

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 40, Number 3

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, December 9, 1976

BASED ON MARITAL STATUS

County Panel Hears Charges Of GHI "Wrongful Practice"

by Al Skolnik

The facts were these. In September 1974 an unrelated couple (man and woman) sought membership in Greenbelt Homes, Inc. in order to purchase a GHI home (perpetual lease). Upon completing an application for membership and a contract to purchase as joint owners, they were advised by the GHI sales office that the GHI by-laws limit membership to the immediate family, defined to mean related by blood or marriage.

Thereupon, the woman offered to purchase the unit in her own name, but was advised that the GHI by-laws and regulations also prohibit occupancy by persons unrelated by blood or marriage. The GHI sales office also advised that final decisions rested with the GHI board of directors who can make exceptions to the rules. Thereupon, an application for joint membership was taken by the sales office with a deposit and forwarded to the GHI board for decision.

At its September 26, 1974 meeting, the GHI board denied the application. The next day the applicants were informed that their application had been denied because they were unrelated. A few days later their deposit was returned.

On October 10, 1974 the couple filed a complaint with the Prince Georges County Human Relations Commission, charging that they had been discriminated against because of their marital status (i.e. they were not married). GHI denied that they had engaged in any wrongful practice.

Dec. 6, 1976 Hearing

This was the setting as the 5-member panel of the Human Relations Commission convened last Monday, December 6, at Upper Marlboro, to hear the case. The facts, as presented above, were developed with no disagreement between the contending attorneys, Richard Alper of the County Office of Law representing the complainants and Albert Ginsberg representing GHI.

However, it took three hours to develop the facts, partly because of the panel's difficulty in understanding the nature of GHI and how the housing co-operative operates. For example, questions arose as to whether a person entering GHI was purchasing a piece of property or a piece of paper, what was the extent of the authority of the GHI sales office to reject applications for membership, how was the co-operative organized, and what were its internal policies with respect to the handling of deposit checks.

At the evening's end, the only witnesses heard were the complainant's. A second public hearing was thus tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Upper Marlboro to hear GHI's witnesses.

The woman complainant testified that she and her partner had lived together for approximately two years prior to applying to GHI for membership and that she considered themselves a family unit. She said that subsequent to the denial by GHI they got married on December 31, 1974 and in January 1975 purchased a home in Takoma Park. She said that they had not informed GHI of their intent to marry.

Legal Questions

The housing panel has yet to tackle the legal problem of what constitutes discrimination with respect to marital status. CBI-1972, which established the Human Relations Commission and its powers, simply says that "all persons should exercise and enjoy all civil, economic, political, and housing

rights without interference and without discrimination because of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, age, occupation, marital status, public opinion or personal appearance."

The housing panel has therefore asked its counsel for an opinion as to the legal meaning of marital status as used in the law. The panel's members were also concerned about the definition of "family." (County councilman Francis White had earlier also sought such an opinion, coupled with a request to the panel that the hearing be stayed until the opinion was received. The panel decided, however, to go ahead with the hearing.)

The panel's chairman, Joseph M. Parker, said that the panel's function is to prepare findings and submit recommendations to the parent body, the 13-member Human Relations Commission.

The Commission can issue a cease and desist order requiring the respondent to stop engaging in the alleged discriminatory action or prohibited practices and can take affirmative action to equitably and fairly remedy the situation. Any action of the Commission can be appealed to the Circuit Court.

Recreation Review

The Recreation Department wishes to extend their congratulations to Miller's Mauauders in winning the Women's Football League. Miller's won a close game against National Bus on Sun., Nov. 14 on Braden Field. 'Bus' led most of the game by a score of 6-0. Late in the game, Miller's scored a touchdown and successfully scored the extra point to make it 7-6. The team held on to the lead as the game ended with Miller's 7 and National Bus 6.

Family Roller Skating

Sunday, is Family Skate Afternoon at the Greenbelt Center Elementary School from 1-3 p.m. Bring your own rink skates or rent ours. A nominal fee is charged at the door.

Open Gyms

Following is a schedule of other open gyms in the area: Greenbelt Junior High School - Sundays, 1-6 p.m.; Parkdale Senior High School - Sundays, 12n-5 p.m.

Men's 'A' League Basketball

Teams must be entered in the city's Men's Franchise League by Fri., Dec. 17. For more information call the Recreation Department.

Boys' & Girls' Club Uniform Turn-in

All football and soccer uniforms should be turned in on Tues. or Thurs., 7-9 p.m.; at the Youth Center. Basketball uniforms will not be issued to any person holding other uniforms.

Festival of Lights

On Mon., Dec. 13, the evergreen tree, between the Municipal Building and the Bank, will be decorated and the city's wreath will be placed on the front of the Municipal Building. Come and enjoy the city's holiday decorations.

WHAT GOES ON

Thur., Dec. 9, 8 p.m. GHI Board Meets, Hamilton Pl.

Fri., Dec. 10, 8 p.m. Duplicate Bridge, Youth Center

Sun., Dec. 12, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Greenbelt CARES Open House, 22 Ridge Rd.

Mon., Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m. Meeting on School Closing Study, Northern Area Administrative Offices, 49 Greenbelt Rd. and 49th Ave.

Tues., Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. Mary Bethune Jr. High PTA Winter Concert.

Fri., Dec. 17, 8:30 p.m. Greenbelt Choral Arts Concert, Greenbelt Community Church

Public Meeting Dec. 15 On School Closings

Parents, educators and citizens interested in the public schools are invited to attend a meeting of the Prince George's school system's Northern Area Advisory Council (NAAC) on Monday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Northern Area Administrative Center, Greenbelt Road at 49th Avenue between U.S. Rt. 1 and Kenilworth Avenue. The agenda includes a briefing on the status of school closing studies from William Chappel of the system's planning staff.

Chappel will outline the implications of the school closing issue, the reasons for targeting specific geographic areas of the county and the procedures to be followed before any final decisions on individual schools are made.

NAAC chairperson Angela Dowling encouraged all parents to attend. She said "Understanding the procedures for closing school is important - whether or not you expect your child's school to be considered for closing. Neighboring schools may be affected by any given closing."

The Northern Area Advisory Council (schools attended by Greenbelt students) was formed three years ago at the direction of the Superintendent of Schools. There are also advisory groups in the county's southern and central school districts. Membership is open to both professionals, parents and anyone interested in public education. NAAC officers include chairwoman Dowling, Laurel, vice-chairwoman Doris Eugene, Beltsville, recording secretary Kay Chappell, College Park, corresponding secretary Marion Cain, West Hyattsville.

Trains on Display

The Washington area's largest HO Model train layout will be on display during an open house for rail enthusiasts and the general public, which will be held on Sat., Dec. 11, 1:30-9:30 p.m. and on Sun., Dec. 12, 1:30-5:30 p.m.

The open house is sponsored by the Silver Spring Model Railroad Society, located under the P.D. Craft House, 8701 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. There is no charge.

Local Task Forces to Study Elementary School Closings

by Elaine Skolnik

At its December 6 meeting, the Prince Georges County Board of Education decided upon procedures to follow in determining which, if any, underutilized elementary schools should be considered for permanent closing.

Community Task Forces will be set up in eight areas of the county to study the problem. The eight areas that have been designated by Superintendent of Schools Edward J. Feeney all contain elementary schools whose enrollments are significantly below their capacities, serving neighborhoods where little or no growth or development is expected. Forty-eight schools would be involved in the studies, with none of them pre-selected as a candidate for closing.

Greenbelt Schools

All five elementary schools that now have Greenbelt students attending are among the 48, (see accompanying chart). This does not mean that all 5 schools are under capacity but simply that they are being studied along with other schools in the area that are under capacity. For example, Oakerest is overcapacity but it is listed along with John Carroll which is under capacity in study area #8 which contains a total of 8 schools.

Springhill Lake is overcapacity but is listed with five other undercapacity schools in study area #4A - Berwyn Heights, College Park, Holly Park, Hollywood, and Paint Branch.

The two remaining Greenbelt schools, Center and North End, are both undercapacity and listed with four other undercapacity schools in study area #2B - Catherine T. Reed, Gaywood, Lanham and Magnolia.

Task Force Makeup

The Task Force in each area will consist of representatives from each school made up of the principal, a faculty member, PTA officer and two parents - probably one from the school's attendance area and one who will represent those students who are bused. Additionally, Board of Education staff will assist the groups. Principals will be distributing pertinent information to parents within a week.

Feeney is expected to recommend appointments to the Task Force at the board's meeting on Thursday, December 16.

It is hoped that the Community Task recommendations will go to the Superintendent by March 15, 1977. Public hearings will follow in mid-April with the board making a final decision by April 28.

Task force members will have their work cut out for them. They will be provided the following information for each school in their area: (1) student enrollment and school capacity; (2) transportation distance to school and the number of students transported; (3) the schools' physical facilities in terms of age, instructional needs and po-

tential for renovation; (4) potential for growth in the area served by each school; and (5) operating cost savings that would result from each school being closed. They will also keep groups apprised of a study that the Office of Pupil Accounting is making with respect to the possibility of reassigning students closer to their homes.

After reviewing the material and any additional data it might request from the staff, the Task Force will (1) conduct its own survey to verify such information as projections of future population or development, (2) publicize the results of its review of that information within the affected communities, (3) sample community reaction and (4) obtain suggestions for other uses of the school buildings involved.

Finally, the group will debate and write its report. The superintendent, if he disagrees with the Task Force, may submit his own recommendation to the board along with that panel's report. If either the Task Force or the superintendent proposes that one or more schools be closed, a public hearing is to be held before the board votes on the matter.

Background

The school system has been forced to confront the issue of closing of some schools because of declining enrollment and the resulting empty classroom seats. Enrollment in the Prince Georges schools skyrocketed as a result of the county's boom period of the 60's, with the student population peaking at nearly 163,000 in the fall of 1971. The September 30 headcount this year showed 144,532 students, with further declines projected for the rest of the decade.

There are now 73,000 elementary school children attending 162 county schools which have 16,600 empty seats. With no closings at all, the staff presently projects more than 20,000 empty elementary seats next year. The areas to be studied represent about 55% of the elementary school population.

Consequences

According to the staff, some of the existing elementary schools have fewer than two-thirds of the students they were designed to serve. But for each, the entire building still must be heated and maintained, which means the school system must spend more money than actually is needed to educate those children. There's also an educational factor: In schools with small enrollments, it often is difficult and expensive to provide the specialized resources and personnel necessary to assure a quality education, while other mandatory staffing may be more than really is needed to serve that number of students. "Obviously," said Superintendent Feeney in discussing the issue, "if we're concerned about wise and efficient use of the taxpayers' dollars, we must attempt to eliminate some of those unneeded classroom seats."

Greenbelt's representative on the Board, Lesley Kreimer, said that while studies need to be made with respect to the underenrollment picture, "I do not feel it is educationally advantageous to operate schools at full capacity. It helps to have some open or unused space for regroupings and special programs."

Elementary Schools Attended by Greenbelt Students

Schools	Capacity	9/30/76 Enrollment		9/77 Projected Enrollment		Approx. # Greenbelters Attending
		No.	% of Capacity	No.	% of Capacity	
Springhill Lake	660	666	100.9	660	100.0	448
Center School	550	430	78.2	415	75.5	246
North End	540	403	74.6	385	71.3	201
John Carroll	630	337	53.5	315	50.0	98*
Oakerest	570	654	114.7	615	107.9	**

*Students live in Center & North End Attendance Areas

**Number of Students residing in Springhill Lake who attend Oakerest unavailable

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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Published every Thursday by Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Assn., Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 Pres., Al Skolnik; Vice-Pres., Sid Kastner; Secy., Barbara Likowski; Treas., Roberta McNamara, Mary Colombo.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$10.00 per year. Advertising and news articles may be mailed (Box 68 Greenbelt); deposited in our box at the Twin Pines Office; or delivered to the editorial office in the basement of 15 Parkway (474-1131), open after 8 p.m. Tuesday. Deadline is 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

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County Human Relations Hears GHI Case

To the Editor:

The Prince Georges County Human Relations Commission has received several complaints of alleged violation by Greenbelt Homes Inc. of CB-1-1972 which prohibits discrimination against a person because of race, color, sex, national origin, occupation, marital status, political opinion, and personal appearance. These complaints resulted from the following:

1) The GHI board denied a request by a member to permit persons that were not family members to share a GHI home.

2) The GHI board denied a request for membership by two people who do not belong to the same family, desiring to jointly buy and occupy a GHI home.

3) A member of the GHI sales staff allegedly informed a prospective renter that it was against the GHI policy to rent a unit to be shared by non-family members. Each of these actions is consistent with the long-standing policy of the corporation and set forth in our contract (p. 7a), by-laws and policies established by the board.

According to the Human Relations Commission interpretation of the county ordinance, as set forth in a letter from Executive Director William Welch Sr. to Mayor Weidenfeld in another case, occupancy standards must be based on the number of occupants, as specified in the county housing code with no regard to family relationship.

Until now the GHI board has respected individual's right to privacy and has handled all negotiations through our attorney. However, as noted in the November 18, 1976 edition of the News Review, the Human Relations Commission called a formal, public hearing on one case. The hearing began on December 6 1976 and is to be continued on December 14, 1976.

I believe the board's actions are consistent with the contract, by-laws, long established policy and the will of the majority of GHI membership.

James W. Smith
 President
 Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

Off to a Jazzy Start

by Muriel Weidenfeld

A festive atmosphere prevailed at the opening of the December 6 meeting of the Prince George's County Board of Education.

Newly elected Board Members Susan Bienasz and JoAnn Bell and newly re-elected member Maureen Steinecke were sworn in and welcomed.

Jesse J. Warr Jr. and Norman H. Saunders were elected to serve as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, by unanimous vote.

Four lively selections played by the Greenbelt Junior High School Jazz Ensemble directed by Instrumental Director Donald Cohen added to the festive air.

Chairman Warr expressed his thanks to the musicians and to Principal Charles Collins of Greenbelt Junior High.

Optimistic comments were made by board members who felt that the beginning of this new session was the ideal time to begin to work more constructively together and Col. Whiting offered an amusing marriage ceremony to bind together the nine board members in political matrimony.

Here is hoping the honeymoon will be a long-lasting one.

CITY NOTES

The general crew spent several days last week working with the concrete contractor. Work was done on Westway and the sidewalk along Crescent Road.

All tulip bulbs have been planted, including some in Springhill Lake. Several full time members of the park crew along with people from the court program raked leaves from the park above the Center underpass on Saturdays.

Fuchs - Preist

Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Fuchs of Greenbelt announce the marriage of their daughter, Valerie Lynn Fuchs, to William W. Priest of Texas on Friday, November 26. The couple will live in Riverdale.

THANKS

To the Editor:

The Greenbelt Lion Belles wish to thank all the people who attended our Christmas Fashion Show last Wednesday evening. We were able to raise enough money to enable the House of Ruth to have a more cheerful Christmas.

Louise Moore, Chairperson

Town Meeting at Roosevelt

The next Town Meeting for Prince Georges County citizens will be held on Wed., Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. at the new Eleanor Roosevelt High School. All residents of the 24th legislative district, which includes the city of Greenbelt, are invited to attend and bring their concerns to the attention of their elected officials. Representatives of the County, State and Federal governments, as well as school board representatives, will be on hand.

Citizens need not sign up in advance to speak at the meeting. All speakers will be heard on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, contact the Prince Georges County Community Affairs, Office, 952-3780.

City Plants Trees

Besides the tree planting ceremony at Roosevelt High School (as reported in last week's News Review), the city also planted two other trees adjacent to the Bicentennial flower bed on Lakecrest Drive at Greenbelt Road.

One of the trees was a European linden donated by city employees as a memorial to Ralph E. Diest. Mr. Diest, a long-time employee of the city public works department, died last April.

The second tree was a six-foot Bradford pear donated by Prince Georges County as part of the city's second prize award in the county-wide "Beautify for the Bicentennial" contest.

Mishkan Torah News

Mishkan Torah services will be led by members of the Men's Club on Fri., Dec. 10 at 8:30 p.m. Sat. services begin at 9:30 a.m.

The film "Me and the Colonel," starring Danny Kaye will be shown on Sat. at 8 p.m. There is a fee.

MOWATT MEMORIAL

United Methodist Church

Church School 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship 11 a.m.

Sermon: "Different Plateaus of Christmas"

Rev. Clifton D. Cunningham,

Pastor

474-3381 40 Ridge Rd. 474-9410

Family Film Presentation

"ME AND THE COLONEL"

starring

Danny Kaye and an All-Star Cast

SAT., DEC. 11 at 8 P.M.

at the

Mishkan Torah, Ridge & Westway

DONATION \$3.50 non-members — \$1.50 pre-teens & Senior Citizens (refreshments included)

Further information call 681-7880

BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The City Council is seeking resumes from Greenbelt residents who are interested in serving on city boards or committees. Vacancies currently exist on the

Advisory Planning Board

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Advisory Committee on Elderly Housing

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Citizens Advisory Committees on

1 - Public Safety

2 - Human Resources

and interested persons may obtain further information by calling the City Offices, 474-3870 or 474-8000.

Gudrun H. Mills
 City Clerk

GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

(United Church of Christ).

Hillside and Crescent Roads - Phone 474-6171 (mornings)

Sunday - 11 a.m. - Worship Service and Church School

(Infant Care at 2-B Hillside)

Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - Advent Communion Breakfast

Rev. Sherry Taylor and Rev. Harry Taylor, Ministers

Greenbelt Choral Arts Society

PRESENTS

Heinrich Shutz' CHRISTMAS ORATORIO
 and Benjamin Britten's CEREMONY OF CAROLS
 on Friday, December 17, at 8:30 p.m.

at the Greenbelt Community Church

Music Director: Douglas Freeman

Guest Conductor: David Hardin

Harpist: Wendy Millar

No Admission Charge

It's still good news

God loves YOU

Discover this for YOUR life.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

474-4212

Bible Study for all ages (Sun)

9:45 am

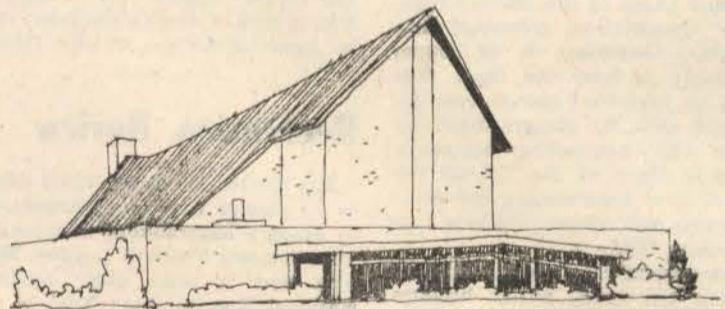
Sunday Worship

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Mid-week Service (Wed)

7:30 pm

For bus transportation, call church office 8:30-12:30 weekdays



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Road

Worship Services: 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.

Weekday Nursery School: 9-11:30 a.m.

Edward H. Birner, Pastor

Phone 945-5411

Christmas Tree Sale

sponsored by Cub Scout Pack 202
 and Boy Scout Troop 1746

Starts Saturday, Dec. 11

weekend hours 9 - 9

weekday hours 3 - 9

Free chance on 10-speed bike
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PRICES OF TREES WILL BE POSTED

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7 p.m.

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CLASSIFIED

\$1.50 for a 10-word minimum. 10c for each additional word. Submit ads in writing, accompanied by cash payment, either to the News Review office at 15 Parkway, before 10 p.m. of the Tuesday preceding publication, or to the Twin Pines Savings and Loan office. There is no charge for advertising items that are found.

CALDWELL'S WASHER SERVICE. All makes expertly repaired. Authorized Whirlpool dealer. GR 4-5515.

PIANO TUNING AND REPAIR - Expert and Reliable Piano Service to Greenbelt since 1960. Benjamin Berkofsky 474-6894.

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LIGHT HAULING, w/ pick-up Truck. Call Mike after 4:30, 474-8401.

LAMPS REPAIRED - Floor and Table types. Call evenings 474-5530.

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DRIVER - SHL to 18th & G Sts., N.W. Drive every third week. 8:30 to 5. 345-1636.

FOR SALE, 2 bedroom Co-op, near stores & schools, additional rooms, storage & porch. 474-7525.

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Expert antenna man will install new/repair antenna for
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Evenings
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CERAMIC TILE - Bathrooms - New work and repairs, call 935-0791. Free estimates.

ANTIQUUE GUN AUCTION: 120 antique guns, Kentuckies, Colts, Remingtons, Civil War Muskets & Carbines. From John Lauth Collection et al. Tues., Dec. 21, 7 P.M., Holiday Inn, College Park, Md., Jet. Rt. 1 & Capital Beltway Inspection 6-7. Terms cash. Consignments accepted.

CARPENTRY, custom radiator covers, built-in shelves, finished basements etc. Prompt service - Reasonable rates, 441-9560 - 552-2824.



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COMPANION wanted to help with semi-invalid. Hours flexible. Call 474-6443 evenings.

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474-5700

-One BR downstairs, wooded backyard \$9,975.

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-3 BR frame, low, low priced \$14,950.

-Masonry Townhouse 3 BR with solar heating system. \$24,500.

-Close to NASA Beautiful Brick home, C.A., large landscape lot, Fireplace, Immaculate. & \$65,500.

-Bowie-Glendale, V.A. appraised \$49,500 - 3 BR, 2 Bath brick rambler on Dead end Street. Large level lot backs up to woods.

Call to see our listings in Bowie, Lanham, Hampshire Estate, Hampshire Gardens, Hollywood . . .

SALE - clothing, towels, telescope, geology lab. Childcraft, cot, many others. Any day after 11 a.m. 474-7565.

1974 PONTIAC GRAND VILLE 2-door H.T. AM/FM stereo radio; a/c; p.b. p.s., power seats, power window and door locks. White w/ black int., vinyl top. Call 474-4897 or 474-5900.

1970 DODGE CHALLENGER, V-8; auto trans. \$450 call 474-4897 or 474-5900.

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Would you like to join working with us and have the company GIVE you:

*PROMOTIONAL TRIP to San Francisco for a whole week next year including meals and lodging? (Spouses are welcome too!)

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*RETIREMENT SECURITY in earlier age?

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Lovely first floor frame apt. with large fenced yard - nicely improved - ra/ref/air cond. Occ. when sold.



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DEPOSIT ON A REGULAR BASIS

RELAX AND ENJOY NEXT SEASON'S HOLIDAYS

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(An Agency of the State of Maryland)
Insures each account to \$40,000.00

NOTARY SERVICE (free to account holders)
MONEY ORDERS 20c up to \$250.00
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featuring **SUNNY DAZE ORCHESTRA**

9 p.m. to 2 a.m. December 31 - Jan. 1

DOOR PRIZES - BUFFET - SET-UPS

Grenoble Hall	Before Dec. 15 - \$10/Couple
St. Hugh's Church	Dec. 15-26 - \$25/Couple
Crescent Road	After Dec. 26 - \$30/Couple

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