

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 40, Number 34

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, July 14, 1977

Council Authorizes Effort To Acquire All Of Parcel 2

by Sandra Barnes

In spite of a strong plea from Councilman Tom White not to attempt the purchase of the entire tract of land known as Parcel 2, the City Council, at its July 11 meeting, voted 4-1 to authorize the city manager to make an offer to the owner of the 20 acres at a cost not to exceed \$14,000 per acre.

White felt that the acquisition of 20 acres of land from Ridge Road Center to Hamilton Place was both unwarranted and too costly. He urged council to purchase half of the parcel as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development in exchange for the land to be used for the elderly housing project.

However, both the Advisory Planning Board and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously recommended the purchase of the entire tract if financially feasible. Mayor Gil Weidenfeld stated that the land was the last undeveloped property close to the core of the city and was therefore highly desirable. Councilman Richard Pilski concurred, noting that with erection of the elderly housing building, the owner of the property might seek to build a high density project, and the city needed to protect the area.

Golden Triangle

Council delayed until its first meeting in August any comment to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission on the preliminary plan of subdivision for the Golden Triangle. Council is seeking public comment on the plan, which is substantially in compliance with the concept plan that council previously received. However, two more lots are shown on the preliminary plan in that portion of the property designated for office use than were on the original plan.

A report from APB and PRAB (see report elsewhere in this issue) called the council's attention to the lack of provision for access to the city parkland at the northern end of the property. The city manager, Jim Giese, stated that the city must assure that no plats of subdivision be recorded that would prevent access to the city property.

Although Councilman Pilski believes that the city can have influence over the type of development on the Golden Triangle (in particular he wants the city to strongly oppose the Capital Cadillac dealership, which he described as "nothing but a big parking lot"), the city solicitor, Emmett Nanna, confirmed Councilman Charles Schwan's opinion that the city has no legal stand in telling the developer he cannot put a particular building on the property if it conforms to the zoning.

Loitering

A letter from Bob Zinsmeister complained about the persons loitering in the parking lot behind the shopping center, creating a lot of litter and drinking alcoholic beverages. Councilman White asked Nanna if people had "a right to loiter in the parking lot." Nanna replied that nothing in the law prevents people from gathering in public places and that the area in question seemed like a natural place for young people to hang out since it is near places offering food and recreation.

Councilman Richard Castaldi was against moving the youth from the area since he didn't see that there was a real problem. If the kids are forced out, he opined, they would just go elsewhere. He and other members of council agreed that the problem — if there was one — could be controlled by more patrolling by the police department. Chief William Lane has instituted

a policy of closer enforcement of regulations in the parking lot, particularly consumption of alcohol in public places.

Resolutions — Approved & Pending
Council approved a resolution to increase by \$15 the compensation for judges and clerks in city elections. Clerks will now receive \$60 and judges \$75.

Up for first reading was a resolution to be put on the September ballot for the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$75,000 for the purpose of funding the cost of construction for an addition to the Greenbelt Fire Station building.

Council approved a resolution by a vote of 3-2 (White and Castaldi opposed) to increase their salaries from \$2,400 to \$2,900 for the mayor, and from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for the other members.

An ordinance was also passed allowing the city to establish a rehabilitation grant fund to provide for the receipt of funds from the National Endowment for the Arts. A \$20,000 grant has been awarded to the city to pay to Greenbelt Homes for costs incurred related to their rehabilitation program. The city manager was also authorized to enter into the agreement with GHI for disbursement of the grant funds, subject to final review by the city solicitor.

Tidbits

Janet Kuhn resigned from PRAB and council thanked her for her service. Council agreed to support the county's efforts to seek other revenues than those generated from the property to pay for Metro rail deficits . . . refused to join the National Institute of Municipal Law Officers lawsuit challenging federally mandated requirements that municipalities provide unemployment compensation . . . agreed to cooperate with WMAL Radio, which was sponsoring a campaign called "Why Knot," to get thermostats in all Washington area buildings set at 78 on July 12. In order to keep employees comfortable, the station requested that employers reduce the dress codes and allow men to go tieless . . . agreed to authorize the city manager to look into installment bank loans for those wishing to purchase city cemetery lots . . . agreed to ask the mayor to continue serving on the Legislative Action Council of the Maryland Municipal League . . . agreed to a policy that travel expenses by the council are not reimbursable unless budgeted or are of a special nature which council has approved . . . agreed to read and comment at the next meeting on the Council of Government's Growth Policy Program . . . agreed to investigate the Rev. Kenneth Baker's request to paint the steps of the Municipal Building white (to make it easier to be seen at night) and find out when construction would permit the Greenbelt buses to stop closer to the D.C. Armory Metro station . . .

BLUEGRASS CONCERT

A Bluegrass and Folk Music Festival will be held in the Sweetgum Picnic Area of Greenbelt Park on Sunday, July 17, beginning at 7:45 p.m. Included will be a history of Bluegrass music, followed by a Bluegrass concert and Folk Stories with the accompanying Folk Songs. Everybody is invited to bring guitars, banjos, or fiddles for a "picking and grinning" session.

GREENBELT BUS ROUTES CHANGE TO SYNCHRONIZE WITH METRO

by Mike Jones

Beginning Monday, July 18, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will initiate sweeping changes in its Metrobus schedules that will have an effect on anyone who commutes between Greenbelt and the District of Columbia. The changes are being made to utilize the new blue line of Metrorail, which opened on July 1, as well as to reduce the number of buses in the downtown area.

Route Changes

All routes on the Greenbelt (R) route that operate while metrorail is operational (6 a.m. - 8 p.m. Monday-Friday) will travel only between Greenbelt or NASA and the Stadium-Armory metrorail station. The one inbound and one outbound trip that operates after those hours will travel to and from Fairagut Square, and Saturday operations will be to and from 11th Street and Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

The R-12, which provides the bulk of the local service, will operate between the Stadium-Armory station and Greenbelt or NASA at approximately 15-minute intervals during rush hour, and at two-hour intervals at other times. An addition to the R-12 route which has nothing to do with the subway station is an additional loop through Westchester Park apartments on all routes.

The R-11 and R-15 express routes will continue to operate, but also in a truncated form. There will be two buses inbound in the morning rush hour, and two outbound buses in the evening rush hour that will operate between the Stadium-Armory station and Springhill Lake (R-11) or the Greenbelt Center (R-15).

The R-13, which serves the southwest employment area, will be eliminated because of the metrorail station in that area. The R-14, which operates via the Macke industrial complex, will also be eliminated.

The route T-16, which provides limited service between Beltway Plaza and the new Carrollton-Capital Plaza area, will be unchanged, with the exception of a few rush hour routes that operate into the District of Columbia. Those routes will be diverted to terminate or originate at the Rhode Island Ave. metrorail station.

Fares

With the advent of the metrorail service will also be the initiation of the "round-trip" fare concept. The current rush-hour fare between Greenbelt and any point inside of the District of Columbia is \$1.00 for a one-way trip, with a round-trip fare of \$2.00. Most of this will be changed if the passenger uses both the bus and the subway.

On inbound trips from Greenbelt, passengers must pay \$1.00. However, since there are no transfers from bus to rail, an additional fare of 40 to 55 cents must be paid on Metrorail, depending on the endpoint of the trip. This would mean that the entire inbound trip would cost between \$1.40 and \$1.55.

The outbound trip will be much cheaper. For the metrorail fare of 40 to 55 cents, a transfer will be issued which will be good for passage in Maryland at no additional charge. Depending on the point in Washington that is the endpoint of these trips, the fare will be slightly more or slightly less than the current fare. These fares are effective during rush hours, which

Attention: NewsReview Readers

Do you have an item of interest for Greenbelters? And would you like to see your story or article in print? To encourage budding journalists and reporters, the News Review will be happy to consider all submitted contributions for publication, subject to usual editorial considerations and available space. Bring your material to the News Review office in the basement of 15 Parkway any Tuesday evening from 8 to 9 p.m.

Parking Fee

Driving to the stadium parking lot will no longer save Greenbelters money. The charge for parking is one dollar per day which, coincidentally, is the same amount as the bus fare that would be saved. Prior to the opening of Metrorail, parking at the stadium was free, and much closer to available bus lines to downtown areas.

Further information about Metro is available from their information service, 637-2437, between 6 a.m. and midnight.

PURCHASE OF PARCEL 2 URGED BY APB-PRAB

by Sid Kastner

At a special city council public hearing last Wednesday evening - properly carried out as the council's responsibility to Greenbelt citizens even though only two persons comprised the audience - the proposed acquisition of some or all of Parcel 2 was discussed, to replace open space taken up by the future Elderly Housing facility and to provide a "perimeter of green space". Parcel 2 consists of about 20 acres in a long strip adjoining the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, running from the Elderly Housing site to Hamilton Place. According to city manager James Giese, the city's offer to the developers would likely be about \$14,000 per acre, which would amount to about \$140,000 for half the tract or \$280,000 for the whole tract. Funds available for the purpose include about \$100,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development; about \$120,000 remaining from a capital improvement bond issue, which can be used for park development; and possibly \$70,000 from other sources (the city's General Fund and Elderly Housing funds).

Purchase of at least half the tract, and preferably all of it, has now been recommended (on June 29) by a unanimous vote of the eleven members of the Advisory Planning Board and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, meeting jointly.

In response to a question by Herbert Hecker, from the floor, Giese replied that if just half of Parcel 2 were purchased by the city, the other half still remaining in private ownership would likely be developed within a few years, since it has road access.

(City council has since made the decision to proceed with purchase of Parcel 2, at its regular Monday night meeting, as reported elsewhere in this issue.)

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Board of Elections will appoint Judges and Clerks of Elections to serve at the Regular Council Election to be held in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, on Tuesday, September 20, 1977. Applications from interested citizens are solicited by the Board of Elections. Please contact the City Clerk at 474-3870 or 474-8000 for information.

Prior election experience is desirable, however, the Board of Elections will give consideration to all interested applicants.

Gudrun H. Mills, City Clerk

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GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

SWIM TEAM NEWS

by Mike Jones

Last week's water crisis, which caused the temporary closing of most of the P.G. County pools, resulted in the scheduled Saturday swim meet between Greenbelt and Whitehall being held at Whitehall, instead of at Greenbelt as scheduled. The home pool, however, provided little advantage to Whitehall, as Greenbelt won the meet 259½-244½, in spite of a thunderstorm that twice threatened to cancel the meet. The thunderstorm, in line with the other unusual happenings of the week, abated immediately after the last event was finished.

High point scorers were: Lynda and Mark Blue and Agnes and John Schrider (15), Saskia Vanderson and Lynn Labukas (13), Ken Blue (11), Nicolette Durantine, Simone Bram, and Andrew Greig (9), Ginger Gordon, Greg Gardes, and Bob Gilett (8), Susan Gardes (7), and Angela Brinkley (6).

Next week's meet should be the strongest test of Greenbelt's undefeated season (3-0), as the team meets Belair Swim & Tennis at Belair. The meet is scheduled to start at 9 a.m., and swimmers and officials should be ready to leave the Greenbelt pool by 7:45 a.m.

Springhill Lake

Smallwood Village put an end to Springhill Lake's winning streak Saturday by winning their meet, 280-240. This Saturday, Springhill Lake will swim against the West Arundel swim team.

NURSERY SCHOOL OPENING

The Greenbelt Cooperative Nursery School has openings for three and four year olds in its morning and afternoon sessions, 5 days per week, starting in September. The school is located in the Fellowship Hall behind the Community Church at the corner of Hillside and Crescent Roads. For information, please call membership chairperson, D. James, at 345-6232.



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Long-Distance Races

A major race will be held in Greenbelt on Saturday.

On Saturday, July 16 there will be two long-distance races held at Braden Field, co-sponsored by the D.C. Road Runners Club and the Greenbelt Department of Recreation. The first event for joggers and runners is a 2.5 mile race, starting and finishing at Braden Field and going through the lake area and Lakeside Drive.

The main event is a four-person, 20-mile relay in which each runner will run 2.5, 5.0, 5.0, and 7.5-mile legs in any order. This race follows the above 2.5-mile course. Interested persons may join or start a team before the start of the race. Team trophies will be awarded to various leading teams. All Greenbelters in both races will receive a trophy from the Greenbelt Running Club. There is a fee for both races.

Andrew Greig, 9, of Northway, placed second in the 880-yard run at the Junior Olympics Regional Championships held at Coolidge High School in Washington on July 3. Greig's time was 2 minutes 37 seconds.

On June 26 at Fort Meade, Md., several Greenbelters competed in the Meet of Miles: Poniro Houl, 5:13; Bill Boyd, 4:56.8; and Ray Bodner, 6:12.

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Our Neighbors

Elaine Skolnik 474-6060

A speedy recovery to Ben Hogan, who is in Prince Georges Hospital.

Culminating his six months' sabbatical leave, University of Maryland Associate Professor Dr. Douglas T. Hawes, 5-A Laurel Hill, has presented a professional paper at the Third Annual Turfgrass Conference, July 10-14, in Munich, Germany. The paper is entitled, "Three Years of Data on Warm and Cool Season Turfgrass Grown in Combinations under Different Maintenance Practices." Among his conclusions, Hawes found that summer-applied nitrogen is detrimental to cool season grasses. However, his research shows that winter-applied nitrogen allows warm and cool season grasses to provide high quality turf at a one-inch height of cut. Hawes and his wife, Jane, will be touring Europe for about three weeks prior to and after the conference.

Happy-happy birthday to Sonja Johnson, 17-D Ridge, who celebrated her seventh birthday on July 10.

Yvonne Marrow, Edmonston Ct., was among the delegates attending the United Church of Christ Eleventh General Synod held recently in Washington, D.C.

Boys and Girls Club

by Pat Gainor

The Boys and Girls Club will be registering youths between the ages of 8 and 14 for football and soccer on July 16 and 23, between 12 and 3 p.m. at the Youth Center and SHL Rec. Center. Anyone who has not belonged to the club before must have a small (school) photograph and a copy of his/her birth certificate for club records. Anyone who registered in March need not register again. Practice will start around Aug. 1st. Coaches are needed — Football - Jim Sacco 345-7847; Soccer - Bob Hanks 474-3990.

The club will be taking orders for club jackets. Order now because it takes about 6 weeks for delivery.

Free Soccer Clinic

The Greenbelt Recreation Department will be holding a free Soccer Clinic for all persons interested in becoming coaches for the upcoming fall soccer season. The clinic will be held at the Greenbelt Youth Center on Saturday, July 23 at 9:30 a.m. come to attend. For more information, call 474-6878 or Frank Hartig, 559-4487.

Recreation Review

Family Swim Party

Once again it is time for a Family Swim Party. Activities include water polo, basketball, recreational and lap swimming. Parents or adults must accompany children. This event will be held on Sat., July 16, from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Municipal Swimming Pool. A fee will be charged.

Dad, Mom and Joe

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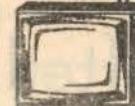
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Water Restrictions Lifted But Conservation Urged

by Roberta McNamara

On Wed., July 6, a fire at a major Potomac water pumping station caused a breakdown which left some areas of Montgomery County "dry" and residents of Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties with stringent restrictions on water usage. The mandatory rationing forbade the use of water for outdoor purposes, such as washing cars and watering lawns and gardens. Non-essential businesses which use 15,000 gallons of water per day or more were ordered to close. Hotels, motels, health care facilities, such as pharmacies, and restaurants were exempt from the mandatory closing order.

Restrictions placed on individuals were one toilet flush per person per day, one controlled shower per person per day. Also people were expected to control the amount used for cooking, dishwashing, and drinking.

Responding to the order of County Executive W. Kelly, the city of Greenbelt closed the pools Wednesday, July 6, at 12:45 p.m. Both Recreation centers were closed Thursday. However, any recreation classes that were outdoor activities such as tennis continued as scheduled. All the city water coolers were shut off and so was the water piped to the lake's concession stand and water fountains. The grounds crew was not allowed to water the city flower beds, grass or ball fields from the WSSC system, but drew water from the lake for watering Boxwood, Camp Pine Tree, however, completed its activities through Friday to accommodate the many working families depending upon day care. At 5 p.m. Friday, the pool reopened and so did the recreation centers.

The Board of Education closed all summer school classes Thursday and Friday. Also on Friday the library was closed. Goddard Space Flight Center closed, belatedly at 12:30 Friday. The MNCPCC recreation program at North End Elementary restricted activities to the outside only Thursday but were closed Friday.

Residents appeared to comply with the restrictions placed on Prince Georges and Montgomery County citizens during the water emergency. The police department reported that on Wednesday, it received a few complaints about residents watering lawns. However, as the people were informed of the crisis, they willingly cooperated. Most violators had not listened to the radio or TV and simply were uninformed.

Although Beltway Plaza shut down on Friday, the theatres were open. Management closed the bathrooms and turned off the water fountains. The shopping center reopened Friday night.

Springhill Lake apartments closed the complex's pools Wednesday through Friday afternoon. Laundry rooms were left open because storage areas are adjacent.

Greenbriar closed their pool earlier than most places thanks to a resident who works at WSSC. She called the management soon after arriving at work on Wednesday.

Neither Springhill Lake, Greenbriar, nor GHI felt that it was necessary to inform residents of the emergency. All managers felt that with the constant vigil of the media, residents would be aware of the problem. Any violations would be a police concern.

For the last three years GHI has had an ongoing campaign conserving water; first, with the toilet inserts that would reduce excess water lost by flushing; second, with the extensive repairs of the water lines. GHI has reduced its water use from 175 million gallons per year to 105 million. Also the GHI newsletter has tried to impress upon residents that water is precious.

Although restrictions have now been lifted, county officials are urging all residents to continue to conserve water. Outside watering should be done no oftener than every other day.

In April, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments warned that there was a water shortage and said the need for water rationing was imperative. COG recommended several easy

At the Library

Funday at the Libe on Mon., July 18, will be showing "Peoples and Places" to ages 6-8 at 1:30 p.m. Ages 9-12 will be treated to "Fantasy" at 2:30 p.m.

There will be a cartoon festival on Tues., July 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the meeting room. Super Mouse, Betty Boop and other old friends will be entertaining that evening.

"Story About Ping"; "Little Red Hen"; and "Caterpillar and the Wild Animals" are the presentations of Wednesday Morning at the Movies on July 20. The movies are for ages 3-6 and begin at 11 a.m. in the meeting room.

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