

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Greenbelt, Maryland, Thursday, November 25, 1954

10 Cents

Citizens At Budget Hearing Prefer City To Keep Up Services, Taxes

By I. J. Parker

Over 250 local citizens attended the public hearing on the proposed 1954 budget in the auditorium of the Community building last Monday night, and a large majority of them requested the city council to maintain present services being duplicated by the county. They asked for an increase in the public health department, and approved the city's proposal to place the garbage and trash collection on a fee basis and agreed to the plan to put the fire department on a volunteer basis.

The local library, subject of most of the discussion, was considered by most of the citizens too valuable to the community to risk integrating it with the county system. Citizens favoring continued local services declared that they were attracted to Greenbelt by these services and their loss would endanger the "uniqueness" of the community.

Also, the problem of lowering the tax rate to accommodate future home-builders in the city was questioned by many citizens who felt the services provided by the community should far outweigh tax considerations in approving loans for homes. Al Herling, local resident, called PHA's refusal for loans part of a program to stifle the growth of Greenbelt and destroy its attractiveness to the nation. Herling stated that the present administration considers Greenbelt part of "creeping socialism" and it would be pleased to see the city's services diminished.

Ben Rosenzweig, speaking for Greenbelt Consumer Services, declared that the garbage and trash item should permit the organization to contract for that service privately, if they desire. Also, he reminded the council that GCS had agreed to accept the personal property tax of two percent last year with the hope that it would encourage more building in the city, and that the group was disappointed.

Glenn Burrows, speaking for the Greenbelt Citizens Association, declared that his group favored (1) the continuation of services duplicated by the county, (2) volunteer fire department, (3) retention of present police service, and (4) a review of present administrative practices to reassign, reclassify and combine many of the employee duties to effect economies.

James Ott deplored the cleavage in tax payments between war housing, old Greenbelt, and new home-builders.

On the library problem, Frank Ferrazzoli stated that usage of books far outweighed quantity.

Helen Dondy reviewed her table which appeared in last week's News Review, asking whether the small saving in taxes by using county services was worth-while.

Abe Chasanow emphasize the importance of a high tax rate when related to selling homes or securing loans for building new homes.

David Garin, calling for continued city services, disclosed that the county library system included no fines for overdue books, and a five-cents-a-day charge for recent books.

Clay, speaking for the Greenbelt Band, wanted assurance that some sums in the budget were allocated for that group.

Carolyn Miller asked that a "compromise" be made on the tax rate with the garbage and trash item considered enough of a budget reduction to satisfy all parties concerned, and continuing present services.

Ralph Webster urged council to increase the item for the Youth Center.

Jane Volkhausen cited the vast difference in per-capita expenditure for recreation between the county, the city, and the sum recommended by recreation specialists.

30 Attend Analysis Of Budget By GCA

At the Greenbelt Citizen's Association special meeting last Friday in preparation for the November 22 budget hearing, the ins and outs of tax reduction versus service curtailments, if any, were thrashed out. Thirty attended to hear GCA's Budget Committee's analysis of the City's 1955 budget, an analysis prepared by Helen Dondy and Albert Berling.

Mrs. Dondy presented the analysis, and after three hours of facts, questions, opinions and statements, five resolutions were passed to be conveyed to the City Council by Glenn Burrows. Because the effect on the high tax rate by cuts in Health, Recreation and Library services was considered very small, the Association moved to accept and endorse full service figures of Budget A in these departments.

Another motion endorsed the transfer of the city Fire Department to a volunteer Fire Department, under feasible conditions. The third motion was a recommendation to Council to keep the Police Department intact. The fourth favored a review of all city department services in the interest of increasing efficiency without reducing services. The fifth favored elimination of the proposed cut of the \$700 July Fourth promotion figure.

It was noted, discussing Health figures, that Prince Georges County used one nurse to 19,000 persons, and that Greenbelt had a similar ratio of a half-time nurse to 7,500 people. It was stated the City Manager had originally recommended a full-time nurse to do her own work plus welfare activities she was now doing on her own time. The Greenbelt PTAs were asking for a full-time nurse, but at the very least, didn't want any cut made in the half-time nursing services already budgeted.

Library

Touching on the library problem, comparisons were made between Greenbelt's 5½ books per resident and a far lower county library figure. Some wondered whether the quality of county library books was up to ours here. However, county libraries were said to have the access as ours to Baltimore's Enoch Pratt library books. Mrs. Jean McCarthy, a librarian, said the question for Greenbelt is WHEN to enter the county library system. She said the time isn't now, even though the county system is improving.

Isadore Parker reported that he had learned that the County library would be open as many hours as ours, including Saturday hours. He said per capita comparisons did not necessarily mean Greenbelt would not have as many books available to them as before. The county library, he went on, imposes no fines for overdue books. Dave Garen pointed out that the county library requires a dime charge for reserving new books, and five cents a day thereafter, and that these charges would offset the budget saving for many readers.

Recreation

Commenting on Recreation Department cuts, Mrs. Dondy re-

TWO PAGES

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday this week, and because so much copy came in too late for publication, the NEWS REVIEW was cut to two pages. Our apologies to those whose stories unfortunately had to be omitted.

What Goes On ?

Friday, November 26 - Pickup for St. Hugh's Annual Bishops Thanksgiving Collection through November 28.

Hebrew Services at 8 p.m. in Home Economics room of Center School at 8 p.m. Candlelighting time at 4:12 p.m. Regular meeting of Greenbelt Consumer Services, Inc. Board at Co-op Drugstore in Takoma Park at 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 28 - Church Services:

Community Church: sermon, "The Book of Books" by Reverend Hull, services at 9 and 11 a.m.

St. Hugh's Catholic Church: Masses at 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

Baptist Church: sermon "These Things We Believe" by Dr. Crowder, service at 11 a.m. Methodist Church: sermon "Present Day Mummies" by Reverend Knock, service at 11 a.m.

Monday, November 29 - City Council meeting at office over Variety Store at 8 p.m.

Tuesday, November 30 - League of Women Voters meets in Homemaking Room of Center School at 8:15 p.m. to discuss problems of financing public school construction.

Wednesday, December 1 - Try-outs for JCC production of "South Persia" in social room of Center School at 8 p.m. under direction of Mrs. Judith Myerson.

Thursday, December 2 - Great Books Group meets at 1-G Westway at 8:30 p.m. to discuss Books I and II of Plato's "Republic."

Friday, December 3 - Meeting of Greenbelt Veteran Housing Board of Directors at Hamilton Place building at 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, December 4 - Annual JCC Dance at American Legion Home from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m.

marked huge cuts had already been made from 1953 to 1954. This earlier cut, she thought, is what made it difficult to carry on a good program in 1954, and that this is what led to the present proposed cut.

For the whole of Prince Georges County there is a yearly Recreation budget of \$90,000, of which \$50,000 is for programs in fifty-two communities. Each community is entitled to about \$1000. In Greenbelt, the county summer playground used up \$700, leaving less than \$300 available from the county until June 30, '55. The county could provide little Youth Center aid. The Youth Center would henceforth be open two nights instead of three, and voluntary chap-erons would be needed.

Fire

Regarding the Fire Department, it was established that converting to a volunteer Fire Department would not change city insurance rates, since Greenbelt is already classified by insurance companies as though we had a volunteer system. Lars Bronstein said that the Fire Department owns \$60,000 worth of equipment consisting of switchboard and alarm boxes which the volunteer department would not use, and that this will cost \$15,000 to move. Also, in the switchover, which he, as a member of the Greenbelt Rescue Squad, fa-

Vacant Land Sold To "Brook Haven" Builders; Houses Built In Spring

By Bernard Krug

The Greenbelt Land Improvement Corporation, a GVHC subsidiary, last Tuesday sold 31 and a quarter acres of undeveloped land to the Warner-Kanter Company, of Cincinnati, with a 3-month option to purchase the remainder of the land. Announcement was made that house construction "would start in the Spring."

The action came during an executive session of the organization and resulted in a unanimous vote for the sale to the Cincinnati concern. The sudden announcement that the contract had been signed came as a sharp surprise to two Greenbelt residents, Ben Goldfaden and George Panagoulis, who were representing a Washington group in negotiating for the land. Goldfaden and Panagoulis claimed, following the Tuesday executive session, that GLIC had made a "verbal agreement" with them to sell them approximately the same amount of land for \$35,000. They asserted that the organization had a "moral obligation" with them to consummate the deal.

The GLIC contract with Warner-Kanter calls for an option until March 1, 1954, and allows until April 1, 1954 for disposition of the remaining land in a manner satisfactory to GLIC, Peoples Development Company, and PHA.

Following last Friday night's meeting of the GVHC board, the GLIC group met and announced that both Warner-Kanter and the local group were to appear Tuesday night with definite proposals to be considered. Information available at that time was to the effect that Warner-Kanter would build houses on the land similar to the "Brookhaven" home in Silver Spring. The Goldfaden group, on the other hand, wanted to purchase the land, subdivide it into 41 lots and sell them, similar to lots sold by Lakeside Homeowners, Inc.

GVHC Board Actions

Earlier Friday evening, the GVHC board voted to increase the fire and extended coverage insurance to cover replacement value less depreciation. The new coverage will cost about \$3,000 extra in 1955 and will be effective on December 1 of this year. The new premiums will boost the yearly insurance cost from the present \$10,500 to about \$13,500. It was decided to add the extra cost of about 20 cents per month per member to the monthly charges. Under the old plan, in case of loss, GVHC would recover only its investment in the house or houses destroyed. The new plan would pay GVHC the higher cost of replacing the property under present conditions.

OK's Trash Plan

The board recommended that the city deduct the trash charge from the budget with GVHC collecting the monthly fee of \$1.50 for this service. This plan, the board agreed, would equalize the payments for service received by GVHC members. Manager Campbell announced that the Methodist Church plans to dispose of its small chapel on Woodland Way. Possible purchaser is the Boys' Club. Otherwise, the church will dismantle the building in the near future.

Other Actions

The board also:

- (1) announced that the quarterly meeting of members would be held on December 8, 1954 in the Greenbelt theatre;
- (2) re-appointed Ralph Miller chairman of the Nominations and Elections Committee;
- (3) voted \$2,500 for the repair of garage roofs;
- (4) voted \$1,300 to assist in the continuing campaign to lower fuel costs.

Managers, the city should be aware of its responsibility for housing the Volunteer Fire Department, and seeing that the equipment is maintained. The fire trucks meet standard requirements right now, but sometime in the future they will have to be replaced.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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SMITH FOR COUNCIL

To the Editor:

Any day now, the city council will be choosing a replacement for Frank Lastner, who is resigning to assume his new duties as a county commissioner. I should like to urge all citizens to support Jim Smith for this position, and to communicate their wishes to the council. He is particularly well qualified by virtue of his long residence here, his intimate knowledge of municipal problems, and the thoughtful consideration he has given these problems.

Harry Zubkoff

TRICYCLE RETURNED

My little boy and I want to say a sincere thank you to John P. Haslinger of 11-N Ridge, the youngster who found our missing tricycle somewhere in the neighborhood, and took the trouble to bring it down to the police station, where we recovered it. This was a very happy ending, especially since we hadn't yet gotten around to marking the tricycle (it's quite new) with our name and address. We'd expected it to turn up broken and useless, and are indebted to John Haslinger's good instincts that it didn't.

Incidentally, our name and address has at last been painted on the tricycle, and I can see now where loss of children's toys, wagons, etc. would be substantially minimized if everyone marked their stuff.

Mrs. Morris J. Solomon
2-E Westway

ADULT HANUKAH SKIT

A skit presented by adults will be part of the festivities at the Jewish Community Center's annual children's Hanukkah program next month, it has been announced. All adults interested in participating in this skit are asked to call 7071 or 3498.

G. V. H. C. QUARTERLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 8
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8:15 P.M.

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TEACHERS' RECEPTION

To the Editor:

I'd like to take this means of thanking the many people and the many organizations who cooperated so willingly and so helpfully with the Citizens Association in making our Community Reception for Teachers such a success.

Many people spoke to me about the beauty of the decorations, the variety of the exhibits, the entertaining program, and the excellence of the refreshments.

We could have wished that all our citizens and teachers could have enjoyed the Festival but they have probably heard of it by now and we can look forward to an even bigger and better celebration next year.

Bruce Bowman, Chairman
Community Coordinating Committee,
Greenbelt Citizens Association.

BINGO POSTPONED

The JCC Bingo party originally scheduled for Saturday, December 11, has been postponed until Saturday, December 16. It will be held in the social room of the Center School, featuring cash prizes and free admission.

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WILL DO IRONING in my home. Call GR. 4-8911 after 5 p.m.

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THIS OLD DESK is very sturdy, this old desk is very strong, this old desk costs twenty clams, this old desk won't last so long ... at this price. Call 6551. Ask for this old desk. If an end table answers, hang up.

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FOUND - Zippo cigaret lighter in my couch. Will owner please identify. Call Harry Zubkoff 5801.

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