

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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GCS Growth and Changes Described In Recap of Past Year's Activities

The year 1956 saw a radical change in the co-op's method of operation in Greenbelt. It was a year in which GCS acquired one new store and started construction on two others. The change in operation took place when GCS moved out of the various stores comprising the Greenbelt commercial center and consolidated its food, drug and general merchandise operations into the super-market building, expanded at a cost of \$200,000.

One new store will be a 21,000 square-foot co-op "general" store on Piney Branch Road just east of Flower Avenue, scheduled to open next July. The land, equipment and cost of construction are expected to total approximately one million dollars. A smaller store costing about one half million dollars will open in Rockville next April. It will feature food, drugs and general merchandise under one roof. The new store that is already operating is located in Westminster (Md.). This acquisition resulted from members of the co-op there voting overwhelmingly to join GCS. When all the new facilities open, GCS—started in Greenbelt 17 years ago—will have a total of six shopping centers doing an estimated annual business of about \$15 million.

A primary reason for the major shift in Greenbelt was expiration of the GCS leases on the commercial facilities on October 1. The co-op also wanted to convert its Greenbelt operation into the "general store" type of enterprise that met with such success in Wheaton when the co-op opened there in 1954. The co-op moved out of the barber shop, beauty shop, tobacco store, drug store, valet and shoe store, theater, shoe repair and variety store. Also vacated was the old filling station when GCS opened up a new \$100,000 station on Southway. After consolidating its operations in the expanded food store, GCS began negotiations for sale and lease-back of the facility. These are still going on.

The year saw the successful opening in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, of the first cooperative supermarket, guided by GCS management, principally General Manager Samuel F. Ashelman, Jr. Early this year a cooperative food warehouse was opened in San Juan, also under Ashelman's direction, and a second cooperative supermarket is scheduled to open in San Juan soon. In addition, GCS, acting under a management contract, aided in the establishment of a "rolling store" program in San Juan.

During 1956 the co-op "grew up" and launched major sales promotions in its various stores. It also launched the sale of shoes and home appliances, both major and small, in its general store operation.

The co-op early this year refunded \$106,000 to its members only and paid a 5 percent dividend on all outstanding stock. GCS Controller Robert E. Morrow this week predicted that co-op sales would hit the \$9.5 million mark this year and the 5 percent dividend will again be paid on all stock as it has been for 17 consecutive years. He predicted, however, that the patronage refund for this year will probably be somewhat lower than last year due to a variety of causes. Among these he listed expenses relating to the current expansion program which will work a hardship on the co-op now but, he pointed out, will yield heavy returns at a later date. Still others, he said, were heavy moving expenses in Greenbelt, and rapidly increasing stock sales with more savings necessarily set aside to pay dividends and income tax. A major factor, he said was the unforeseen six-month delay in opening the new store on Piney Branch Road. Until it opens, he said, much non-

revenue producing capital is tied up in it.

The co-op year was highlighted by favorable votes of more than 5,000 GCS members which resulted in raising stock capitalization from one to 50 million dollars, and removing from the co-op charter that not more than \$1,000 in stock may be owned by any one member. The latter provision, however, remains in full force and effect in the by-laws and there will be no by-law changes recommended to the membership at next year's annual meeting.

The membership of the co-op jumped from 7,000 to 11,000 in 1956. With such a rapid increase, co-op officials pointed out, member education necessarily lagged. Accordingly, renewed emphasis was placed on this phase of the co-op's operation and at year's end several new membership programs were being executed.

Meanwhile, the co-op continued to aid community causes along several fronts, sponsoring the Greenbelt Babe Ruth Baseball League, a team in the Little League, contributing prizes and awards for various community events, aiding in fund drives, participating in community parades and winning first prize for its float on the fourth of July, and serving free coffee to community groups at their meetings as part of its overall community relations program.

Athletic Club Hails New Year With Party

At a recent meeting of the Athletic Club, plans were made to hold

Rudolph and Santa Stopped By Darkness

Monday afternoon until after 5 o'clock Rudolph, the Red Nose Reindeer, piloted by Santa O. Claus, toured Greenbelt giving out good cheer, carols and candy canes.

Rudolph of the Red Beak, was a cleverly disguised city bus, driven by "Santy O" with the Northend School choir aboard. The Recreation Department wants to thank all the Northend School children for their great assistance in preparing Rudolph for this momentous run.

Darkness fell before Rudolph could complete his appointed rounds and "Santy O" was very disappointed but promises to do better next Yuletide. Good turn-outs were registered in nearly every court visited and everyone got quite a "Kick" out of "Rudy."

GVFD & RS ELECTION

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad held its election December 5 with the following results:

President, Robert Mogel; vice president, Thomas Snoddy; recording secretary, Joseph Kuntz, Jr.; corresponding secretary, Lars Bronstein; treasurer, Richard Corbin.

Fire marshal, John McLaughlin; fire chief, Vince Dutton; assistant fire chief, Paul Reamy; captain, Jack Snoddy; lieutenant, Robert Tolbert; sergeants, James Bordos and Jack Reynolds.

Rescue chief, Joseph D'Agostino; assistant rescue chief, Ralph Miller; captain, Vernon Iseli; lieutenant, Donald Pratt; sergeants, Jack Laws and Kenneth Robinson.

Trustees, Earle Thomas (3-year term), James N. Wolfe (3-year term), Marshall H. Zoellner (2-year term), and Henry Brautigam (2-year term).

A New Year's Eve party for all paid up members.

In keeping with the policy of recruiting new members, those currently in good standing are urged to bring an additional couple.

GVHC Okays City Water, Sewage Tie-In With Sanitary Commission

by Al Skolnik

Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation's board of directors gave the green light at its regular Friday meeting to consideration by the city of connecting the Greenbelt sewer and water system with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission system. As Greenbelt's largest single consumer group, GVHC had been asked by city manager Charles T. McDonald to express its views on various proposals for sewerage expansion.

A special GVHC committee composed of chairman Bruce Bowman, Percy Andros, and Robert Halpin reported that a tie-in with WSSC lines seemed inevitable. The scheduled bringing in of a WSSC trunk sewer line in 1957 to serve the undeveloped land which lies outside the "Greenbelt sanitary district" and the expected construction of homes within the district which will exceed the capacity of the present municipal sewage disposal plant make the tie-in a logical development, Bowman declared.

Bowman added that he saw no real alternative. Even if no additional residential units were being contemplated, the city would be faced with sewerage problems arising out of the need to replace obsolete equipment, and to dispose of treated effluent, which is already taxing the capacity of nearby streams. The latter problem especially, Bowman said, would continue to exist even if the city should choose to expand the capacity of the existing treatment plant as an alternative to connecting with WSSC.

Decide in 1957

McDonald, who was attending the meeting at the invitation of the committee, stated that he expected to present the problem to the city council shortly after the holidays. He was anxious for the city to reach a decision, since he felt that early 1957 would be a propitious time to enter into negotiations with WSSC in light of the latter's plans to bring in a new trunk line.

The board was especially concerned with the effects of the tie-in on GVHC costs. McDonald pointed out that although additional costs must be anticipated, the exact amounts involved would depend on the outcome of negotiations with WSSC. For example, if it is agreed that the Greenbelt system should be dedicated rather than sold to WSSC, it is probable that WSSC would forgo the front-foot benefit charge for at least a period of 35 years.

Likewise, the cost to GVHC for metering the water would be subject to negotiation. Original WSSC estimates, McDonald stated, called for a charge of \$25,000 for the meters and \$40,000 for their installation, but in view of the exis-

tence of meters in original Greenbelt, it is believed these costs might be pared. McDonald said it was his intention to have GVHC representatives present at such negotiations.

The committee made no recommendations with regard to meeting the cost of the meters—estimated at \$45 a unit—or distributing the cost—either among all GVHC members or just those units having new meters installed. It appeared to be the general feeling of the board members present that although cost of the meters should be borne by the units affected, arrangements should be made to spread the costs over a period of not less than three years.

As an offset to these increased costs, GVHC manager Paul Campbell observed that metering may result in reduced water consumption and in elimination of charges for leakage, which under present billing arrangements are borne entirely by GVHC. With regard to the former point Bowman noted that metering will still be on a court basis, so that the full benefits of consumption control through individual metering will not be realized. Nevertheless, all agreed that under metering the high-water-consumption courts will be pinpointed.

Warner-Kanter Payment

Campbell reported to the board the events which culminated in the withdrawal of Warner-Kanter's request for a six-month moratorium on its \$53,000 installment payment due GVHC and Peoples Development Corporation on November 30. The payment was finally made on Friday, December 7, after both GVHC and PDC refused to grant the postponement.

During the intervening week GVHC attorneys gormally advised Warner-Kanter that it was in default of contract. At the same time Public Housing Administration, which was preparing to release to Warner-Kanter's subsidiary, Continental Construction Company, a parcel of 25 acres located between the armory and the American Legion, was notified of the corporation's forfeiture. Since PHA would not permit a release under such conditions, Warner-Kanter decided not to press for a postponement of its payment. With this second annual installment payment of about \$12,000 to GVHC, the housing co-op has received \$37,800 of the total \$150,750 due over a five-year period.

Revised Garage Rentals

The board voted to liberalize its fiscal arrangements for enclosing open garages. Under the new policy the cost of the enclosure will be spread out over a longer period, resulting in a monthly rental of \$6 instead of \$8. After the cost of the enclosure, plus interest, is paid back to the corporation—a period of about 5 years—the rental is to revert to the going rate on closed garages at the time. It is hoped that this liberalization will induce more members to enclose their garages.

Board Vacancy

GVHC president Ed Burgoon announced that the board will take up at the next meeting, December 28, the question of a replacement for director Halpin, who is resigning from the board December 31. In previous years the board has filled vacancies by naming the candidate with the next highest vote in the annual board election. In last March's contest Ralph Bartholomew was the runner-up, followed by Helen Dondy. Burgoon pointed out, however, that since less than three months are left to this year's term of office, the board may want to consider leaving the post vacant.

In keeping with the Christmas spirit the board voted to grant its employees a holiday on Monday, December 24.

A word of thanks to your Newspaper Boy



January 3 is the News Review's Newspaperboy Day. We want to join the thousands of residents who read the News Review regularly and faithfully in a salute to the dozen youngsters who deliver their papers. Each week, rain or shine, snow or fog, we all look forward to finding the paper on our doorsteps. So next Thursday, how about a special word of thanks to these young businessmen when they deliver the paper? Light your porch lights and extend a cheery greeting to them, and perhaps a small token to express appreciation for the past year's loyal efforts on your behalf.

We, the staff of the News Review, give them our thanks and congratulations for a job well done.

Edmund Phoebe
Secretary of the Treasury

The U. S. Government does not pay for this circulation. The Treasury Department thanks for their patriotic donation, the Advertising Coun...

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No. 21

Guest Editorial

From time to time the News Review plans to bring our readers guest editorials by some of the community's outstanding citizens. This week we asked Paul Campbell, general manager of the Greenbelt Veteran Housing Corporation, to be our guest. Printed below is his heartwarming response to our invitation.

Season's Greetings From GVHC

by Paul M. Campbell

We think of Christmas and New Years and the days between as the Holiday Season when we like to get together with our relatives and friends in a spirit of joyfulness. We have a kindlier feeling toward everyone and wish them well.

Although these two days fall close together and form one season, each has its own distinct purpose and meaning of a serious nature. The joy of Christmas is profound in its origin and the warmth and good will at this season is natural. There is probably a far greater accumulation of unselfishness in the world at this particular time than exists any other time in the year. Yet, should this be? We could not stand up under a constant glowing ardor that today is inherent in the preparations for and the fulfillment of the holiday season; nor could our pocketbooks stand it. We can, very definitely, stand a year round, day in day out, adoption of the spirit which lies behind Christmas. This causes no strain to our nervous system or to our family resources. It only requires thoughtfulness and consideration for others, which is so easily forgotten when we return from the Holiday Season to the hustle bustle of our regular pattern of living which may too often have such a large portion devoted to self that nothing is left for others. It has been my observation that Greenbelt has a goodly share of year-round good will. Nothing of this nature is so good that it still cannot be markedly improved. Will you help make the true spirit of this season a full time perceptible form?

The New Year is an inventory time. We look back over the past year's achievements, failures and sorrows and look forward to a new unwritten page. The Holiday Season should provide us with some time for quiet reflection and a taking of stock. It is possible to turn failures and sorrow to our benefit if we make use of them to learn a lesson and to guide us, or to strengthen our faith. New Years resolutions have become the objects of jesting, yet they need not be. It lies within our power to a large extent to determine what will go on the unwritten 1957 page as far as our character is concerned. This requires sincere, firm resolve on our part. It need be only within ourselves, but demands vigilant self-enforcement. Each one of us is capable of it, if he will.

GVHC extends to each one its best wishes for a full year of the current Season's Greetings.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Greenbelters wishing to celebrate in the New Year have a wide selection of local functions to choose from. These include:

- Lions Club Dance at the Armory
- JCC party at Westway and Ridge building
- Youth Center party at Center School
- Athletic Club party

Recreation Review

At the tree lighting ceremony on December 18 approximately 400 children and adults participated in carol singing and welcoming Santa to Greenbelt.

The new tumbling class at North End School on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 5 is rolling along with 38 participants at present. This class is open to 4, 5, and 6 graders.

Turkeys were awarded to residents of Greenbelt for the best Christmas decorations as judged by five city officials. The best decorated home prize was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Brooks, 60 Lakeside. The best decorated apartment prize was awarded to Mr. and Mrs. James Scott, 39-B Crescent. Other home and apartments which were considered in the judging were: 35-L Ridge, 11-E Southway, 16-B Crescent, and 20-F Crescent. The turkeys were donated by the Co-op.

Baptist Chapel Hears Guest Speaker Sunday

Dr. Clyde W. Taylor, Secretary of Public Affairs of the National Association of Evangelicals, will preach Sunday morning for the Greenbelt Baptist Chapel in the Center School auditorium at 11 a.m.

Dr. Taylor, who is in great demand nationally and internationally as a speaker, is a former missionary to Ecuador, South America and has served as the pastor of the Central Baptist Church, Quincy, Mass. Both Dr. and Mrs. Taylor are members of the Metropolitan Baptist Church which sponsors the Greenbelt Baptist Chapel.

Rev. Glenn W. Samuelson, pastor, will lead the worship service. Mrs. Samuelson will sing, "Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled."

A Watchnight service will be held Monday, December 31, 9 to 12 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John S. Stewart, Jr. The program will consist of games, refreshments, singing, meditation and prayer for the blessings of God for the New Year.

Golden Age Group

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 2, 1957. Anyone desiring transportation please phone GR 3-2011 and leave your name and address.

Greenbelt 1956

This city was built in the middle of a quiet wilderness on the edge of the capital of the United States of America. People came from all over the country to live here. In a manner which was particularly American, they became neighbors, friends and members of a community.

During the period of the great depression before World War II, it was a city of youthful government employees with hope and faith in the eternal values of American life. One such value was expressed in the creation of Greenbelt. America will always seek for the democratic solutions to the problems of change. Greenbelt was an attempt to find such a solution. It will be up to the historians (or perhaps those who live in Greenbelt in the future) to say that in the overall balance, Greenbelt was a good try at good things.

But to many people who have lived in Greenbelt, and to those who still do, there never was a city like Greenbelt in the whole history of the world because there never was a country like ours. A country that took to its bosom the freedom fighters and the freedom seekers from all over the world and said:

Here you can build a city,
For all men are brothers
And Freedom is our name.

America is built of thousands of communities in what was once a great wilderness. It is a great shining structure for all humanity to look at across the bitter oceans. Through curtains of all descriptions, the glow of American democratic community life is seen. Who would say that Greenbelt, past and present, is not a great contributor to these penetrating rays of hope?

Greenbelt is growing and changing. It is, as it will always be, up to us in Greenbelt, to keep the faith. This can be done in many ways. But it should be done first by comparing the return to our purse from a lower tax rate with the lonely, lost and disturbed children you may occasionally see if you look carefully through our community. And you may well wonder at the lonely, lost and disturbed parents they will become. Each must judge for himself. But he must judge. To do otherwise is to betray the ways of a people who settle a wilderness, even if it is a quiet one.

This is America — 1956.
This is Greenbelt — 1956.

Verdus

"Love Me Tender" Features Jay Perri At Opening Show

Next week the Greenbelt Theater has a special surprise for those who attend the opening performance of "Love Me Tender," starring Elvis Presley. Friday evening, January 4, the well-known WEAM disc-jockey, Jay Perri, will be on hand to greet the moviegoers, and will give away Presley recordings and photographs.

Throughout the run of "Love Me Tender," which lasts until Monday, January 7, those who attend the movie may drop ballots in a box for extra prizes. Monday evening five winners will be chosen for prizes ranging from a Presley record album to an RCA Victor "Elvis Presley" phonograph, donated by Southern Wholesalers in Washington.

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and

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Greenbelt Cited As Best Example Of Suburban Planning In Modern Age

by Al Skolnik

Greenbelt residents are reminded in the latest report of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission that their community, after twenty years, still represents the best example of a suburban community designed for the automobile age.

The report, entitled A General Plan for the Maryland-Washington Regional District November 1956, presents staff recommendations for the future physical development of Montgomery and Prince Georges counties.

A major point emphasized in the report is that residential communities should be planned to contain certain desirable features. Greenbelt is described as "an example of a residential community that embodies many of the desirable features" characterizing good residential communities.

Among the desirable conditions enumerated are (1) shopping facilities available within reasonable distance — walking distance, if possible; (2) an internally-located elementary school, with one or more playgrounds; (3) a street pattern which provides easy circulation within the area but at the same time discourages through traffic; (4) when practical, separation of pedestrian traffic from vehicular traffic, so that one can walk to school, playground, or shopping center without crossing major streets; (5) lots, although of various sizes, arranged in a compact manner, with suitable open spaces; and (6) preservation of trees and wooded areas.

After citing Greenbelt as an example of a community meeting these standards, the report states, "Although (Greenbelt) adjoins the Baltimore Parkway and Greenbelt Road no important road goes through it. Pedestrian ways are arranged so that they go through green spaces and under streets. A local shopping center, schools, playgrounds, and parks are located within the area itself, and the whole community is surrounded by woodland and other open space. Greenbelt may fall short of present day standards of housing design, and the row-house may not be the dwelling type now most in demand, but . . . in many respects it is still, after 20 years, the best example of a suburban community designed for the automobile age."

In such a neighborhood, the report continues, it is possible to live in comfort and safety. Children can walk to school and playground without crossing busy streets; it is not necessary to drive several miles to buy a loaf of bread, the noise of traffic and commercial activity are removed from the residential area. Such a carefully designed community also offers savings over a poorly designed community—less land is needed for streets, and public utility lines can be shorter.

Of special interest to Greenbelters is the report's observations on the virtues of tree preservation. "Probably no one element of the natural landscape is more important in the design of a group of homes than the preservation of trees. In addition to their most obvious value—that they add immeasurably to the beauty of the individual dwelling as well as that of the entire neighborhood—they serve as natural 'air-conditioners', aid in the protection of streams, and foster wildlife."

The report concludes that the home-buying public is becoming increasingly aware of the value of trees, thus making homes with wooded lots easier to sell. Enlightened builders are finding that

Local Theater Gets New House Manager

Stephen Topley, tall, curly-haired and blue-eyed, is the new house manager at the Greenbelt Theater, according to the proprietor, Jack Fruchtman.

"We are happy to have a man with Topley's experience," Fruchtman stated, "and believe he will contribute substantially to a good operation in Greenbelt."

Topley joined the Fruchtman organization last month, after almost four years of managing various Lust Theaters in this area. Born in Boston, he started working in theaters as an usher when he was fourteen years old. During World War II, he spent three and a half years in the Navy as an underwater demolition expert, popularly known as Frogman. He saw service in the South Pacific and participated in actions at such never-to-be-forgotten places as Saipan, Tinian, Guam, and Iwojima.

It was in the Navy that Topley met and became great friends with movie star Aldo Ray. This friendship influenced him in his choice of a career. Before his association with the theater business, Topley was the swimming coach at Massanutten Military Academy in Virginia for two years.

As house manager for the Greenbelt Theater, Topley has many plans for the future. A few weeks ago, he pointed out, the theater gave away a beautiful new bicycle to 10 year old Norman Hooven, of 43-D Ridge. The boy was so excited that he ran home without the bike, but his mother sent him back to get it. Last week, while the theater featured the picture "Shotgun" on the screen, he gave away two new shotguns.

"This is only the beginning," Topley explained. "We plan to have some unusual features for the youngsters every Saturday, with all kinds of prizes given away. Furthermore, the theater will have some unusual attractions for adults, too."

The tea and coffee-klatch for women, in connection with the showing of the film "Tea and Sympathy" was the first of a series of special events catering to adults. Coming soon is a Country Store Night, when as many as fifty patrons will win prizes at one time, including such items as grocery baskets and household appliances. In short, Topley concluded enthusiastically, the Greenbelt Theater will not only feature the finest film fare for our patrons, but will also give many valuable gifts away.

"We are taking every possible measure," Fruchtman commented, "to maintain and increase the theater attendance. Unfortunately, we do not get enough attendance from local residents, so we must attract more patrons. Only high attendance rates can assure us the best pictures here," he added. "Without local support and patronage, we simply can't get the newest pictures."

the small additional cost involved in preserving trees is more than repaid.

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Our Neighbors

Robert G. D'Esposito, son of Mr. and Mrs. George D'Esposito, 13-Q Ridge, was promoted to yeoman third class, USN, on November 16 aboard the Atlantic Fleet submarine rescue vessel USS Penguin.

He is serving with Fleet Airborne Electronics Training Unit, Atlantic, at the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va. Before entering the service in June 1954, D'Esposito attended Maryland University and was employed by the Co-op Food Store.

While attached to Norfolk, he will be assisting in the training of Atlantic Fleet Personnel in the maintenance and operation of airborne electronics equipment.

NEWPORT, R. I. (FHTNC) — Graduated December 14 from the Navy's Officer Candidate School at Newport, R. I., was Donald R. Schoeb, son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Schoeb of 33-N Ridge. To earn a commission as Ensign the new officers had to complete an 18-week course of study and indoctrination covering such subjects as navigation, engineering, seamanship, military justice and naval weapons.

Youths Steal Car; Get Caught Quick

Three out-of-town teenagers stole a 1955 Chevrolet from the street in front of 12 Crescent one Saturday night a few weeks ago, and were apprehended in Baltimore early the following Sunday morning. Age 14, 15, and 16, the boys were hitch-hiking from Baltimore to Washington on Saturday, and were picked up by a Greenbelt. On arriving here, they scouted around until they found a car which, though the key was not in it, had the kind of ignition switch which, when unlocked, does not require a key. Then they drove back to Baltimore.

While driving around they began racing with other cars, until one car began following them. Then, frightened, they parked, got out of the car, and waited nearby for a while. When they returned to the car, a policeman was standing there. They had trouble starting the car and asked the officer to help. He helped — and then asked for their permit. When they couldn't produce a permit, he took them in. One of the boys got away, and managed to get all the way to Washington, where he was picked up Sunday night. The other two boys told the police their story.

About 5 a.m. Sunday morning, Greenbelt police were notified. The owner of the car did not yet know it was missing and had not reported it stolen.

The boys have been charged with unlawful possession and will come up in Hyattsville Court. One of them was on probation from the Laurel Training School for Boys and has a previous record. Another, whose mother died when he was two years old, lived with his father who has a record as an alcoholic.

City Manager McDonald reiterated a warning which all motorists should heed: "Lock your car when it's not in use."

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