insured, fixed rate loan on a \$100,000 home with a down payment of \$2,250 and financed Upfront Mortgage Insurance Premium (UFMIP). This APR is based on a no origination fee, no discount point, \$242.83 of prepaid interest (this APR calculation assumes 15 days of prepaid interest) and \$750 in Mortgage Loan Fees paid by the borrower.
 * Mortgage Loan Fees may include appraisal, credit report, processing, document preparation, an underwriting fee, flood certificate, tax service, wire transfer, and other fees. Please note that the actual APR may vary depending upon the Mortgage Loan Fees the participating lender charges the borrower. Rates are subject to change.