

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

JANUARY 5, 2006

What a Grand Time We All Had At the New Year's Eve Party!

by James Giese

I wasn't sure how much I would enjoy Greenbelt New Year 2006 and its Thousand Stars. This being at least my fifth such party, I felt it would be same-old, same-old. And to some extent it was, even though there were new things to see and do on the program of events. But same-old, same-old still meant having a good time and seeing and wishing well to many old friends.

Under the leadership of Chair Patti Brothers and with the strong help and support of the Greenbelt Recreation Department and many volunteers, a joyful throng of Greenbelt kids, families, couples, singles and whoever greeted 2006 with raucous noise, bouncing balloons, the beat of a big band, kisses and happy faces.

I first checked out one of the new events, the campfire sing-along. She-who-must-be-listened-to-and-obeyed, on duty in the gymnasium keeping order where order was already in place, wanted a S'more. (We thought the campfire was good for only an hour.) While still early in the evening with much of the crowd yet to arrive, a group of rugged individualists was already braving the cold to



PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT

At the stroke of midnight, green balloons float down from the gymnasium ceiling to the delight of the crowd.

sing campfire songs with Melissa Sites as members of Girl Scout Troop 127 served fresh roasted marshmallow S'mores. A fire roaring in a fire basket gave light to the group and a touch of warmth. It was too

early for me to see storyteller Tim Livengood. But I did hear a couple of songs including a solo by Doug Love and get the required S'mores. Unfortun-

See **NEW YEAR**, page 6

Christmas 2005: A Letter from Iraq

by Tom Renahan

Greenbelt resident Tom Renahan returned to Iraq about six weeks ago. Renahan is a civilian contracted to work as a national Anti-Corruption Manager for the Iraqi Civil Society Program. He is also the manager of a smaller human rights program. He reports that corruption at all levels is a significant public issue in Iraq. He is located in Baghdad, in the so-called Red Zone, where he is surrounded by high walls and heavy security. His assignment is indefinite. He wants to stay in Iraq long enough to accomplish what needs to be done. He sent this letter of Christmas in Iraq to News Review reporter Sandra Lange.

On this, my second civilian assignment in Iraq, I have experienced my second overseas Christmas season, this time in Baghdad. Expecting little celebration of a Christian holiday where perhaps only two percent of the people are Christians, I have been surprised. My project, the Iraqi Civil Society Program, is not located in the Green Zone, so my experience is not primarily with expatriates but with Iraqis and Muslims as well as Christians.

I spent the Iraqi election week



PHOTO BY SANDRA LANGE

Tom Renahan

in Erbil, in the Kurdish north. Our Erbil office is actually in the historical Christian suburb of Ankawa. This community goes back to the missionary travels of St. Thomas in ancient times. It has maintained its Catholic identity through the succeeding centuries. This Assyrian branch of Catholicism is one of two distinctive traditions, the other being the Chaldean. They are separate but both loyal to the Vatican.

Signs Here, There

In the week before Christmas I noticed, within my limited range of movement, a few Christmas trees, usually with lights of some kind. There are also trees in homes, of course, and, I am told, even some in Muslim homes.

I cannot get out and shop, due to security restrictions that keep us confined most of the time in the two-block walled compound we share with two other U.S. organizations and several Iraqi families. I did want to buy small gifts for the several members of my headquarters staff. My dedicated Christian assistant did it all for me. I was not so sure that novelty coffee mugs, like one in the shape of Bugs Bunny's face, was a winning idea but she assured me that Iraqis would love it. Our visit to the Army PX on the Friday before Christmas (with the usual armed escort) helped me get a few more things. So I found myself wrapping Christmas presents this year after all. (I still can't do it right but let's face it, this is just not a guy activity.)

Even though all of our staff can speak English, some very well, things can get lost in translation. My loyal assistant even thought to buy To/From cards to attach to the presents. I guess you can't find "Merry Christmas" cards in the shops of Baghdad. I had to explain, however, that "I Love You" was

See **RENAHAN**, page 2

Top Stories of 2005

Here is our listing of last year's top stories, arranged in somewhat chronological order.

InterCounty Connector

Greenbelt, joined by College Park and most of the county council, continues to oppose construction of the proposed \$2.4 billion InterCounty Connector (ICC) between Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. The city foresees traffic from the ICC, designed to end at U.S. 1, moving south through Greenbelt.

At public hearings in January and February, representatives of the county, College Park and Greenbelt deplored the negative impact on the environment of the proposed highway. This view was opposed by Laurel, which advocates extension of the ICC to Kenilworth Avenue. Opponents of the ICC argue that several alternatives would deal more effectively and more cheaply with traffic needs between the two counties.

In July Governor Ehrlich announced the decision to choose the southern of the two proposed routes for the ICC ending at Route 1. At year's close the Final Environmental Impact Statement was expected.

Post Office

In January 2005, ground in Greenbelt East was finally broken for construction of a new post office facility. The official ceremony with Congressman Steny Hoyer and a post office official joining members of the Greenbelt City Council in attacking the frozen ground with beribboned shovels occurred in a blizzard in late February.

This brought to reality a dream envisioned by post office officials through years of negotiations to acquire the land at Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive. Discussions with city officials, with public input, were on-going about how and where to retain some services in Roosevelt Center. The new building is expected to open this month.

Springhill Lake Redevelopment

At the beginning of February AIMCO, owners and managers of Springhill Lake, invited residents and city and county officials to meetings unveiling plans to redevelop the apartment community over the next decade. In June town planners Duany, Plater-Zyberk and Co. reviewed the concept plan with an enthusiastic Advisory Planning Board. The site of the elementary school, currently on the lowest, flood-prone area in the development, would be replaced with a lake and a new school built on the school bus property next to a newly-constructed middle school. The municipal recreation center would be relocated near the schools. An increase from 2,899 units to a possible 6,000 was also proposed, including a variety of housing types and at least 25 percent for-sale units, to be constructed by other builders.

Responding to these plans, the owners of Beltway Plaza proposed constructing a residential-commercial development at the north face of their property facing Breezewood Drive. Many of these ideas were shared with community participants at charettes held in mid-July, with the added idea that two 18-story gateway apartment buildings would anchor the development near the Beltway.

At the end of July the county's Planning Board approved the site plan, with conditions, for the estimated \$600 million project.

Skateboard Park

Three letters to the editor complained that the planned skateboard park had still not been built. On April 21 city staff reported that the park was facing design challenges because of limited space and topography. On August 11 park designers were said to be "tweaking" the design, permits might not be obtained for months due to new county legislation and because of winter weather construction could be delayed until April 2006.

On October 13 staff stated that the design phase of the park was complete and final building permits would be received by

See **TOP STORIES**, page 9

What Goes On

Monday, January 9

7 p.m., Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting, Community Center

7:30 p.m., Advisory Committee on Trees Meeting, Community Center Meeting Room

8 p.m., Regular City Council Meeting, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)

Wednesday, January 11

8 p.m., Council Worksession re: Labor Code, Community Center

Thursday, January 12

7:30 p.m., GHI Board Meeting, GHI Board Room

Letters to the Editor

News Stories Should Not Include Opinion

The Code of Ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists (www.spj.org) states that "Journalists should distinguish between advocacy and news reporting. Analysis and commentary should be labeled and not misrepresent fact or context."

I have noticed violations of this standard in the News Review. For example, in the opening sentence of the top news article for the December 22 issue, A. Neil Deo wrote, "... the Greenbelt City Council voted to annex to the city 86.4576 acres of additional land, the South Core of the proposed Greenbelt Station development located to the west of the Springhill Lake apartments and south of the Greenbelt Metro station – a potentially valuable new year gift to the city." By characterizing the annexation as a 'gift,' Mr. Deo is interjecting his political opinion into his news story.

Another example appeared in the December 29 issue, where Jennifer Sciubba, in her front page news article entitled "Council Debates Historic Status of Greenbelt Middle School," wrote, "There are those Greenbelt purists, like Councilmember Rodney Roberts, who argue that virtually any change removes historical significance from a site and who advocate for preserving Greenbelt in its original form. On the other hand there are those like Mayor Judith Davis, who argue that to keep Greenbelt alive as a thriving, contemporary community, some physical changes must be made to reflect changes in the citizenry." Ms. Sciubba and the News Review should have clearly labeled this paragraph for what it really was – an opinion.

Interjecting editorial opinion into news articles and departing from the facts, whether intentional or inadvertent, is a great disservice to the community and can also do great harm to politicians whom such opinions appear to support. Even though they are volunteers, the News Review should provide appropriate training and exercise adequate oversight to ensure that its employees follow the code of ethics established by and for professional journalists whom they emulate.

Robert Fireovid

Editor's Note: Robert Fireovid's first paragraph cites what our reporters strive for – hard news and facts, no opinions. The two examples he gives seem to us not to rise to the level of angst he displays. The potential "gift" of the annexation is, perhaps, also a burden as the

story reports.

As for the Greenbelt Middle School story – the characterization of the two politicians seems to us accurate in its facts and not opinion. Being called a "Greenbelt purist" is not a pejorative term in this town.

Kudos and Kudos To Coordinators

Chris Cherry, one of the New Year's Eve coordinators, could not have described it better: "The idea is to create an event that brings light and warmth and cheer to Roosevelt Center on New Year's Eve and to encourage partygoers to explore the offerings at the adjoining venues." How well they succeeded! The paths leading from one building to the other were brightly marked by strings of lightbulbs. Each building had a marker in front of it, listing the festive events taking place there. Arrows were pointing toward the other places one could go. Everything was so well organized!

My son and his family, who had come from N.C. for a "repeat attendance," had such a great time. His 2- and 6-year-old girls loved the Celestial Craft Workshop, from which they emerged with starry hats. And later they could not be budged away from the Mad Hot Ballroom dance floor, where partygoers of all ages moved their bodies with the rhythms of the electrifying, nearly non-stop, music.

For myself, I thoroughly enjoyed (among others) Stefan Brodd's "Broadway Sing-along," where every participant received a packet containing the words of every sing-along-song.

What a wonderful way to start the New Year!

Leonie Penney

Coast Guard Offers Boating Course

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 72 will offer Advanced Coastal Navigation, a course of special interest to all boaters and aspiring boaters. The class will meet twice a week for six weeks on Monday and Wednesday evenings starting Wednesday, January 18 at High Point High School, 3601 Powder Mill Road in Beltsville.

Among the subjects covered are compass use and adjustment, navigation tools and references, chart reading, dead reckoning, piloting, tides and currents, radar use and aids to navigation. The only cost is for books and charts. To register, call Steve at 410-531-3313 after 9 a.m., write tsktsk10@hotmail.com or call Jean at 301-779-3184.

RENAHAN continued from page 1

not an appropriate substitute message, especially for presents given to men.

Party for Muslims

A few Christians on our Baghdad headquarters staff organized a staff Christmas party for everyone. I hoped for good attendance by the non-Christian majority and was thrilled by the response; almost everyone came. A Muslim project official opened the party with a thoughtful short presentation about the importance of people from different cultural traditions working together. There was a gift exchange and somehow a second gift for everyone from presents under our Christmas tree. Everyone was in a holiday mood.

Then the dancing started. (They have DJs in Iraq, too.) Almost everyone was in motion, mostly in group dances in a circle. After a while they played a Kurdish dance number. Kurds sprang from their chairs. People I previously thought mild-mannered were leading the circle. Watching the Kurds dance was probably the most joyful experience I have had in Iraq.

The workday ends at 4 but the party went on past 5, with many still there to the end. Someone later told me that Iraqis like to celebrate but the constant security risks and hard times of recent years have limited the number and size of celebrations. Even wedding plans are scaled down. An opportunity to let loose and celebrate is therefore cherished. Maybe that explained some of the enthusiasm.

Celebrating Christmas

On Saturday and again on Christmas morning at the compound's hotel-restaurant, I noticed that Christmas Masses were being televised. As in America, the churches were crowded.

At least one of the churches was in the Karrada District where our compound is located. A significant percentage of the Karrada population used to be Christians, though most of them have left, but there are still churches and Catholic schools here.

Just before Christmas, I was in my office late when I heard a child singing "Jingle Bells" outside my window. Looking out for the source of this odd occurrence, I saw two small children with their mother and father going into the house across the alley. It was yet another little moment of inspiration from Christmas in Iraq.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF JAN. 6

MEMOIRS OF AGEISHA (PG13)

No frequent movie goers coupons or passes.

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

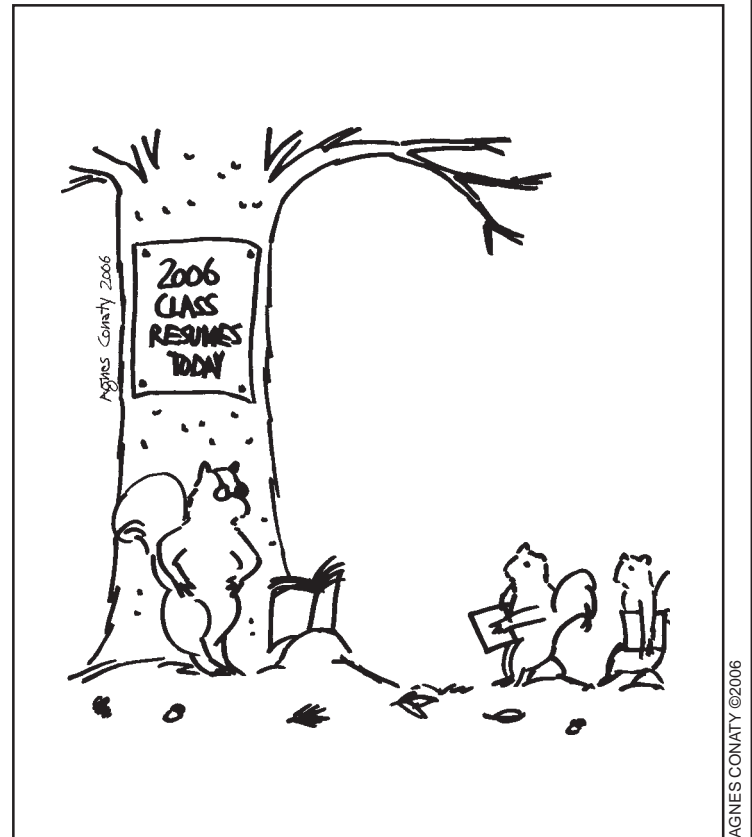
Monday – Thursday

*4:30, 7:30

*These shows at \$5.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com

Grin Belt



"Please don't tell me that the Grinch stole your holiday homework again this year . . ."



PRELIMINARY AGENDA MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, January 12, 2006
7:30 p.m., GHI Board Room

Key Agenda Items:

- Set Annual Meeting Date
- PAHC Membership Status
- Boiler Rooms – Disposition of GHI Owned

Regular board meetings are open to members.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985
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Springhill Lake: Karen Zoellner 301-474-1882
Chris Cannon 301-516-1068

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Thomas X. White, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Pat Davis.

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.

Correction

Shows all we know! An alert reader informed us we got the photo of the menorah in last week's paper backward – menorahs are lit from right to left but reversing the photo made it appear the candles had been lit in the opposite order. Even though Hanukkah is now over, to set the record straight, the photo is hereby correctly displayed.



Community Events

Mini Post Office A Long Shot

With the impending mid-month opening of the new postal facility on Hanover Parkway and closing of the old post office at the rear of Roosevelt Center, rumors abound about a mini post office in Old Greenbelt. At the end of October, Co-op supermarket members heard at its annual meeting that, after giving it careful analysis, the Co-op would not locate a postal substation there.

Other rumors had a mini postal facility or counter at the variety store. News Review reporter Mary Moien has learned from the owners of the store they will not be getting a contract, due to the space required and the need to give up some of the store's current offerings.

At this writing, it appears no Old Greenbelt postal substation is in the offing.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club is prepared to move ahead for another year. The 2005 slate of officers is returning and some new committee chairpersons are on board. We were an active club in 2005 and there are plans for activities, trips and speakers for 2006.

We hope to have a yard sale in the spring and an anniversary luncheon. It takes work and interested members to make this club a success. So let's all pitch in and support our officers.

Lynn L. Skerpon, register of wills in Prince George's County, will be the speaker at the January 11 meeting. The January birthday potluck lunch is on January 18. Several trips are planned for the spring. Contact Karen in the Community Center office for more information.

We have been saddened by the deaths of several members this year; they will be missed.

The New Year is a time for looking back, remembering friends and activities we've enjoyed and a time to look forward with hope and love to the next year.

Best wishes for peace and health to everyone.

SHA to Study Need For Traffic Light

In a December 22 letter, Charlie K. Watkins, district engineer with the State Highway Administration (SHA), informed the city that the SHA traffic engineering staff will conduct a study of the intersection of Greenbelt Road at Frankfort Drive to determine if a traffic signal there is justified. He estimated that the study would take about 60 days to complete.

This story follows an earlier request for such a light by the board of Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC).

At the Library

Children

Tuesday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. – Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months with caregiver, limit 15 babies.

Wednesday, January 11, 10:30 a.m. – Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 15 toddlers.

4 p.m. BookKids Book Discussion, ages 8 to 12 – Carol Sonenklar's "Bug Boy."

Thursday, January 12, 10:30 a.m. – Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 children.

Adults

Wednesday, January 11, 7 p.m. – Friends of the Greenbelt Library meeting.

Saturday, January 14, 10:30 a.m. – Poetry Plus. Poet of choice is Anne Sexton. Those coming should bring five to six copies of any Sexton poems to share.

22nd District Officials Hold Reception

Maryland Sen. Paul Pinsky and Delegates Anne Healey, Tawanna Gaines and Justin Ross invite their 22nd Legislative District constituents to a reception in Annapolis on Monday, January 16 from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Miller Senate Office Building, President's Conference Center, W-1. This includes all four precincts of the City of Greenbelt.

There will be a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day and light refreshments will be served. This is also a chance to visit the 8 p.m. House or Senate session for about an hour that evening and an opportunity to meet neighbors in the surrounding communities of the 22nd District.

Anyone, especially Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club members, wishing to attend by riding a bus for a modest round-trip fee should call Pat Unger at 301-474-1052. If enough riders sign up, the bus will leave the Greenbelt Library parking lot at 5 p.m. and return around 10 p.m.

Individuals attending may park at the Navy-Marine Stadium Lot and ride the trolley to the event or park at Gotts' lot near the State House. To RSVP without riding the bus, call Pamela at 301-858-3155 by Thursday, January 12.

CARES

Judye Hering held the winter session of CARES free babysitting course for four students. The purpose of the course was to teach students safety issues and responsibilities of child care, including poison control and fire prevention.

During the month of December, 14 families on average were seen for counseling at CARES. Forty individuals on average came on a weekly basis among whom 17 were 18 years of age and younger. Forty-seven students participated in tutoring services.

Adjustments Proposed On School Boundaries

With input from parents of affected students, Prince George's County Public Schools Interim CEO Howard Burnett has announced adjustments to the new school boundaries proposed for the 2006-2007 school year. The revised proposal, which will be presented formally to the Board of Education at its next meeting, is now available on the school system website (www.pgps.org) for public review and comment.

When viewing the boundary proposals online, people can use the School Finder tool to find proposed changes for individual addresses.

Community groups are invited to send us information on their activities.

Greenbelt Arts Center

AUDITIONS FOR THE RIOT ACT

by Will Greene

Cold Readings from Script

Jan. 9 & 10 at 7:30pm

Performs 3/17 - 4/18

Greenbelt Arts Center

123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

301-441-8770

www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Enjoy Swimming?!

The Greenbelt Swim Team Needs You!

The Greenbelt Swim Team Winter-Spring season runs from Jan. 17 to May 21.

Walk-in registration will be held on January 10 & 11, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Aquatic Center. Fees are discounted for registrations received by January 11!

Swimmers practice Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Developmental Swimmers meet Sunday mornings.

Information and applications can be found at www.greenbelt.com/swimteam or at the GMST bulletin board in the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway in Old Greenbelt.

For any questions, contact Deborah Taylor at DeborahTay@aol.com or 301-345-2485 or Leslie Hilliard at 301-474-7504.

Greenbelt Arts Center Presents



Music by John Kander, Lyrics by Fred Ebb & Book by Joe Masteroff

January 6 – 28

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm

Sundays, January 15 & 22 at 2pm

Greenbelt Arts Center

123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770, next to the Post Office

301-441-8770

www.greenbeltartscenter.org

St. Hugh's Catholic School Grades K-8th

OPEN HOUSE Tuesday, January 31

9 to 11 a.m.

145 Crescent Road, Greenbelt

301-474-4071

www.sthughs.com

Open Registration begins Feb. 21 for the 2006-07 school year.

Obituaries

George Ellers

George Ellers, 13 Court Hillside Road, died at Doctor's Hospital on Saturday, December 31, 2005. He was 89. He had been at Magnolia Gardens Nursing Home for several months following surgery.

Mr. Ellers was born on April 3, 1916, in Rotterdam, N.Y. After high school he joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), first doing electrical maintenance work in the New Jersey area and later helping to plant pine trees and do land reclamation in upstate New York. During World War II, Mr. Ellers served with the U.S. Army photo reconnaissance group in the South Pacific. He worked at the Army Depot in Schenectady. He met his wife-to-be Pauline at the VFW there in 1952. When the depot closed in 1965, he was transferred to Walter Reed in Washington, D.C. The couple was married that year and they moved to University Square apartments in Greenbelt in 1967. Later they bought the home on Hillside Road. They were married 41 years.

Mr. Ellers repaired typewriters, was a locksmith and worked on safes for the federal government for 37 years. After he retired, he became a bus aide for the Prince George's County public schools for 12 years. He also repaired typewriters on the side. He kept the collection of old 1930s typewriters working for the News Review until he could no longer get parts. He was an active member of the Phillips Kleiner VFW Post 5627 on Branchville Road in College Park. He was twice post commander and enjoyed calling Bingo games. He was a member of the Greenbelt American Legion Post #136 and St. Hugh's Catholic Church.

Mr. Ellers is survived by his wife Pauline and her son Kenneth Holmes of Nevada. He had outlived his three brothers and three sisters. There are many nieces and nephews.

Viewings were held at Gasch's Funeral Home on Wednesday and the funeral service was held at St. Hugh's on Thursday. A memorial service will be held in the spring in Schenectady where most of his relatives and his many friends from the VFW there live. Burial will be at the Saratoga National Cemetery.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Baha'i Faith

"O Friend!
In the garden of thy heart,
plant naught but the rose of love."
—Baha'u'llah

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

In Memoriam

Rose Haber

It was a sad occasion for me to read of the death of Rose Haber. When the Ambergs came to Greenbelt and GHI in 1953, it was to the 10 Court of Southway where we got acquainted with Ray and Rose Haber, our neighbors in that court. We found them to be fine, likable people and enjoyed having the ordinary contacts with them. They were good people. We had the pleasure of living in the same court until they moved to Westway and I must say, as I look back, that somehow our Southway lives were not quite as good without the Habers to chat with off and on.

We saw less of them from then on and in 1960 or 1961 we moved to Hillside. Of course, I would read about Rose's swim classes and get to say "Hello" at Golden Age meetings but unfortunately we mostly had lost contact and Ray died and now Rose has. We all have lost two fine Greenbelters.

I got to thinking: our social lives are so structured that there's plenty — too much — opportunity to tell each other off and we somehow stupidly don't think to tell others whom we admire how fine we know them to be until it is too late. They are gone and we have lost the pleasure of giving them the pleasure of hearing themselves rightly praised. So I'm also sad that I failed to tell her to her face what I'm telling you about Rose Haber: she was a very good egg.

— Mat Amberg



Our sympathy to Pauline Ellers of Hillside Road on the death of her husband, George.

Welcome to Andrew Phelan, the newly appointed sports and recreation coordinator for the Recreation Department. Andrew is the son of Bill Phelan, Public Works' assistant director.

Giant Offers Health Booklet

As the New Year begins, many people will resolve to live healthier lifestyles. Giant Food will help by offering "Fresh Start . . . Healthy Rewards," a new, free, healthy-living booklet that offers consumers simple but important tips to help understand the importance of eating healthier foods and exercising. "Fresh Start . . . Healthy Rewards" is now available at all Giant stores.

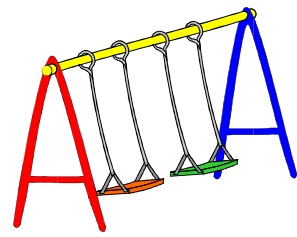
"Fresh Start . . . Healthy Rewards" is based on three principles: 1) Include healthful food choices every day. 2) Enjoy food and take time to eat with family and friends. 3) Balance calories with activity. The "Fresh Start" booklet also provides consumers with useful information on calculating daily caloric needs, planning family meals and eating appropriate portions. In addition the booklet highlights the rewards of eating more whole grains, fruits and vegetables and fat-free and low-fat dairy products.

The guide was written by Giant in-house nutritionists and reviewed by its health and wellness advisor, Dr. George Blackburn, S. Daniel Abraham associate professor of nutrition and associate director of Nutrition, Division of Nutrition, Harvard Medical School.

Program to Improve Playgrounds Begins

by Peter H. Curtis

In a recent memorandum to the city council, Assistant City Manager David Moran detailed progress in the implementation of the Play-



ground Improvement Program. GHI, Windsor Green and Greenwood Village have signed agreements with the city opening all their playgrounds to the public. In return, as funds are available, the city will provide the bulk of money needed to upgrade playgrounds to meet federal safety guidelines.

Moran listed the playgrounds currently needing such upgrades in priority order. The top five listed are from Windsor

Green, followed by one from Greenwood Village and one from GHI. How much of this work will be done this year depends on availability of city funds and whether the owners can supply matching funds, Moran indicated. Probably only one or two can be completed this fiscal year, he stated.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church



40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Dr. Paul C. Kim, Pastor

Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am

Prayer Meeting Wed. 6:45 pm

Crossways Bible Study Tues. 7:30 pm Thurs. 10:30 am

Handicapped Accessible Come As You Are!

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..."

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH



6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Sunday School/

Bible Study

Worship Service



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212

www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net

Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor

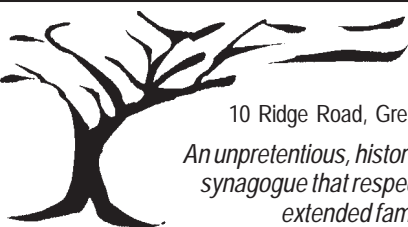


Sunday School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Weds. Worship: 7:00 pm
(Adult Bible Study/Prayer & Children's Ministry)

Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family through Loving Service



Congregation Mishkan Torah

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An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian
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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.

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(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!

ST. HUGH'S OF GRENOBLE 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

What is Islam?

The annual pilgrimage to Makkah — the Hajj — is an obligation for every Muslim male and female who is both physically and financially able to perform it.

Nearly two million people from every corner of the globe are currently enroute to Makkah to fulfill this obligation. Young and old, rich and poor, from every race, ethnic background and way of life, each will perform the same rituals exactly as the Prophet Muhammed (peace and blessing be upon him) did nearly 1400 years ago.

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

Science Center Hosts Egg Drop Price Drop

Can an egg withstand a three-story fall? Beginning Saturday, January 7 visitors to the Maryland Science Center can find out and receive discounted admission in the process.

During Egg Drop Price Drop visitors arriving at the Maryland Science Center before noon on Saturdays will receive a \$5 discount on the price of admission – an egg. Maryland Science Center staff will provide the materials and guidance to help visitors create an original protective device for their egg, which will be dropped from the balcony of the third floor to see if it can survive the impact of the fall.

Egg Drop Price Drop is being introduced in January after a successful trial in 2005.

The Maryland Science Center is located at 601 Light Street at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For information and tickets visit www.marylandsciencecenter.org or call the 24-hour information line at 410-685-5225, TDD 410-962-0223.

Students' Relief Efforts Recognized

The efforts of Maryland public school students to raise money to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina have been recognized by some of the people the campaign was designed to help.

The Alabama State Board of Education has approved a resolution commending the Maryland Kids Care Campaign: Collecting Pennies (and More) for the Victims of Hurricane Katrina for raising more than \$1.4 million. The hurricane devastated the coastal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama in August.

"The Alabama State Board of Education does hereby express its immeasurable gratitude to the schoolchildren of the great State of Maryland, State Superintendent Nancy S. Grasmick, the Maryland State Department of Education and to all the citizens of Maryland who generously donated to Maryland Kids Care," the resolution said.

Young Pianists Hold Free Concert

On Sunday, January 15 at 2 p.m., a free concert by gifted young pianists ages 7 to 16 will be offered at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. The young musicians are winners of the International Audition 2005 from the International Associations for Musically Gifted Children, Inc. The nine youngsters playing at the concert are students of Dr. Bella Eugenia Oster of the European Academy of Music and Art in Silver Spring and have performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the United Nations, the White House and numerous embassies. The students have recorded more than 10 CDs.

The Pope John Paul II Cultural Center is at 3900 Harewood Road, NE. Admission to the Center is by donation. Parking is free. Center hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

For information call 202-635-5400 or visit www.jp2cc.org.



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting-Municipal Building
January 9, 2006 - 8:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

Prince George's County Human Relations Commission

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.)

LEGISLATION

A Resolution for the Negotiated Purchase of Information Technology Services for the Installation and Continued Maintenance of Public Safety Laptop Software
– 2nd Reading, Adoption

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Repairs to the Kalwall Roof Panels and Motorized Roof Mechanisms over the Indoor Pool Section of the Aquatic and Fitness Center from Structures Unlimited, Inc. of Manchester, New Hampshire
– 2nd Reading, Adoption

A Resolution to Approve the Municipal Livable Communities Initiative Grant Application
– 2nd Reading, Adoption

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of a Skid Steer Loader from Metro Bobcat Sales of Forestville, Maryland
– 2nd Reading, Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- Greenbelt Middle School – Site Plan
- State Legislation – PG 414-06 (Security at Prince George's County Shopping Centers)
- Briefing on Institutional Network Bylaws
- * Advisory Group Reappointments and Resignations

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 January 9-13

Monday, January 9, 7:00pm, Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee, Greenbelt Community Center.

Monday, January 9, 7:30pm, Advisory Committee on Trees, Greenbelt Community Center, Community Meeting Room. All interested persons are welcome to attend. Info: 301-474-8004.

Monday, January 9, 8:00pm, Regular Council Meeting, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71).

Wednesday, January 11, 7:30pm, Advisory Planning Board, Greenbelt Community Center, Theater Rehearsal Room 202, **AGENDA:** I. Call to Order, II. Approval of Agenda, III. Approval of Minutes, IV. Election of Officers, V. Revision to Conceptual Site Plan – Greenbelt Station, VI. Adjourn

Wednesday, January 11, 8:00pm, Council Work Session re: Labor Code, Community Center.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.

Vacancies exist on the:

Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Employee Relations Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee (Openings for adult & youth positions.)

For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71

MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000: Monday, January 9 at 8pm City Council Meeting (live), Tuesday & Thursday, January 10 & 12 6pm "Greenbelt Museum: The Modern Movement in Maryland," 7pm "Greenbelt Labor Day Festival presents Diamond Alley," 8pm "Replay of City Council Meeting."

PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, January 11 & 13: 7pm "Stuart's Chinese Kitchen," 7:30pm "Medicare," 8:00pm "Medicare Town Hall."

Greenbelt CARES presents:

WINTER 10-WEEK GED COURSE

Beginning Tuesday, January 17th

Course is free for Greenbelt Residents and \$150.00 for Non-Residents. Students will be required to purchase calculators and textbooks as well. Classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday at the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road. GED I is from 10:30am-12:30pm and GED II is from 1:00pm-3:00pm. For enrollment information call Greenbelt CARES at 301-345-6660, ext. 2016 or e-mail jhering@greenbeltmd.gov.

Notice of Amendment to the City Charter Addition of Power to Engage in Collective Bargaining

At its December 12, 2005, meeting, the City Council adopted a resolution to add a new paragraph to the City Charter to empower the City to develop a labor code for the purpose of engaging in collective bargaining with representatives of the non-managerial sworn officers of the Police Department. This action was taken in response to a binding referendum question that the Council placed on the ballot of the November 8, 2005, City election, which permitted the voters to decide whether this change should be made. There were 1,105 (58%) votes in favor of the amendment and 797 (42%) votes against it.

The charter amendment resolution will become effective on January 31, 2006, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law.

Charter Amendment Resolution 2005-4

A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E 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 Amending Section 3, Titled "General Powers" to Add a New Paragraph 22 to Empower the City to Provide a Labor Code to Recognize the Right of Certain City Employees to Organize and Bargain Collectively

The resolution will add the following paragraph to the Section of the City Charter titled "General Powers":

22. To recognize and engage in collective bargaining with one or more designated bargaining representatives of non-managerial, sworn police officers of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, Police Department; to enter into a binding collective bargaining agreement with said representatives; and to enact by ordinance or amendment a system of rules and regulations to govern this process. The City Council shall approve all collective bargaining agreements entered into by the City with a collective bargaining representative prior to their becoming effective. In the event the parties negotiating a collective bargaining agreement are unable to reach agreement on one or more terms of a collective bargaining agreement, the City Council shall have the authority to set those terms and conditions of employment that remain in dispute upon a majority vote.

As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until January 21, 2006, at the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road. It can also be found on the Greenbelt CityLink Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov> under "Code Revisions." A copy may also be requested from the City Clerk. For additional information, call or e-mail Kathleen Gallagher, at 301-474-8000 or kgallagher@greenbeltmd.gov.

NEW YEAR continued from page 1

nately, by the time I trudged back from the mall to the Community Center, they were cold, but she-who-once-was-a-Girl-Scout-leader seemed happy anyhow.

Steel Drums

We listened with friends to the Smooth Pan Sounds Steel Drum Band. A new group, some commented that they were not as good as previous steel drum band groups. I liked them, however. I was impressed with the way the lead melody drummer did jazz-style improvisations of the tunes played.

From 8 to 9, I tended door as a volunteer at the "back door" of the Community Center. There throngs of teens, sometimes with parents, wandered back and forth between the Community Center and Youth Center. I also got to greet a harried John Hill, who arrived late with family assistance after car trouble on I-95.

On my way to the back door I checked out the craft rooms where family groups were busy making headgear. On my way back I stopped to see what was going on at the Mad Hot Ballroom, where Frank Solomon was teaching a group to line dance – not for my creaky old legs.

Upstairs I found Magic Mike just beginning his act with a standing-room-only crowd and many little ones gathered at his feet. I would have enjoyed watching him perform again but I was too big to squeeze in. The kids were delighted as ever with the sleight-of-hand tricks he was doing.

After I found Bernie in the gym, we went to room 112, now a piano lounge. There Chris Fominaya was leading a filled room in singing tunes from Disney movies. There are a lot of modern Disney songs I am not too familiar with as Disney is no longer high on my movie entertainment list. But most of those attending were up on them.

We would have liked to have heard Sondra Holland and Stefan Brodd play, too but we had to get over to the Arts Center for the Camp Cabaret. We've heard Brodd play before and know he is just great. There were just too many things going on at once and too short a time to see it all.

On our short walk to the Greenbelt Arts Center we were impressed by the many sign posts at pedestrian intersections that had been erected to guide event-goers to the various venues. Not only were the signposts new but many walkways were bordered with strings of lights to help show the way.

Camp Cabaret

Everything looked different in the Arts Center auditorium, which was prepared for the Center's upcoming production of the musical "Cabaret." Instead of rows of seats, there were clusters of seats around cabaret tables. The stage area was in a place traditionally allocated for audience seating. If the theater ambience is any indication of what the show will be like, theatergoers can look forward to a great time at "Cabaret."

The six Camp Cabaret performers sang 15 numbers in solos, duos, trios and in ensemble. They are yet to be top notch showpersons but they are well on their way toward that goal. Many of the group had performed last New Year's Eve in a murder mystery play; they

showed great improvement in their stage skills since that time. More work is needed on dance routines.

Later, however, I heard that the show had been rather hastily put together. Still, Alex Butcher, Scott Kincaid, Cecelia Bell, Evan Camara, Cody Sanders and Emma Bloksberg-Fireovid put on a rousing show that brought the audience to its feet at the performance's end. Chris Fominaya, whom we had just left at the Piano Lounge, beat us to the Arts Center and provided piano accompaniment to the singers.

With barely an hour left, we walked back to the Community Center multipurpose room to get our very special New Year's Eve Chef Lou dessert and coffee and listen to the great vocal renditions of John Hill. As Hill did his final group of songs, including his rendition of "Auld Lang Syne," we delighted in our desserts – a very rich chocolate truffle for me and Key lime cheesecake for Bernie. Although Hill was supposed to stop at 11:30, he kept on playing until his audience left to catch the final countdown in the gym.

Countdown

I don't know what the final count for the turnout is but the gym seemed as packed as ever. DC Motors was rocking away. In front of the stage was a mob of kids doing their own free-form variations of dance. Behind them clusters of families and groups of friends were gathered listening, talking and occasionally dancing together. In the back of the hall, some of us old folks found seats, as did mothers with babies.

The closer to midnight, the louder the din and the livelier the band. With five minutes to go, box bearers appeared to distribute noisemakers throughout the crowd and the uproar became ear-splitting.

Finally the 10-second countdown arrived and as everyone counted, green balloons fell from above and the band stopped playing. The horns blew, the rasps rattled, everyone screamed "Happy New Year" and then the hugging and kissing started.

DC Motors started rocking once more. Some couples clung to each other as they danced their first dance of the New Year. Others danced with their kids or in groups.

But quickly, those with small children began gathering their kids and things to leave for home. After wishing all our friends a happy one we left, too. If there hadn't been church to go to the next morning, we might have considered stopping at the New Deal Café for their buffet breakfast.



The Smooth Pan Sounds Band jazzed it up. –B. Souser



Frank Cassel, the Banjo man, played foot-stomping bluegrass. –B. Souser



Chris Fominaya played Disney tunes in the piano lounge. –J. Giese



The Little Drummer girl is Mairead Alexander. –B. Cornett



Dino and Carly Belisle (age 3) enjoyed dancing to the music. – J. Gardner



Magic Mike is assisted by Kira Myers, 6. –J. Gardner

Photos by
Bill Cornett
Jon Gardner
James Giese
Bill Souser



James Brown leads the train as the band plays "Locomotion." –J. Gardner



Deion Brown wears a magic hat to watch the show. –J. Gardner



Volunteers were everywhere, especially in the kitchen. –B. Souser



Larry and Rena Hull check for wristbands at the door. –B. Souser

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.

Robbery

December 26, 10:55 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, a man reported that he was in an apartment building about to enter a residence when he was approached by two men, one armed with a handgun. A robbery was announced and after obtaining the victim's wallet one of the men struck him in the face with the gun. Both men then fled the scene on foot. The victim declined treatment for a bloody nose. The suspects are described as a Latino male, 16 to 20 years of age, wearing khaki pants and a black winter jacket and a black male, 16 to 20 years of age, wearing black pants, a black parka and a black winter hat.

Assaults

December 25, 12:41 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road, a resident man was arrested and charged with two counts of assault and two counts of intoxicated endangerment after he threatened two neighbors with an unloaded rifle in the hallway of an apartment building during a dispute over loud music. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

December 30, 4 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road, a woman reported that a youth approached her, said something sexually suggestive and then grabbed her by the arm. She pulled away and used her cell phone to call police. The youth fled the scene on foot. He is described as a black male, 16 years of age, 5'9" with a medium build and a round face, wearing a light gray hooded sweatshirt and winter camouflage pants.

DWI Arrests

December 21, 12:56 a.m., 6200 block Edmonston Court, a resident man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired, driving under the influence and driving without a license during the investigation of a traffic accident. He was released on citations pending trial.

December 22, 11:52 p.m., Kenilworth Avenue and Ivy Lane, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired and driving under the

influence after he was observed passed out behind the wheel while in the roadway. He was released on citations pending trial.

December 23, 11:31 p.m., 6900 block Greenbelt Road, a resident man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired and driving under the influence during a sobriety checkpoint. He was released on citations pending trial.

December 23, 11:52 p.m., 6900 block Greenbelt Road, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired and driving under the influence during a sobriety checkpoint. He was released on citations pending trial.

Drug Arrests

December 24, 1:56 a.m., Kenilworth Avenue and Interstate 495, a criminal summons has been obtained charging a nonresident man with possession of marijuana. The man was in a vehicle that was stopped for a traffic violation and a quantity of suspected marijuana was located where he was sitting.

December 27, 8:58 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia. Another nonresident man was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana. Police responded to a report of persons smoking marijuana in the stairwell of an apartment building. The men were located, both were in possession of suspected marijuana and one also had paraphernalia commonly used to smoke marijuana. Both men were transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Peeping Tom

December 28, 4 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace, a woman reported that she observed a man looking into the bedroom window of her apartment then fleeing the scene. The suspect is described as a Latino male, 20 to 25 years of age, 5'8" 150 pounds with black hair and brown eyes, wearing dark clothing.

Unattended Child

December 27, 11:19 p.m.,

5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, a resident woman was arrested and charged with two counts of leaving a child unattended. Police responded to a report of loud music coming from an apartment and discovered two unattended children, ages two years and nine months. The mother returned to the apartment approximately an hour later and was arrested. She was released on citation pending trial.

Disorderly Conduct

December 23, 1:19 a.m., 7200 Hanover Drive, a resident man and a nonresident man were arrested and charged with drunk and disorderly after they were involved in a fight in the lobby area of the Holiday Inn. Both men were released on citation pending trial.

Counterfeit Money

December 26, 9:36 p.m., Greenway Center, a manager at Jasper's Restaurant reported that a group of diners paid their bill with a counterfeit \$100 bill and fled the scene. The suspects are described as a black male, 25 to 30 years old, tall with black hair, wearing a tan leisure suit and a black male, 25 to 30 years of age, short, with black hair in dreadlocks, wearing a jean jacket.

Vandalism

December 27, 6:49 p.m., 7400 block Morrison Drive, it was reported that unknown person(s) vandalized several Christmas lawn decorations, cutting the power cords.

December 29, 7:57 a.m., 44 block Crescent Road, it was reported that unknown person(s) spray painted graffiti on the side of an apartment building. Similar graffiti was found in the nearby underpass area and on the plaque at the base of the Mother and Child statue at Roosevelt Center.

Burglary

December 28, 7:47 a.m., 7600 block Ora Glen Drive, a commercial burglary was reported.

Vehicle Crimes

A 2003 Ford Expedition was stolen from the 7100 block Mathew Street.

Three vehicles were recovered by Greenbelt police with no arrests. Vandalism to and theft from vehicles were both reported in the 6100 block of Breezewood Drive.

New Deal Café Will Hold Annual Gathering, Potluck

by Richard McMullin

The New Deal Café has experienced some changes again this last year and is facing both new challenges and new opportunities. The annual meeting will be held on January 15 in the Café. The meeting agenda will include reports on the finances and business status for the Fiscal Year 2005, the Membership, Art and Expansion Committees and a report from FONDCA.

Earlier that day we will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Café with an all-afternoon open mike from noon to 4 p.m. Next we will hold the annual members meeting to review the café's progress, elect board members and hear motions for changes to the bylaws. Finally we will sit down to share a meal together at the first 2006 members' potluck dinner. Sharing creative energy, ideas and food as a community is at the heart of the New Deal Café co-op.

Sign up sheets for the open mike and the potluck are available at the Café. Three board seats will be elected this year, each for up to a two-year term. Currently Brett Fishburne, Pete Mayo and Bill Wilkerson hold these seats. Peter May has been a board member since elected to fill a vacancy in 2003 and has recently taken on the board secretary position. Brett Fishburne was elected to the board in 2004 to fill a vacancy and has worked as the financial records coordinator. Bill Wilkerson was also elected to fill a vacancy in 2005 after successfully organizing the Café

expansion team. Each is running for re-election.

Nominations for the board of directors will be taken before the annual meeting by the secretary or president. Only persons who have been members for at least six months shall be eligible for election to the board of directors.

Motions may be brought before the meeting. Modifications to the bylaws can be proposed for consideration by the members. As of this writing, no motions have been put before the board for publicizing prior to the meeting. All members may attend the meeting and the potluck. Members who have paid their annual dues are eligible to vote.

The Café has enjoyed renewed interest as the community has discovered the advantages of the new space, now dubbed the West Wing. Many new memberships have been issued and many existing members have come in to renew. I hope we will once again have a full house for the annual meeting and for the potluck. The Café members are a diverse population with a tremendous potential for sustaining and expanding the community-based development of Greenbelt. Each of you is an important part of the Café. I look forward to the challenges of 2006 and with your continued support and interest, I feel confident that the Café will continue to reach even greater levels of opportunity and service.

Edith Beauchamp, Greenbelt Realtor® CALL DIRECT: 301-706-2385

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Selling Homes in Greenbelt
Prince George's &
the State of Maryland

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.

Youth Choir Holds Two Local Concerts

The College Park Youth Choir will give a free concert on January 12 at 8 p.m. at Berwyn Presbyterian Church. The 30 children, led by Dr. Philip Silvey from the University of Maryland, will sing at the culmination of fall semester. The choir will perform historical art music and folk songs. Berwyn Presbyterian Church is located at 6301 Greenbelt Road.

The Youth Choir will also take part in celebrating civil rights hero Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at a celebration to be held at the University of Maryland Clarice Smith Center on Saturday, January 14 from 3 to 5 p.m.

For further information visit the College Park Arts Exchange website at www.cpae.org or call 301-927-3013.

Special Events At Wells Ice Rink

A good student and teacher special is offered on Saturday, January 14 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m., as well as Sunday, January 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at Wells Ice Rink at 5211 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park. Celebrate a child's honor roll report card and their teachers. Kids show an honor roll report card and teachers show school ID to skate for a small fee, skate rental included.

Adult/college student night is offered Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m. now through March 5. This is for ages 18 and over. Show a college student ID to get the special discount, admission and skate rental.

For information call 301-277-3717, TTY 301-699-2544.

HEY! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?



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City of Greenbelt
COMMUNITY MEDIATION BOARD

TOP STORIES continued from page 1

the end of the year, with construction to begin in spring 2006 and completed in approximately three months.

Historic Budget

Although City Manager Michael McLaughlin submitted the Fiscal Year 2006 proposed budget with a call for the largest property tax increase in at least 40 years, there was little expressed citizen objection. After numerous worksessions, council did manage to modify the budget enough to reduce the proposed six-cent tax rate increase to five cents. While there was a standing room only crowd the night the budget was adopted, most citizens were there for an unrelated issue. Councilmember Rodney Roberts, who opposed some expenditure items, could have blocked the adoption process, since one member was absent and four votes were needed to suspend the rules, but he chose to abide with the decisions made previously at the final budget worksession. While the city's structural problem, which has necessitated tax rate increases each year in order to fund city expenses, was addressed by candidates at the city election, no one proposed resolution of the problem by significant cuts in city services.

Collective Bargaining

At budget time the Greenbelt City Council met again with representatives of the Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and once again received a presentation on the FOP's wish to enter into a formal collective bargaining agreement with the city.

Again council expressed reservations and its preference to continue the present meet-and-confer policy. Councilmember Ed Putens said he would not go along with collective bargaining without approval by Greenbelt citizens. On May 23, the FOP petitioned council to place the issue on the ballot as a referendum question. At an August 31 worksession, council refused to consider binding arbitration as a way to resolve impasses resulting from collective bargaining. The FOP compromised by agreeing to a ballot question not including binding arbitration. On September 26, council placed the issue on the November 8 city election ballot. Four of five incumbents seeking reelection opposed the ballot question but were reelected even though the ballot question won handily by 58 percent of the votes. Acceding to voter wishes at its December 12 meeting, council adopted a charter amendment resolution granting collective bargaining rights to non-managerial sworn police officers and without the use of binding arbitration.

GHI Additions

It was a tumultuous year for those interested in adding on to their GHI homes. First, committee members researching county laws and regulations discovered a 1988 law requiring a detailed county site plan review for all significant additions. The GHI board and city council worked with County Councilmember Douglas Peters to exempt from this law GHI and other single-family homes in the city's core. The GHI board then dismissed two

committee chairs who continued to publicly oppose the board. The legal issue resolved, in late fall the Architecture and Environment Committee introduced proposed guidelines for additions, banning two-story additions on interior units and significantly restricting the size of additions. At year's end, the board was reviewing these guidelines and planning future member forums.

Fire

Two condominiums at Greenbelt Lake Village suffered extensive fire damage in a three-alarm fire on May 14. County officials confirmed that the fire was attributed to a lightning strike. Residents of 11 units were displaced. Repairs have not been completed.

Steve Gaughan

Corporal Steve Gaughan, a 15-year veteran of the Prince George's County Police Department and popular resident of Boxwood, was fatally wounded in a shootout following a traffic stop on Tuesday, June 20 in Laurel. On June 25 thousands of friends and fellow officers joined with family members to lay to rest a posthumously promoted Sgt. Gaughan. Gaughan left his wife Donna, associate professor in criminal justice of Prince George's Community College, and two children Daniel and Rachel. Two letters to the editor memorialized Gaughan.

The August 23 Beauty and the Beast softball game was dedicated to Gaughan. Proceeds of every \$5 ticket donation, every hot dog, hamburger and soft drink sold went to the Gaughan family.

Greenbelt Station

The August 30, 2004, court decision that voided the Prince George's Planning Board and county District Council's approval of the conceptual site plan and preliminary plan of subdivision did not stop project developers, Greenbelt Metropark, LLC from proceeding with plans but does cause them to deal with neighboring communities.

An agreement, finalized as to covenants upon the property, was negotiated with Greenbelt. Key provisions are city approval of site plan, city control of annexation, 14 acres to be dedicated parkland, contribution of over a million dollars towards the cost of city services, improvements to the intersection of Metro Drive and Cherrywood Lane and funding for a trolley or tram to run between the South Core of the development and the Metro station.

Because of objections from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to the agreement relating to the Metro station property (the North Core), the covenant on development of this property, while executed, was held in escrow pending ownership transfer of this property to the developers.

On November 28, the Greenbelt City Council adopted a resolution to annex 75.5 acres of state-owned land along Indian Creek to the city. A second annexation resolution for the South Core, which originally was to include four other parcels of land along Branchville Road but was modified after Berwyn Heights beat Greenbelt to their annexation,

was delayed in order to verify legal property descriptions. On December 12 council voted to annex the South Core with Councilmember Rodney Roberts and some citizens voicing objections. The annexation resolution could be petitioned to referendum.

New Orleans

A major news story of 2005 took place far away from Greenbelt – the hurricane Katrina disaster that flooded and obliterated major sections of New Orleans. Yet in the storm's aftermath Greenbelters made their presence felt. Almost immediately seven Greenbelt police officers, accompanying the department's amphibious personnel carrier, deployed to the stricken city to provide relief and protection. Rena Hull went south as a nurse volunteer, Cass Cooney as a Red Cross disaster relief responder and Midge Cruz as an animal rescuer. Greenbelt area schools, the city and the Mamas and Papas group collected relief supplies and money and a refugee family was warmly welcomed to Greenbelt.

Child-Loss Group Meets

A free support group for those experiencing pregnancy loss, miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death will meet on Thursday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m. at Washington Adventist Hospital, 7600 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park. For more information call the hospital at 301-891-5265.

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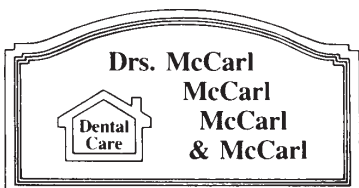


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Winter Tour Held At Bartholdi Park

Bartholdi Park is an example of a four-season garden. On Friday, January 13 from noon to 1 p.m. wear a warm jacket, bring a camera and stroll through the garden. Roger Pritchard, gardener supervisor at the U.S. Botanic Garden, will show examples of plants to put in a home garden to create striking winter interest.

The tour is free but pre-registration is required. Call 202-225-8333 for more information and to register.

Planetarium Program Features Planets

The planetarium at the Howard B. Owens Science Center in Lanham presents, "The Planets," on Friday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m. Planets are fascinating "wanderers," beautiful to watch in the sky or in detail through advanced photography. Come for an evening of enjoying the planets aesthetically – through music, visuals and poetry. The date of this show corresponds with the launch date for the New Horizons mission to Pluto. There is a fee.

City Notes

Public Works refuse and recycling crew collected 13.36 tons of paper, 5.08 tons of co-mingled recyclable materials and 34.45 tons of refuse.

The side of the Community Center facing the library was discovered to have been painted with graffiti on Thursday, December 29. Public works was expedient with painting over it on Friday morning, December 30. A police report was filed.

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Park Service Hosts Watershed Workshop

The Anacostia Watershed Citizen's Advisory Committee in partnership with the Metropolitan Council of Governments and the Summitt Fund of Washington invites people to discover Greenbelt Park and the Still Creek subwatershed. Learn how to help protect and restore Still Creek and the Anacostia River.

Meet at the Ranger Station classroom on Saturday, January 7 at 9 a.m. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP Kate Levendosky at 202-962-3374 or email klevendosky@mwkog.org.

Greenbelt Park is located at 6565 Greenbelt Road between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The Greenbelt Park website address is www.nps.gov/gree.

Botanic Garden Seeks Volunteers

The United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is looking for volunteers who love plants and people. Opportunities are available in visitor services, children's activities, horticulture and public programs. Help bring the garden to life. To request an application call Volunteer Coordinator Mary Chor, 202-226-1047 or email mchor@aoc.gov.

Volunteer Orientation day will be held Saturday, January 21 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Conservatory. The program includes presentations by USBG staff and volunteers; Conservatory tours; brown-bag lunch (bring one's own); and details of volunteer resources. Contact Mary Chor by January 10 to register.

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The News Review has a carrier route open immediately in Old Greenbelt. Carriers are paid a stipend for delivery of the newspaper on Fridays. Call Ian Tuckman at 301-459-5624 for details.

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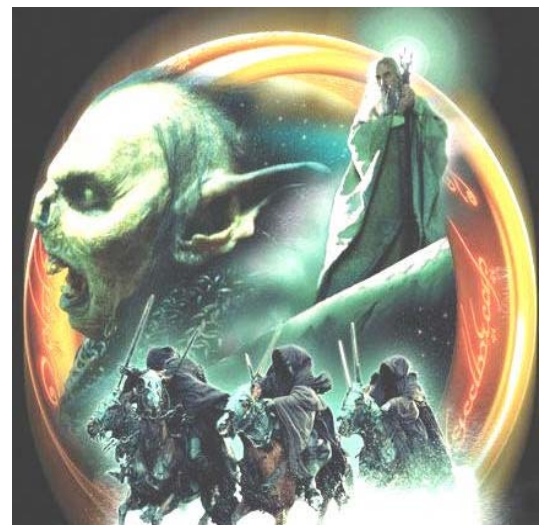
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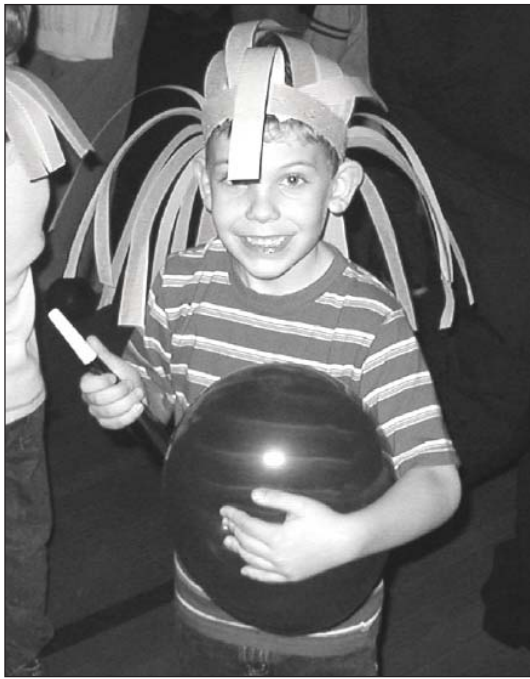
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Andrew Wallace celebrated the New Year with horn and balloon. —J. Giese



Alison Colby watches her dad Jim check out his Wacky Hair Do in the mirror. —B. Cornett



The queens with their real tiaras checked coats for patrons. —B. Souser



The Townsend family made crowns out of pipecleaners and glitter (from left: Jessica, Morgan, Cheryl, Ronnie III and Ronnie Jr. —J. Giese



Dancing, dancing, dancing – there's no stopping us. —B. Cornett

Greenbelt's New Year's Eve: A Starry, Starry Night

by Marat Moore

It was a starlit and not-too-wintery eve last Saturday when Greenbelters feted each other and the new year at the annual New Year's Eve celebration. The theme this year was "A Thousand Stars." The first hints of the pleasures to come were the garlands of white lights that twinkled along the paths from the parking lot near Roosevelt Center and the attractive signs that directed party-goers to all the festival sites: the Youth Center, Arts Center, New Deal Café, Community Center, Old Greenbelt Theatre and the Roosevelt Center campfire – complete with folk singer Melissa Sites and storyteller Tim Livengood and delicious S'mores – that warmed the heart of Old Greenbelt.

The stars were out at all the festival locations and many of them were young – the Girl Scouts making S'mores, the Greenbelt Swim Team members spraying and creating wild 'do's at the Wacky Hair Salon for a line of young customers at the Youth Center, boys and girls fashioning swords and dogs from balloons and tiaras and crowns out of a glittering rainbow of pipe cleaners and colorful construction paper. Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Greenbelt, wearing their real tiaras and sashes and big smiles, checked coats behind the counter. Other kids helped Magic Mike with his tricks; and young filmmakers showcased their GAVA/GATE animation shorts at the movie theater. At the Arts Center, local teens starred in their own cabaret show in a stage setting to be used shortly for the Arts Center production of the musical, "Cabaret."

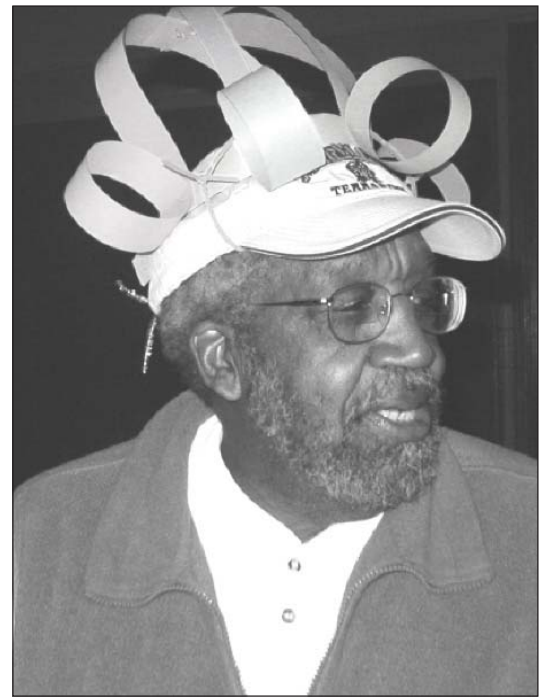
Adults shared the spotlight and also shined in their supporting roles. As an Appalachian native with a taste for bluegrass, I appreciated Frank Cassel, the Banjo Man, for playing an Earl Scruggs tune I could clog to. Down the hall the star-seekers and scientists of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club projected gorgeous images of planets and their moons, nebulae and other distant neighbors and explained what's in store in the heavens in 2006. (If you're in Libya next year, time your trip to see the solar eclipse.)

New this year was the Sing-along Piano Lounge, the campfire, the cabaret and all drew good crowds, along with the bands and other musical acts at the Community Center and New Deal Café. Magic Mike packed them in. Downstairs in the dance studio, ballroom pro Frank Solomon led adult beginners in the rumba while children pranced to the beat.

And there was food to please all palates: St. Hugh's served up hot dogs and other festival fare, GreenBELTPride sold pizza at the Youth Center and Chef Lou offered his delectable desserts upstairs as singer/songwriter John Hill performed. My husband had chocolate ice cream and I saved the carrot cake to cap off our New Year's Day repast of black-eyed peas and greens.

Hats off to all the volunteers, the civic groups, the New Deal Café, Chef Lou and Recreation Department staff who put this all together and made it happen. This was such a fine event that I asked why it wasn't called "First Night Greenbelt" like the other highly publicized events in Annapolis, Alexandria and elsewhere. Festival chair Patti Brothers explained that "First Night" is a patented name.

Greenbelt's celebration deserves wider recognition. How about "First Lights Greenbelt" – or a community-wide contest to give our celebration a name as unique as Greenbelt itself?



Mad Hatter John Henry Jones poses for a snapshot. —J. Giese



Girls sport fancy eyeglasses. —B. Cornett



Elizabeth Gardner (age 4) made a hat to wear through the evening. —J. Gardner



Photos by Bill Cornett, Jon Gardner, James Giese and Bill Souser. For even more pictures, see page 6.



Singer/songwriter John Hill – a favorite performer – played. —B. Souser



Elizabeth Rosenberg, Cammela Kenyon and Samantha Noronka toast marshmallows for S'mores to serve at the Girl Scout Troop 127 New Year's Eve campfire sing-along at Roosevelt Center. —J. Giese

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