

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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10 Cents

## Goldfaden-Panagoulis Legal Action Against GLIC On Land Deal Fails

By Russell Greenbaum

The case of Ben Goldfaden and George Panagoulis versus the Greenbelt Land Improvement Corporation (GLIC), a subsidiary of the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation (GVHC), was thrown out of court in a hearing before Judge Marbury on Monday, January 10. A feature of the case was that Abraham Chasanow, general counsel for GVHC, was subpoenaed as a witness for Goldfaden and Panagoulis, although he did not testify.

Goldfaden and Panagoulis represented an unnamed Washington group who had attempted to buy the parcel of vacant land adjacent of the present Lakeside development. They challenged the legality of a meeting of GLIC on November 23 at which this land was sold to the Warner Kanter Company of Cincinnati.

It was claimed that in calling this meeting GLIC did not fulfill the by-law requirement of giving two days' written advance notice. GLIC pointed out that it had given four days oral notice and that all five members of GLIC had signed a waiver of the written notice following the meeting, which it said is the customary practice in the case of special and emergency meetings. Since the signing of such a waiver either before or after a meeting is legal, Judge Marbury upheld GLIC.

### Chasanow Refuses

When Goldfaden and Panagoulis began legal action, GLIC requested Chasanow to represent it in court. Chasanow refused on the grounds that his contract with GVHC did not include his services for subsidiary organizations. He also revealed that he had acted to incorporate the June Construction Company, which had joined forces with Goldfaden and Panagoulis in anticipation of constructing homes on the undeveloped land should the deal be consummated. He had been awarded stock in the corporation as compensation for his services.

Chasanow's status was further complicated by the fact that he had sat in on the GLIC meeting of November 23 as GVHC's counsel. Owing to Chasanow's equivocal position, the GVHC board of directors has decided to hold up action on Chasanow's 1955 contract with the Corporation, which was recently approved. His contract will be discussed at the GVHC board meeting this Friday, January 14.

## Ashelman Writes Wolfe On GCS Clean-Up Role

"Correct the problem at the source" was emphasized by Sam Ashelman, general manager of Greenbelt Consumer Services regarding the city litter in a letter to Mayor James Wolfe, it was disclosed this week. Ashelman reminded Wolfe that GCS has been cooperating with the clean-up drive by providing half the funds for prizes in a Clean-up Contest, ran a movie party for children for the same project, posted signs in stores, requested all employees to assist in keeping the Center clean, and instructing GCS porters to spend more time sweeping around the stores.

### Educational Problem

Regarding tires and cans near the filling station, Ashelman disclosed that a box to contain the trash was built there two years ago, but it was broken into within two weeks. Similarly, a trash box behind the Variety Store met the same fate.

"Basically, it is an educational problem with the parents and children, and we feel that more emphasis should be placed upon this," Ashelman declared.

## Youngster Hits Front Page The Hard Way

A Greenbelt youngster found his picture on the front page of a Washington morning newspaper this week, but he probably was not very happy about it.

Michael Dye, 11, of 1-E Southway, was shown with his face swathed in bandages as a result of an explosion that happened last Saturday because of his curiosity as to what would happen if a small cartridge of carbon dioxide gas was heated. He held it over a candle flame and found out.

The cartridge, used to make seltzer water and to propel model boats and automobiles, had been given to Michael's 11-year old playmate, George Shultz of 1-C Southway, by a young friend. Both boys received cuts about the head when the cartridge exploded.

Michael was admitted to Prince Georges General Hospital with severe cuts to his upper lip and nose. George was released after treatment from smaller cuts.

## Citizens Poll Gets Opinion On Paper

By Marion Hatton

In an attempt to discover what the Greenbelt News Review contributes to the community, a special poll of leading Greenbelt citizens was taken this week. The question asked was, "What is the chief value of the Greenbelt News Review to you?"

BRUCE BOWMAN - "The reporting and distribution of news is the primary interest to me." The local organizations are unable to disseminate their news themselves. I am most interested in the Letters to the Editor, the editorials and ignore "The Long View."

REV. BRAUND - "The News Review serves the community in so many ways. The four page paper keeps me informed on local affairs. I consider it a very important paper."

HENRY BRAUTIGAM - "I like the idea of a local newspaper and I certainly don't want to see it die. I think more newsy items like a gossip column would appeal to the women."

ED BURGOON - "Normally, that is, when it's a four page newspaper, I look for the organizational news in Greenbelt. Its best service is community news."

DONALD CALDWELL - "The News Review? Oh, you mean The Cooperator. I've had very good results from my ads. I'm generally interested in the news."

VINCENT CARUSO - "The News Review keeps me posted on current events in Greenbelt. It is a barometer to evaluate activities and act accordingly, tells me where the stress is to be put and where help is needed. The band, GVHC and city news is what I'm interested mainly in."

ABRAHAM CHASANOW - "I'm interested in general news of the town. I want to see 'The Long View' continued."

BEN GOLDFADEN - "Its primary importance is local news. I think Parker is doing a good job on the city council. But I believe the paper must go to all the homes in Greenbelt to meet its function."

JOSEPH HANYOK - "There is a great need for a paper to report the community news. I like Long's column and 'Our Neighbors'."

HAROLD HUFENDICK - "The paper is the best source for local news items such as the PTA news and church items. I hope the paper continues."

ALLEN MORRISON - "Sometimes I cannot attend or get tired of the meetings in town but I'd like to read about them in the News Review. In this paper I get GVHC news and town news. I think Parker and Greenbaum are doing a very good job."

BEN ROSENZWEIG - "The News Review is a medium of local communication. Where else can I read about the various organizations, GCS, GVHC, JCC, Community Church, Lions Club, and still get the gossip and calendar of social events. The GVHC Newsletter cannot take its place. When it was four pages, it covered local news very adequately."

## Fate Of Newspaper To Be Decided At Community Meeting Next Friday

The fate of Greenbelt's weekly newspaper will be decided at a community-wide meeting to be held Friday, January 21, at 8:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Center School.

All organizations in Greenbelt interested in seeing the newspaper continue publication are being asked to send representatives

to this meeting. It is planned to organize them into a special working committee which will take active steps to revive the paper and place it on a sound financial basis. If nothing is accomplished at this meeting, the News Review will publish its final issue the following week.

The decision to appeal to the community for support was made at a special staff meeting held Thursday, January 6, to consider the newspaper's present predicament. It was felt that the problems of the newspaper, particularly its financial dilemma, could only be solved by vigorous action by the community's organizations.

Recommendations that came out of the staff meeting include substantial increase in advertising from Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc. (GCS), which encompasses nearly all the business activities in the city, and monetary support from the city council, the Greenbelt Housing Corporation, and the organizations themselves. It was also agreed that the newspaper, if it continued publication, would revert to free city-wide distribution.

One staff problem, the excessive burden on the editor due to the decrease in the staff, was temporarily solved. Beginning with next week's issue and continuing until either a final solution is reached or the paper folds, four staff members will rotate the job of editor. For a limited time, I. J. Parker, Harry Zubkoff, and Bernard Krug, all former editors of the paper, and Russell Greenbaum, present editor, will take turns each week in assuming the responsibility for putting out the paper.

The reasons for the paper's two basic problems—diminishing advertising and lack of staff members were discussed. It was pointed out that throughout most of its life the newspaper has relied on GCS to supply the major portion of its advertising revenue. This has steadily decreased, however, and even stopped completely for a short period, although it was recently renewed on a modest basis.

Up until a few months ago advertising purchased by business firms along the Washington-Baltimore boulevard partially compensated for the drop in GCS ads, although not enough to meet expenses. However, Harry Zubkoff, the advertising manager, reported that these firms now report their business seriously hurt by the opening of the Washington-Baltimore Parkway and feel they no longer can afford to advertise.

The staff problem has grown due to the fact that no new recruits have joined the editorial staff in the past year and a half. This has meant there has been no replacement for veteran staff members who have resigned to turn to other interests and responsibilities. The hope was expressed that revival of interest in the paper would bring in new blood and also bring back former staffers.

Another step that was felt necessary is to supply the paper with enough of an income to provide salaries for the editor and an assistant. Although the payment of a minimum salary to the editor was inaugurated in June, 1953, when the old Cooperator went on a subscription basis, it was necessary to discontinue this payment after less than 12 months because of the newspaper's financial plight.

## Citizens Group Hears Problems of Newspaper

About 25 citizens heard Isadore Parker speak on the problems of the News Review at the Greenbelt Citizens Association meeting last Monday night. Parker is president of the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association and associate editor of the newspaper.

After seventeen years of publication, and several critical periods in the past, the News Review faces "folding" unless the civic groups in town can save it, Parker disclosed. He said the paper is faced with two problems—financial and staff. Lack of advertising revenue has caused the newspaper to drop to two pages and fewer people are carrying the burden of editing and publishing the paper, he added.

Citing the continuing service to the community and its many organizations, Parker declared that the death of the News Review would be a serious blow to the flow of important information to citizens regarding the city. "Those of us still on the paper are prepared to double our efforts to continue this service, but it is a service like other community services and must be paid for. Our only chance of survival depends on the citizens themselves," Parker stated.

Plans for a meeting of representatives of every group in the city to meet January 21 in the Social Room of the community building was announced by Parker. The representatives will be asked to suggest ideas to continue the News Review and perhaps to assist financially through advertising. The News Review plans to return to a free city-wide distribution, Parker informed the group.

A motion to place ads in the News Review to announce meetings of the Citizens Association was approved by the members.

## Greenbelt Postmaster Indicted In Mail Theft

According to the Associated Press, Thomas R. Freeman, 61-year-old Postmaster of Greenbelt, Md., was indicted Tuesday, January 11, by a Federal grand jury on a charge of taking a package from the mails and opening it.

The indictment said the test parcel, containing a silver baby spoon and food scraper in an imitation leather case, was addressed to a Greenbelt woman and had been sent from a hotel in Texas.

Postal inspectors said they found the unwrapped spoon and food scraper in Freeman's desk.

Mr. Freeman was suspended December 17. Assistant Postmaster George Eshbaugh is now serving as acting postmaster.

## High Point High School Slates Evening Classes

Registration for the second semester of adult evening classes will be held Monday, January 17, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the High Point High School, Cherry Hill and Powder Mill Roads, Beltsville.

Classes will be offered in the following subjects: Typing, Sewing, Art, General Crafts, Woodwork, Metalwork, and Graphic Arts. They will meet twice a week for twelve weeks.

## GCS To Give Kids Free Movie On Wed.

Greenbelt Consumer Services invitations to a free theatre party next Wednesday afternoon will be distributed to Greenbelt's Elementary School children who draw pictures about keeping Greenbelt clean. GCS and the Greenbelt Committee on Cleanup hope this will stimulate the children's interest in preventing litter. The invitations are being extended to second grades and up of the Center, North End and St. Hugh's schools. The drawings will be done in class under the teachers' direction.

The movie selected for showing at the free movie party is BOY WITH THE GREEN HAIR. It is a technicolor fantasy starring Pat O'Brien, Dean Stockwell, Barbara Hale and Regis Toomey. There will be two showings of this film Wednesday afternoon, January 19 (the day of public school teachers meeting). The first is 1:45 p.m., and the second at 3:30.

## New Baptist Pastor To Arrive On Feb. 1

In anticipation of the arrival of their first permanent pastor, Reverend Glenn W. Samuelson, on February 1, the Greenbelt Baptist Chapel has purchased a parsonage at 4-E Hillside. The Chapel will take possession of the house on January 16 and will only have two weeks to prepare it for occupancy. Work during both days and evenings are planned, under the direction of John Berrens, during which members of the Chapel will paint the interior. It is hoped that the decorating and cleaning will be finished and the house completely livable when Reverend and Mrs. Samuelson move in with their young daughter and new baby son.

## Diane Finlay Wins Drama Award At Northwestern

Diane Finlay of 6 Forestway was judged best director for her work with the senior presentation "Mooncalf Mugford" in the Annual Thespian Play Tournament held at Northwestern High School on January 4. In last year's Play Tournament Diane was awarded prize for best actress. She is vice-president of Thespian Troupe 865.

## GREENBELT BIRTHS

A boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. William McBride of 13-N Hillside on December 24. Mr. and Mrs. George Bauer of 16-F Crescent had a boy on December 19, not a girl as reported in last week's issue.

# GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW



AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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George Bloom, Business Mgr., 2151 Jim O'Neill, Circulation Mgr., 2436

Paul Kasko, Photographer, 8921

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The GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW is published every Thursday by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc., Greenbelt, Md. Established, November 1937. Board of Directors: I. J. Parker, Pres.; Carolyn Miller, Vice-Pres.; Russell Greenbaum, Treas.; Miriam Solomon, Sec'y, and Ellie Ritchie.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$2.00 per year

Entered as second class matter at the Post Office in Greenbelt, Maryland. Advertising may be submitted by mail or delivered to the News Review, 9 Parkway, GR. 3-3131, or to the Greenbelt Tobacco Store. Editorial offices open after 8:30 p.m. Tuesday. News deadline is 8:30 p.m. of the Monday preceding publication.

Vol. 19,

Thursday, January 13, 1955

No. 23

## Reader Discusses "News Review" Problem

To the Editor —

I have just received four local publications. One is the newly expanded, expensively printed slick paper GVHC Newsletter, carrying 4 1/2 column inches of paid advertisements and 16 column inches of free GVHC "self-booster" ads. Another was the January 6, 1955 issue of the Greenbelt News Review, a pitiful single sheet carrying 8 1/2 inches of classified, 25 inches of paid display ads, and burdened with over 46 column inches of "canned" syndicated releases and filler material. The other publications were a small four page flyer announcing movies for the next two weeks at the Greenbelt Theatre, and a large size weekly "hand out" sheet from Greenbelt Consumer Services showing grocery, variety, and drug bargains. It is unfortunate that these diverse interests, each with distribution or communication expenses, and a message to get to the community, cannot merge their differences and agree on a single publication.

There are, of course, good reasons for the present situation and no one factor is by itself responsible should the News Review cease publication. GVHC, faced at each new quarterly meeting with an embarrassingly small, constantly dwindling attendance can hardly be blamed for increasing its efforts to reach its members through the Newsletter, nor can it be blamed for accepting advertising to reduce the cost to its members. The January Newsletter is a pleasing and interesting publication, but hardly more than a management "mouth-piece."

The News Review, with greatly reduced advertising, and fewer subscriptions, is hardly to blame for its reduced size, decreased community coverage, and increased ratio of "canned" stories and features. In fact, the Editor, Russell Greenbaum, is to be commended for his almost super-human efforts and continued devotion in publishing almost single-handedly these last few issues—in the face of rock bottom volunteer staff morale. But the fault must lie somewhere. It does in fact lie with the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Incorporated, and its duly constituted members. As publisher of the News Review, this association made the mistake of placing the paper on a paid subscription basis with the result that distribution is now to less than half of the homes in Greenbelt—a substantial reason given by advertisers, GCS, the Theatre management, GVHC, and even the Greenbelt Citizens Association for circulating

their own flyers—to gain 100% coverage not available through the News Review. Newspapers in smaller communities exist on a free distribution basis, some in Maryland, and some with full time paid staff. The Publishing Association should correct this error. Either this or highly intensive subscription drives with contests to the school class bringing in the most renewals and new subscriptions, and other devices.

GCPA, as does any volunteer organization, has continuing problems of recruiting new individuals, raising staff morale, and competing with other groups for time and talent of its workers. In my opinion, GCPA has done a very poor job of this, and therein lie some of the faults of the association and the possible pending perdition. The statement is made that after 17 years of continual volunteer publication the staff is "tired." This with large numbers of new people in the community? Nonsense! The Association has simply failed to recruit the necessary "new blood" to replace normal turnover—tired and retired staff members. Little active effort has been exerted in enticing new members into the Association, public announcement of meeting is rare, and one gets the impression (perhaps not justified) that the Association is a closed group which really does not want to be bothered with "outsiders."

\* N. W. Ayer & Sons' Directory of Newspapers & Periodicals lists the Greenbelt News Review (nee Cooperator) as published continuously since 1937 and serving this community of over 7,000 population. Although a local resident only two years, and a D.C. Area resident only 5 years, I always remember the Cooperator as an outstanding example of a small community newspaper as it was presented to me years ago in journalism class along side the New York Times, the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News and other fine papers. A number of residents to whom I have talked feel strongly that to eliminate our communication, inevitably we cease to be a fine cohesive community, and break up into special interest groups, becoming indistinguishable from myriad Washington suburban developments.

PHILIP J. HART.

## HEBREW SERVICES

Regular Hebrew Services will be held on Friday, January 14, at 18 p.m. in the Home Economics Room of the Center School. Candle-lighting time this week is at 4:31 p.m.

## WOMEN VOTERS MEET

The Greenbelt Unit of the Prince Georges County League of Women Voters will meet on Wednesday, January 19, 8:15 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Joseph Karlin, 13-R Ridge.

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