

Zoning Change Petition Viewed With Disfavor APB Seeks Single Family Homes

by Elaine Skolnik

The Advisory Planning Board (APB), Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and the Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) Board of Directors reacted unfavorably to the rezoning petitions for 10.2 acres on Parcels 3 and 4. (See separate stories.) The parcels are located along the northern border of Greenbelt on the east and west, respectively, of Research Rd. Owners (Lerner, Ammerman and Reiner, Trustees) are requesting that the zoning be changed from R-R (single family) to R-T (townhouses: 10 units an acre).

The County College Park-Greenbelt Master Plan adopted in March 1969 proposes that parcel 3 remain single family (R-30) and parcel 4 be developed R-T. At that time, the city council was in agreement with the proposed zoning.

The County Zoning Hearing Examiner is not expected to hold a hearing on the parcels for at least a year. Then Prince Georges County Council, sitting as District Council, will make the final decision. A super-majority (8 out of 11 members) would be needed to override the wishes of the city of Greenbelt.

APB Reaction

APB on February 14 voted to recommend to the city council that it oppose R-T zoning for parcels 3 and 4 because such development would (1) eliminate needed green space and overcrowd North End, (2) cause severe parking problems in the area, (3) increase noise and air pollution, (4) encourage upward zoning of nearby parcels in the North End, threatening the historic open character of the community, (5) violate the intent of the National Historic Register, and (6) violate the county policy to encourage lower-density development. The motion was offered by Anthony F. McCarthy.

Attorney for the owners, Edward Gibbs of Shipley, Knight, Manzi and Zanecki, said that it was logical for parcels 3 and 4 to have the same zoning. Townhouses, he said, would be compatible with the GHI homes, which are shown as R-T on the Master Plan. Gibbs also noted that townhouses would foster individual private ownership and allow green space to be centrally located.

Gibbs said there were no site plan or plats developed. Eileen Turner said it would have been helpful to view plans first before making a decision.

Anthony McCarthy and Turner spoke of the need for single family homes in Greenbelt. But Gibbs said, "Townhouses often represent the only way for people to own homes." Ron Colton thought the market for single family homes is "incredibly strong here."

McCarthy and councilman Charles Schwan, council liaison, zeroed in on the imbalance of multifamily apartments in Greenbelt. "The limited amount of land available for single family homes must be preserved," said Schwan, who noted that only a small percentage

of housing in Greenbelt is in free standing homes.

According to Dennis Piendak, assistant city manager, Greenbelt has 4,700 garden apartment units, 1,600 GHI units, 865 townhouses (includes a completed Windsor Green development), 700 Greenbriar condominium units and 495 free-standing single family homes.

McCarthy observed that "there is no way for a person or family to go through a logical progression from apartment to single family dwelling. Current residents are denied the ability to grow with the city."

Parcels 1 and 2

McCarthy was also concerned that upward rezoning of parcels 3 and 4 to a higher density would create a "domino-effect," and the developers would then request R-T zonings for parcels 1 and 2 (Lerner, Ammerman and Reiner). Some 123 acres of undeveloped land comprise these parcels (including 10 acres the city is condemning which are located in the North-eastern section of Greenbelt between Ridge Road (GHI homes) and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. (Not included are 72+ acres previously slated for 3 schools which has been declared county surplus.)

Gibbs told the committee that the four rezoning petitions on parcels 1 and 2, which were left in limbo in 1971, were amended in December 1978. The owners are now requesting R-T zoning. Previous petitions had requested R-30 zoning (garden apartments, 14 units an acre).

Schwan pointed out that the city agrees with the master plan recommendations for parcel 1: the majority of the land proposed for single family, the remainder R-T. Gibbs said, "The Master Plan is only a recommendation of the county council."

Other Concerns

Questions about parking, sewage, roads and green space were also raised. R-T zoning requires 1½ parking spaces per townhouse. APB members felt this would be inadequate since parking in the Research road area (6, 7, 8, 9 GHI courts) is already tight.

Most of parcels 3 and 4 are in sewage systems #6 - no sewage planned within 10 years. Therefore, the owners can be expected to ask the county council to place the land in systems 1 - immediate sewage available. The southern

See ZONING p. 3, col. 4

PRAB Also Opposes Rezoning of Parcels

by Jean Marie Gainey

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on February 14 voted unanimously to recommend that city council not support rezoning of Parcels 3 and 4.

The zoning amendment, which concerns a 10.3-acre parcel of land just off Research Road along the boundary of the Agricultural Center, would rezone the area from rural residential (three to four units per acre) to residential townhouses, a possibility of 100 houses (10 per acre).

Vice-Chairman Toni Bram suggested that the rezoning of the area to residential townhouse may lead to the possibility of commercial zoning in the area also, as there are now no stores or other such facilities there.

Chairman Ronald Ott reported that Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) does not want the land rezoned. A petition drive opposing R-T development is also underway.

Earlier in the evening Ott attended part of the Advisory Planning Board's (APB) meeting, which was being held simultaneously. He informed PRAB members that APB's decision was heading toward a recommendation that the zoning remain as is.

Board member Joe Wilkinson's motion, on which PRAB voted unanimously, consisted of four parts: (1) maintain R-R zoning, (2) insist on mandatory dedication of open space (not funds in lieu of dedication), (3) require a site plan be submitted before the acceptance of the dedication of parkland, and (4) take into consideration the "undisciplined" land development program which in the past has served to benefit developers rather than citizens.

The recommendations of PRAB and APB will go to City Council at its next regular meeting.

Dial 911 for Fire/Rescue

by Wayne Lewis

During winter weather, snow often makes it more difficult for you to receive the fast emergency help you may need. You can help us to do our job more quickly by doing the following tasks:

1) make sure the path to your home is free from ice and snow;
2) clear snow from around any fire hydrant in your area so it is easy to get to if the need should arise.

A heart attack may occur if you attempt to remove large amounts of snow and are not up to this type of exercise. Use caution while you attempt this activity and rest frequently. If you need assistance don't delay in calling for it.

Record Snow Buries Greenbelt, City Crews and Citizens Dig Out

by Mary Lou Williamson and Barbara Likowski

The snowstorm which hit Greenbelt Sunday night dropped 24 inches of snow in 21 hours. Drifts of up to 5 or 6 feet blocked Greenbelt Road Monday morning. Only in the Knickerbocker Storm of 1922 was more snow recorded: 25 inches in 24 hours. Fortunately Greenbelt police and fire departments reported a minimum of problems during and after the storm.

Even in Greenbelt — known for its quick and efficient snow removal — everything ground to a halt. Early Monday morning roads were impassable — city and state crews had been unable to keep up with the plowing. Even Tuesday morning few ventured out the narrow, 1 to 1½ lane roads that were cleared and some were not. Children had no school for the 7th day this year, many county and federal government workers were excused and stayed at home — no Metro buses ran Monday and none were seen in the core of Greenbelt until late Tuesday. After the snow ended at noon Monday, residents could be seen digging out cars that were completely covered, walking to the center or just out to see the beautiful snow — they called friendly greetings to strangers or stopped to chat gaily with friends.

The snow was so deep cars looked like mounds of white meringue with only an occasional aerial showing. Along sidewalks just the tops of high hedges stuck up out of the snow; in yards sleds and other small objects were lost beneath the white blanket, and low shrubs had become rounded humps.

One woman, looking out of the upstairs window at teenagers having a snowball fight Monday, thought, at first, they were on their knees. After watching for awhile, she realized how deep the snow was. Her husband, coming to the window to look, said "Why are those kids on their knees?" The waist deep snow was hard to believe.

Snow Removal

Snow removal in Greenbelt started on Sunday afternoon with crews working continuously. Primary roads in the core of Greenbelt such as Ridge and Crescent, were open Monday, but some secondary roads were still not plowed by noon Tuesday. Plowing was good in Boxwood and other single family areas. However, residential deadend streets were not plowed.

Apartment parking lots and drives that are not the city's responsibility have presented problems. Tenants did their own digging out in the Greenbelt Plaza apartments. People living in the GDC apartments were seen shoveling out their cars with dust pans. The SHL

How to Help

City crews have had a great deal of difficulty clearing Greenbelt's narrow residential streets. If possible, residents are requested to keep cars off streets or park cars as close to the curb as possible.

Assistance is needed from residents to uncover fire hydrants and clear drain inlets.

A potentially serious problem is the lack of concern shown by pedestrians as they walk in the roads. Pedestrians should be aware that people driving vehicles on snow do not have the greatest control. Additionally, youngsters playing in the street have slowed down the plow, which loses momentum and efficiency at lower speeds.

CITY REFUSE PICK-UP

The city is expected to begin refuse pick-up again Friday and Saturday. Residents are requested to place refuse containers in cleared walks or driveways. Crews cannot be expected to wade through deep snow.

Because of the heavy snow and lack of labor the city has been unable to pick up refuse or paper earlier this week.

Residents are asked to save paper for next week's collection.

Management, when asked how their roads were, said: "Bad, bad, bad. There is only one-way traffic on the main roads plowed by the city, and our parking lots are just as bad." Giese explained that cars which were double parked in the SHL streets prevented snow plows from clearing a wider swath, a problem the plows faced all over town, but was worse in apartment areas where there were more cars. SHL employees were busy digging out parking lots and drives — but only those employees who live in SHL were able to get to work.

According to Giese double-parked cars along Edmonston Rd. could present a hazard should fire vehicles need to get through.

No salt has been used thus far as the salt pile is frozen. Also the front-end loader which would be needed to load salt into city spreaders was being used for snow removal.

See SNOW, p. 7, col. 3

Farm Family From Kansas Visits Here

A Greenbelt couple heard WTOP-Radio personality and garden expert Jack Eden suggest that Washingtonians should show their friendliness by inviting a farmer home to dinner.

Hearing the suggestion, Robert and Lilly Krider, 1-F Westway, stopped painting their living room and decided to do just that. After a quick trip to Fort Tractor, as the Mall is called these days, Robert soon met a farm couple from St. Francis, Kansas, Harvey and Alice Lampe, who accepted the Krider's invitation and were driven to Greenbelt for dinner.

After dinner, which included steak and homemade wine, the Kriders and their guests spent the evening getting acquainted. The

Lampes were then driven back to their tractor and camper on the Mall.

The Lampes, members of the visiting Tractorcade of the American Agriculture Movement, are family farmers encamped in Washington after a 1600-mile tractor ride to make their point that the controlled prices they must accept for their crops aren't enough to meet expenses. According to the Lampes, the family farm is in real danger of extinction — unless the Government allows crop prices to be set by the market. They grow wheat, corn and raise some beef cattle and pigs. "If you eat, you are involved," say the Lampes, to anyone who stops to chat about farm problems.

The Kriders again brought the Lampes to Greenbelt, the day before the big snow — and the Lampes became snow-bound for the night. The next day they helped shovel their Westway hosts out of the snow and by late Monday were able to rejoin the Tractorcade on the Mall. The Lampes plan to depart for Kansas this coming week — probably with pleasant memories of their Greenbelt welcome. They have invited Bob and Lilly to visit them in Kansas, something the Kriders say they will do with pleasure.

Sunday morning, the Kriders were interviewed by Jack Eden over WTOP-Radio concerning the visit of the Lampes to Greenbelt.



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

February 26, 1979

Monday,

8:00 P.M.

I. ORGANIZATION

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Meditation
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
4. Minutes of Council Meetings.
5. Additions to Agenda by Councilmen and Manager

II. COMMUNICATIONS

6. Petitions and Requests
7. Administrative Reports
8. Committee Reports

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

9. An Ordinance to Appropriate from the Replacement Fund out of Existing Replacement Reserves for the Repair of W9B Loader Engine Assembly — First Reading
10. A Resolution to Authorize the City Manager to Negotiate the Purchase of Major Repairs to the W9B Loader Engine Assembly from The Chesapeake Supply & Equipment Co. — First Reading
11. Bid Award — Playground Equipment
12. State Legislation
13. Board and Committee Appointments
14. Election Precincts
15. Referendum — Baltimore-Washington Parkway Overpass
16. WSSC Sewer Line — Lake Park
17. Citizens Concerned for Cleaner County
18. Letter of Welcome for "Welcome Wagon"
19. Basketball Game — Greenbelt/Laurel

V. MISCELLANEOUS

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda subject to change.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$15 per year. Advertising and news articles may be mailed (Box 68, Greenbelt); deposited in our box at the Twin Pines Office before 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; or delivered to the editorial office in the basement of 15 Parkway. (474-4131). The office is open Monday after 8 pm for display advertising; deadline is 10 pm. News articles and classified ads are accepted after 8 pm on Tuesday; deadline is 10 pm.

Volume 42, Number 14

Thursday, February 22, 1979

Digging Out '79

A wonderful thing started happening on Tuesday morning — that was the day after the big snowstorm. The News Review phone, as they say, kept ringing off the hook. The message, always the same, went something like this: "Please express my thanks to my wonderful neighbors. Without them I never would have gotten my car out. They helped me to dig a path to the street. Let me use the paper to tell them thanks." We confess that at first we wanted to print those messages. Our own experiences of neighborhood solidarity surely confirmed their accounts. But as the calls continued to come in, it finally dawned on us: this was a city-wide phenomenon. If we printed all the personal testimonials, there'd be no room for zoning matters and governmental decisions—all those "important" things.

What we mean to say is that the community spirit signaled in all those Thank You notes that we're not printing is the important story. All over town neighbors gathered to help each other out, planning strategies to work their cars free from the snowdrifts. Oldtimers and younger neighbors shoveled side by side.

No, we'll never forget the great snow of '79. Truly it brought us together.

Petition Campaign

To the Editor:

A petition campaign got underway on February 1 to oppose the rezoning of Parcels 3 and 4 on Ridge and Research Roads from single family homes to townhouses.

Being the eternal optimist that I am, I predict that we get at least 500 signatures. That's pretty good for 3½ weeks of work and inclement weather.

Please feel free (at this late date) to offer to carry a petition. The reception I have gotten has been overwhelmingly in favor of opposing rezoning.

My phone number is: 345-8630 if you're interested in helping out. We need all the help we can get.

Irene Hensel
 Petition Campaign
 Chairperson

Wanted: Safe, Direct Route To the Editor:

I am a student at Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School, which could be a one mile walk from my home, but two miles by a dangerous road. I would like a relatively safe, direct route that I can use when I want or need to walk. I am not so fond of walking that I want to go a half mile out of my way while carrying a large pile of books. These two desires place me in favor of the Gardenway site.

Because I favor the Gardenway site, I am told the reason I want to go through Greenbriar is to vandalize their property, to disturb the residents with unruly behavior. I am told that I am blackmailing the city because I do not wish to cross the Parkway or walk the extra half-mile to Mandan Road and then walk to school in the street. (The only sidewalks along Mandan lead to residential buildings.) It is ironic that the only students who are being prevented from crossing the Parkway are the ones who really only want to go to school.

I am a citizen of Old Greenbelt. All I have wanted is a reasonably direct, convenient route to get to activities at ERHS, or visit my friends in Greenbriar, or be able to go to the Greenway Shopping Center easily. All of these benefits are two-way.

I understand the Greenbriar residents' fears of vandalism, but I can tell you that I, too, live next to a major thoroughfare. It is true that there is some extra noise, litter, etc., but I would not trade these problems for loss of the quick, direct access I now have to most parts of the city.

All I want is to properly sew up a tear in the beautifully tailored fabric of Greenbelt.

Alan Amberg

Concordia College Choir At Holy Cross Church

The Concordia Choir of Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan, will present a concert at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Road on Wed., Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m. The choir, under the direction of Dr. Paul Foelber, will present music from the 16th to 20th centuries, and they will also sing settings of chorales, folk songs and spirituals.

The concert will be given as part of the Ash Wednesday observance at Holy Cross, marking the first day of Lent.

Labor Day Festival 1979 25th Anniversary Plans

by Catherine Meetre

Planning for the 25th Labor Day Festival is just beginning and it is hoped that this year's will be the best ever. In order to do that, the members of our community are requested to volunteer their services. Whether or not you have any special skills, your help can be used in many capacities. Please call one of the following for more information: Catherine Meetre, 474-0490; Beverly Colvin, 474-8479; Betty Sonneveldt, 345-1033.

The committee is particularly interested in hearing from those who have participated in planning the festivities in the past; the further back the better. It is hoped that a special committee will be formed to generate ideas to make the 25th anniversary extra special — so if you have ideas, please contact any of those listed above for more information.

Boys and Girls Club

The 15 and under girls' basketball team is doing very well this season. After losing their first game they came back to win their next five games and could be heading for county play-offs. Team members are: Joanne Capotosto, Theresa Downs, Da Houl, Julie Kane, Diane Maxwell, Beth Nugent, Cindy Osborne, and Claudia Watters.

Game Schedule: Saturday, Feb. 24, Springhill Lake Recreation Center; 9 a.m. — 10 Boys, 10 a.m. — 14 Boys. Tuesday, Feb. 27, Youth Center, 6 p.m. — 10 Boys; 7 p.m. — 12 Boys; 8 p.m. — 17 Boys; 9 p.m. — 18 Girls.

One player's name was inadvertently omitted from the Girls 18 and under basketball team—Patty Osborne.

Serving Human Life Best

To the Editor:

Granted that I live in GHI Greenbelt and not Greenbriar, I nonetheless cannot understand how those residents in Phase I can put human life second to "maybe" and "what if." They say "what if there should be crime from use of a conveniently located walkway over the Parkway, 'maybe' there will be vandalism, 'what if' their privacy is imperiled because a few people walk through a parking lot.

The danger to human life is no "maybe" or "what if." It has already happened. A boy was killed crossing the Parkway five and a half years ago. I will admit that up to now no one has been killed or seriously maimed crossing the bridge, though I can only be grateful that we have been so lucky.

I would say this: the GHI area has less crime than some other sections of Greenbelt, and Greenbelt itself has a very low crime rate compared with other suburban communities. Fears of would-be criminals crossing the footpath are chimerical. In any event, there are gates that could be shut after dark should this prove to be a real danger.

GHI has an inner walkway system. Essentially the walkway over the parkway would be a part of this. Several thousand people have lived in the older portion of Greenbelt without jeopardizing their privacy or property. Most of these insist that they like the inner walkways.

I find it impossible to believe that the near hysteria over in Phase I is justified. Who or what so stirred them up with empty fears?

Three members of the City Council refused to be panicked by emotional arguments merely because a great crowd was voicing them. They are accused of being guilty of failure to consider the wishes of the large group present at the meeting. Elected officials are not in office merely to reflect the wishes of the majority. If they were, all we would ever need to govern would be opinion polls.

Elected officials are there to use their good judgment. If three of the council feel that human life is best served by an intelligently located walkway over the Parkway, then I say congratulations to them for having the integrity to stand before an emotional crowd and not be swayed. Katherine Keene

Mishkan Torah Notes

The Mishkan Torah Players will present a sermon-in-drama "Jewish Women . . . Fact and Fancy" on Friday, Feb. 23, at 8 p.m. Interested persons are welcome.

Police Blotter

A 69 year old resident of the Convalescent Center is listed in fair condition at a local hospital. The man who was reported missing from the Center on Wednesday evening, had apparently wandered out of the building. He was found by Officer O'Neil two hours later lying in the snow approximately 20 feet from the building and was transported to the hospital.

Investigation is being conducted into the reported larceny of over \$2,000 from a savings and loan office in the Center.

A residence on Lakeside Drive was reportedly broken into during the week. A small amount of money was reported taken. Investigation is continuing.

Officer Murray has returned to light duty after being off for a week due to injuries he received while attempting to block a car driven by a person suspected of armed robbery. Car #10 is still out of service due to this accident and the city is awaiting appraisal of damages by the insurance company on this vehicle. Car #5 is also out of service and has been for several weeks as the city mechanic is attempting to rebuild the motor and other necessary repairs.

The 21 year old non-resident who was charged in November of tampering with vehicles in the Greenbriar area, was found guilty in District Court this week. He will be sentenced after a pre-sentence investigation is completed.

The suspect charged with assaulting PFC Watkins at the Beltway Plaza in December was found guilty of assault this week. He was given a year's probation.

Golden Age Club

by Blanche E. Lee

In spite of prevailing winter weather about sixty members of the Golden Age Club turned out for the Valentine party and luncheon at the Youth Center on February 14. Seniors are all good cooks as evidenced by the gourmet dishes they brought to the luncheon. The food was delicious and plentiful and served from Valentine decorated tables complete with heart-shaped favors. Esther Williams and her committee had charge of the party and received a big hand from the appreciative members.

On the program was an interesting travel film of Vermont shown by Debra Bourbeau and arranged by travel chairman, Zelpha Parsons.

The travel chairman is planning a group trip to Baltimore with lunch at the famous Haussner's Restaurant and side shopping trip for Tuesday, March 6. There are still some seats available on the bus and members may invite relatives and friends. Call Mrs. Parsons for reservations.

In addition reservations are now being made for the annual North Wildwood, New Jersey trip, September 10 to 14. As this is a very popular trip call the travel chairman as soon as possible.

There will be tours from May to October. For information and reservations call 345-3904.

Garden Plots Available

Gardeners who have not signed up for their plots may still do so by contacting their area captains, J. Singletary - 459-1958, GHI North; Lora Tanner - 474-5825, Furey; Tom Ramey - 474-4623, GHI South Warehouse; Marlyn Fowler - 474-5898, Upper and Lower Ridge; Bill Tharpe - 345-2999, Landfill; Darius McHenry - 345-7774 - 11 Southway.

MOWATT MEMORIAL

United Methodist Church
 40 Ridge Rd. 474-9410
 Church School 9:30-10:30 a.m.
 Morning Worship 11 a.m.
 (Cribbery and Nursery provided)
 Sermon:
 HELPING THE HELPLESS.
 Rev. Clifton D. Cunningham
 Pastor - 474-3381

Put feet on your prayers.

Give expression to your faith.

Let God's Word speak to your life.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

474-4212

Crescent & Greenhill Roads

Bible Study for all ages (Sun)	9:45 am
Worship services	11:00 am & 7:00 pm
Mid-week prayer service (Wed.)	8:00 pm

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

Greenbelt Community Church

(United Church of Christ)

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

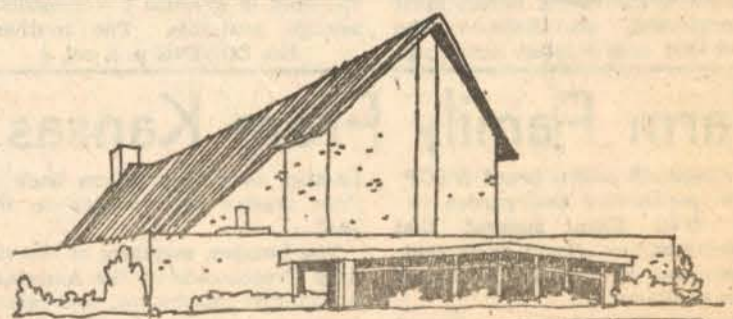
Sunday

Church School for all - 9:45

Worship Service - 11 a.m.

Nursery provided at 2B Hillside

Rev. Sherry Taylor and Rev. Harry Taylor, co-pastors



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 345-5111

Scholarships Avail'ble

In an effort to reach people normally passed over by other scholarship programs, including people in rehabilitative programs or beginning mid-life careers, the three delegates from Maryland's 24th legislative district have pooled the scholarships which they may award to people in their district and appointed an impartial search and selection committee to review the scholarship applications, interview the candidates and make the final selection of award recipients.

The delegates urge those living in the 24th District who would like to attend college in Maryland to apply, whether or not they feel they are eligible. For more information about the program, or an application form, contact Delegate Devlin, Pitkin, or Ryan at the Lowe House Office Building, Suite 208, Annapolis Maryland 21401; or call their toll-free number 261-1402 ext. 2427, 2428, or 2429.

Parent Discussion Group

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Parent Discussion Group will be Wed., Feb. 28. The meeting will be held at the Greenbelt Baptist Church from 9:30-11:30 a.m. The group will continue the discussion of "self-esteem". For more information, please call Betty Hughes at 277-5816.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Episcopal

Baltimore Blvd. at Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville

8 a.m. Holy Communion
 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
 Rev. John G. Bals, Rector
 422-8057

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

(Episcopal)

4512 College Ave., College Park (1 blk. East of Book Exchange)

Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 27
 Pancake Supper 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
 Contribution

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Eucharist 12:00 noon and
 8:00 P.M.

Rev. A. Moody Burt, Rector

Proposed Amendment to Mutual Ownership Contract Discussed by GHI Board of Directors

by Sid Kasfner

Some preliminary measures deemed necessary, by the board of Greenbelt Homes, for the rehabilitation project to get underway were discussed at last Thursday's regular meeting. These include a proposed amendment to the mutual ownership contract which would enable insurance to be obtained on loans for the project, resulting in a lower interest rate. Meetings were set up to move ahead with other details of the project.

Deputy General Manager Kenneth Kopstein sitting in for Roy Breashears who was absent due to illness, gave a report on the status of financing sources the staff is exploring. The board also received the draft of a proposed new policy on heating charges for members' additions, from the Engineering and Maintenance committee.

The staff has drawn up a program to inform members of the need for voluntary signing of an amendment to GHI's mutual ownership contract, which presently does not have a subordination clause enabling outside lenders (banks, etc.) to give low-interest-rate insured loans to GHI. The staff's approach as described by Kopstein, will be to place explanatory articles in the "GHI Newsletter" and in the News Review, and to setup local member meetings at which questions can be answered. Letters will be sent directly to all members describing the amendment of which a copy will be attached. The amendment itself is a short one and has already been drafted by corporation counsel Albert Ginsberg; it reads, in part, that the member will "subordinate my/our Mutual Ownership Contract to financing for rehabilitation purposes . . ."

This restriction of the amendment to "financing for rehabilitation" only will be stressed also in a letter to come to each member from GHI's President. Answering questions by member Betty Denson, chairman James Smith explained that if the neces-

sary majority of members signs the subordination amendment, the interest rate GHI will be subject to on its loans will drop from the current 12 1/2% to 7%; and stated that the board can make decisions on such changes in the ownership contract.

Member Carl Conrad extended the discussion to the scope of the rehabilitation project itself, asking whether the work will include items described in a consultants' (Mueller) report he has seen. Smith replied that there would be little overlap, whereupon Conrad expressed chagrin that "more millions of dollars" will have to be spent beyond the five million slated for the rehabilitation project. Smith and director Wayne Williams noted that the Mueller report deals with other areas — plumbing, heating plants, etc. — that have deteriorated over the years, and that the report is a "first step" toward defining problems that will need to be dealt with in the future. Smith observed that "we're dealing with the high priority items only now" and acknowledged that "yes, we may be faced with more expense (later on)."

Historic Preservation Loans

Manager Kopstein reported, among other financing items, that he had received a letter from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which described in favorable terms, "historic preservation loans" which may amount up to \$7500 per housing unit; such loans will be assumable by new owners of the unit, also.

Heating

As a negative part of his manager's report he noted that oil prices have risen 4 1/2% in a short period. This information seemed to set the stage for introduction of a policy for heating charges on members' additions, by Ralph Barnes on behalf of the Engineering and Maintenance committee. The policy essentially consists of a formula which compares the average "R" value (insulating capacity) of a member's addition to the average R value of GHI's units. Director Norman Weyel criticized the formula on grounds

that it might reduce charges below a fair level; Barnes responded that the given worked example (provided with the policy draft) assumed an almost perfectly insulated addition, not achievable in practice. The general application of the policy appeared to present other problems to directors Donald Volk and Bobbi McCarthy — the former said "we should check on what commitment we've previously given to members who built an addition" and McCarthy asked about extending the policy to the original units, an idea which was argued against by Smith. The latter finally asked the staff to review the formula and policy and come back to the board with a recommendation.

After this discussion pro and con, member Robert Wilhide, whose petition prompted the policy in the first place, good-humoredly spoke up, saying "I'm your thorn in the side; the Engineering and Maintenance committee has produced a formula for you (the board); what about me?" Smith thereupon requested the staff to deal with Wilhide's case as a first application of the policy.

Other Business

Two other items brought up at the meeting may be of interest to readers; director Norman Weyel and chief engineer Ove Kongstedt proposed that instead of buying four new trucks for GHI's fleet, three be purchased together with a communication system costing about \$5000, which would enable them to be contacted from a base station. The efficiency of this combination they suggested would match what could be done with four trucks.

Also, director Williams near the end of the meeting expressed his strong disagreement with the content of an article, in a recent issue of a local county newspaper which unfavorably compares the efforts of local (municipal) government planning to what it termed "regional planning" by county and larger governmental units; it implied that Greenbelt's present situation (traffic impact, etc.) is the result

GHI Board Opposes Rezoning of Parcels

by Elaine Skolnik

On February 8, the Greenbelt Homes Inc. Board of Directors voted to oppose the R-T zoning petitions for parcels 3 and 4, after hearing a report from Director Roberta McCarthy, chairman of the Ad Hoc committee on rezoning.

In her report McCarthy emphasized that (1) increased density would exacerbate the already heavily populated North End area and strain neighborhood facilities such as parks and roads; (2) parking problems would become severe since the neighborhood already suffers from inadequate off-street parking and parking on the street is limited and almost completely utilized now; (3) Greenbelt is already overstocked with townhouses and apartments and has a definite need for more single-family homes; (4) rezoning to R-T could set a precedent for similar changes for all undeveloped parcels in the area. The report also noted that R-T could decrease the value of adjacent GHI property, make GHI homes more difficult to sell, jeopardize the success of the rehabilitation program in this area and violate the intent of the National Historic Register.

The Ad Hoc committee listed three advantages of R-T zoning: (1) more young families buying townhouses would be insurance to keep North End School open, (2) the tax base would be increased and (3) something worse could be constructed on the parcels.

GHI President James W. Smith conveyed GHI's position to Mayor Richard Pilski in a letter dated February 16. In his summary Smith said, "While GHI is not opposed to development of Parcels 3 and 4 under the present zoning

of poor local planning which could have been avoided by large scale regional planning. As might be expected, other board members' reactions were similar to Williams'.

ZONING Cont. fr. p. 1

portion of parcel 4 is already in systems #1.

Although the Master Plan shows the perimeter road running through the northern portions of parcels 3 and 4, changes could be expected as plans for development of this land as well as parcels 1 and 2 are firming up. The controversial perimeter road was considered a necessity in the late 1960's when it appeared that a 3-school complex would be constructed on the virtually land-locked parcel 2. The perimeter road was also envisioned to handle additional traffic generated by the eventual development of parcels 1 and 2.

With respect to mandatory dedication R-T development requires that 10% of the land be set aside for open space or that funds be received in lieu of dedication; single-family development requires 5%.

APB Vote

APB members voted 3-0 to oppose RT zoning. Chairman Donald Volk abstained, explaining that he was one of three parties interested in purchasing the 1.7 acre parcel 5 from the same owners as parcels 3 & 4 (Lerner, Ammerman, Reiner trustees) to build three free-standing homes for their families (6 to 7 homes can be built there now). APB member Mary Clarke and city councilman Gil Weidenfeld are the other two who are attempting to purchase the land, which is located north of Ridge, just to the east of Lastner Lane. All three have indicated that they will abstain from voting on parcels 3 and 4. Jeffrey Gallagher also abstained.

Also contributing to this story was Leta Mach

(single-family), we strongly oppose the rezoning application for increased densities. We are most concerned that rezoning would strain existing parking and infrastructure (sewage-roads) facilities. Should rezoning be granted, a minimum requirement of two parking spaces per unit should be mandated."

Bd. of Education Approves \$271.3 Million Budget

The Board of Education has approved a proposed budget for fiscal year 1980, beginning July 1, of \$271,301,781, but left two blanks to be filled in later. Still missing from the package approved by the Board is the added cost of new negotiated agreements with the three employee organizations whose contracts expire June 30, and any savings which could come from school closings.

The Board currently is involved in separate contract talks with each of the three employee organizations. If those talks produce settlement by February 26, the superintendent will add whatever funds are needed to pay for them to the spending package just approved. If there is no agreement by the 26th, a lump sum amount will be added to the Board's budget to set aside funds for whatever costs that contract settlements could eventually produce.

The Board does not expect to make any decisions on possible school closings until the end of March, but when those decisions come, according to Assistant Superintendent Elliott B. Robertson, the school system can notify the County Executive and County Council of any savings involved. Two years ago when the Board closed ten schools, it reduced the request for funding by close to \$1 million.

The only program improvements emerging from the Board's work on the budget were minor ones in the program for gifted students, in-service training for professionals, and the addition of five elementary school guidance counselors.

Without the cost of new negotiated agreements and savings from school closings, the Fiscal year 1980 (FY 80) budget is only 2.3% above the current year's approved spending, and the county taxpayers' share of the total is actually smaller than this year's level. State aid is expected to rise by 12%

next year, and declining enrollment will permit a cut of more than 280 staff positions from this year's manpower level. The savings from lower enrollment are partially offset by new teaching and support positions required by expanded special education needs (for handicapped children). Expected higher energy costs put pressure on the budget, too. Fuel oil prices, for instance, are expected to jump by a total of 27.5% over a two-year period. Overall, the utility portion of the FY 80 budget is up by 13.3% from this year's figure.

When the County Executive receives the Board's proposed budget March 1, he will begin a review aimed at incorporating it into his overall request to the County Council due a month later. The Coun-

Scout Troop 746

Mark Felsher of Boy Scout Troop 746 was awarded the rank of Eagle at a special Court of Honor on February 9. The awards ceremony followed the troop's annual S.M.E. potluck dinner, commemorating Boy Scout Week of 1979. Mark, the eighteenth Eagle Scout of the troop, is the son of Rosemary and Albert Felsher of Ridge Rd.

George Haggard and Jared Ross were awarded pins for attaining the rank of Tenderfoot. Assistant Scoutmaster Mike Jones and Scouts Phillip Hanyok and Chris Hunt entertained the gathering by providing stories and jokes about Mark and his experiences.

Council has until June 1 to approve a final budget.

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License Tag Renewal Begins In February

The Motor Vehicle Administration began mailing 1979 license tag renewal applications Friday, February 9. Validation stickers will be sold at all MVA offices.

Applications were not sent to individuals with outstanding parking tickets or repair orders.

Under the state's compulsory insurance law, every motor vehicle registered in the state must be insured in the minimum amounts of \$20,000/\$40,000 for bodily injury, \$5,000 for property damage, uninsured motorist coverage in the same amounts, and \$2,500 for economic loss. For motorcycles, however, economic loss coverage is not compulsory.

Motorists who have had their policies cancelled or whose insurance applications have been rejected by at least two private companies may apply to the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (MAIF), but in any case, they must have the necessary insurance coverage before they can receive their validation stickers.

Tag renewal applications may be returned by mail, but should arrive at the MVA no later than March 20 to assure they will be processed by the March 31 deadline. Vehicle owners who do not receive their tag applications by the end of February should contact the MVA immediately, giving their present tag number, the vehicle title and vehicle identification number (serial number), full name, and present address. The deadline for displaying the stickers is midnight, March 31. For further information motorists should contact the MVA branch office in Berwyn at 345-6900.

At the Library

Drop-In Story Program, Thursdays, 2 p.m. Children's Program Room. Ages 3 to 5. Fantastic Free Flicks, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m. Meeting Room. Teens - "I Walked with a Zombie."

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Evenings or Week End

SNOW Cont. fr. p. 1

Giese considers this storm worse than the '66 storm where the snow fall was slightly less, but strong winds created higher drifting. In 1966 all city streets were opened within one day, Giese told the News Review.

City snow-removal crews have been on the job continuously from Sunday afternoon and were still at it Tuesday evening (copy deadline for this newspaper). Assistant City Manager Dennis Piendak rode "look-out" for 14 hours Monday night on one plow in order to keep it in service. Two persons are required to work together on these vehicles: one to drive and the other to check on the right side and out the back for other vehicles.

While the final tab is not in yet, it seems safe to assume that the city has overspent its snow removal budget for this year. (The crew is eligible for over-time and holiday pay.)

According to Giese police vehicles could not get out on Monday, and Tuesday was little better. Instead, police were using the public works Scout, a 4-wheel-drive vehicle. Fortunately there have been no serious police problems.

Fire Department

No fires were reported in Greenbelt during this time. Firemen pitched in to shovel out their driveway to Crescent Road. They were helped by city plows in clearing the lot in front of the firehouse. Further help arrived: one large agricultural tractor complete with volunteer farmer crew arrived about noon on Monday. The farmer and his tractor go along on all ambulance and fire runs where the crew is uncertain about getting into unplowed streets or GHI courts. The tractors also go along on runs to SHL and out-of-town where roads may be impassable. A second tractor arrived with relief crew to replace the first tractor about 6 p.m. Tuesday and was expected to stay another 24 hours or so. Fire department officials expect the farmers will continue to provide volunteer assistance as long as they are needed this week.

Two full engine crews were maintained at the firehouse from Sunday night through Wednesday.

Unlike many other fire departments, Greenbelt was able to get its vehicles out of the station and to each call it received. On most runs the accompanying farm tractor was needed to move stranded cars out of roadways and to pull fire trucks out of snow drifts. One fire truck was stuck for over two hours and required help from two tractors.

Two county fire officials who live in the area and who couldn't get in to their regular county offices, were stationed at the Greenbelt firehouse: John Crisman, Superintendent of Machinery and William

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Dobbins, Fire Investigator. They kept in touch with county headquarters via direct telephone line and radio.

GHI

During the big snowstorm, GHI maintenance crews worked round the clock clearing access lanes for the boiler plants which are checked hourly, night and day. Most of the maintenance calls, beginning on Friday, Feb. 16, concerned huge icicles which were leading to water damage on the interior walls and carpeting. The structures crew worked during the week-end making repairs. On Tuesday morning, GHI was flooded with calls from members who wanted to be plowed out of their courts. GHI's one snow plow, attached to a truck, was not able to handle the huge amounts of snow. Many courts were plowed out with the backhoe, which, however, broke down during the afternoon on Tuesday, having been used constantly since the storm began to resemble a blizzard early Monday morning.

The GHI maintenance crews also cleared some courts in which there were good places to put the snow. Other courts relied on their own resources. Some courts had as many as 50 members out shoveling; the 11 court of Ridge took nearly 18 hours to clear their entire area. The spirit of cooperation was evident throughout GHI.

The 2 court of Northway and 45 court of Ridge were typical of such GHI areas where court members from the youngest to the old-

est wielded shovels, deliberated seriously on the best strategy of removing the snow from cars submerged in the white powdery snow - where to place the mountains of snow so that they wouldn't block other cars from getting out of the court.

Digging cars out from along the sides of the road involved different logistics - the biggest problem was how to keep the snow plow from pushing snow just removed back into the cleared parking spaces.

The weak suddenly became strong, buoyed up by the camaraderie of working together, getting cheery hellos from passers-by on cross country skis or on foot.

Adults and young people alike had a chance to become reacquainted. "Haven't seen you for years! How tall you've grown!"

Later, each car owner carefully parked only in his own spot. One sign seen on Westway cautioned: "Don't even think of parking here unless you helped shovel."

(Also contributing to this story were Elaine Skolnik, Karen Sarro and Sandra Barnes.)

GHI NOTES

The Board of Directors has its regular meeting Thursday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. The Members and Community Relations Committee will be meeting Tuesday, Feb. 27, at 7:30 p.m. The Long Range Planning Committee meets Wednesday, Feb. 28, 8 p.m.

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Furnishings for Fire Hall Addition Allocated by City

by Karen Sarro

At the February 5 city council meeting, the council agreed to grant \$4,323 to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. to furnish the new addition now under construction. This sum will be included in the building construction costs of the new addition and financed out of the authorized bond issue for this improvement.

According to Dennis E. Piendak, assistant city manager, the bond issue was authorized by the voters in 1977, and construction of the new addition is being completed by temporarily borrowing money from the bank to pay the contractor. "When the final project is completed and the costs are in, we would then sell the bonds for the amount that is needed and then be paid back by the Fire Department," said Piendak. The Fire Department requested and agreed to reimburse the city for the addition over a lease period of 25 years.

At an earlier council meeting, on January 22, Robert R. Lauer, President of the Fire Department had requested \$5,000 to furnish the new addition. "The Fire Department is in a bind financially" said Lauer.

Because of restrictions placed upon the department's budget by Prince Georges County, and the increase of services provided, along with the added rent expense for the new addition the fire department funds were inadequate to purchase the needed furnishings.

The money allocated by the city will enable the department to buy the following: nine dressers, eighteen dividers, ten footlockers, ten lamps, one conference table and eight chairs, two desks, five file cabinets and two desk chairs.

According to Chief Michael Dutton, Prince Georges County issues the department an annual budget of \$47,000. Out of the initial budget, the Fire Department actually gets its hands on only \$3,800 and is restricted as to how that money can be spent. The annual fireman's banquet accounts for \$1,800 and the remaining \$2,000 is specified for use to "keep volunteers at the station house" by providing such things as recreational facilities.

The Fire Department staff consists of 54 members, 50 volunteers and four that receive a salary from Prince Georges County. The four paid staffers are assigned the daytime hours during the week when most of the volunteers are working at their regular jobs. A permanent overnight crew provides for faster response to night time calls.

Prince Georges County pays the department's bills and rent to the city for use of the fire house, \$4500 a year but refuses to pay the extra \$5500 a year rent for the new addition, according to Dutton. At the February 5 meeting Councilman Charles Schwan said that the council and the Fire Department should work together to try to persuade the county to assume the additional Md. to Convert Schools To Sr. Citizen Centers

Maryland is beginning a state-wide program to convert surplus public schools to senior citizen centers. This is one of the first programs of its kind in the nation. Each school chosen for the conversion has been carefully selected by evaluative studies to determine proper location (large numbers of elderly in the school area), space utilization and cost effectiveness.

Dr. Matthew Tayback, State Director on Aging, announced the new program Dec. 20, by explaining that \$600,000 has been allocated by the Board of Public Works to begin converting surplus schools to senior citizen centers throughout Maryland. The funds were authorized by the 1978 General Assembly in a bond issue to further the ongoing conversion of schools which have become surplus due to falling enrollment.

The new centers will serve as a focal point for providing much needed services to senior citizens such as a nutrition program and recreation facilities. "These senior centers will provide a wide range of personal services," Dr. Tayback said.

In Prince Georges County, Langley Park Elementary School has been chosen for conversion.

rent involved.

Dutton also said that Prince Georges County has not paid for any of the department's equipment, — trucks and ambulances. The fire department bought all their equipment with money they made from bingo and other fund raising activities. Currently the department is making payments on two new "pumper" trucks. Although an added financial burden, these provide better services to the community.

Chief Dutton feels the Fire Department is being "squeezed" from all ends; the county doesn't give enough funds, the city doesn't give enough funds and the people of the community cannot afford to support the department. Dutton also pointed out that the Fire Department is "trying to provide an important service that 10 years ago wouldn't have been much of an expense but today is a different story." He feels the department should be made part of the city instead of remaining a separate entity.

The original completion date for the new addition of January 14, has been rescheduled for the end of February.

Recreation Review

Kite Flying Contest

It's that time of the year again, to fly a kite. If the February winds continue into March, it should be a great contest. Prepare those kites now for the Annual Kite Flying Contest. This year it will be held on Sat., March 10, 12 noon on Braden Field. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. Further details will be posted in both the Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Teen Ski Trip

The Greenbelt Recreation Department is sponsoring another trip to Ski Liberty, Pennsylvania on Mon., Feb. 26. Sign-ups will be limited to the first 35 teens; first come, first served. The bus will leave at 4 p.m. from the Youth Center and return approximately 12 midnight. Call 474-6878 for more information.

Council Hears Requests From CPR, Jaycees

by Leta Mach

Council received two requests at its January 22, meeting. Marily Fowler, CPR instructor, and Jerry Morris, from the Greenbelt Jaycees, appeared before council.

Fowler invited council members and their families to take a CPR course. She offered to arrange a special course for council members if they were unable to attend one of the regular courses. Explaining that the program wants publicity, Fowler said they would like to take pictures of the event.

After four months, at least 100 people have taken the course, Fowler noted. The training takes two nights, three to four hours each night. It is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays — the second week of the month at Center School, the third week at Springhill Lake, and the fourth at Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School. Fowler stated that there are presently fifteen instructors and as many as 18 people can take the course in each session.

Mayor Pro Tem Gil Weidenfeld thanked her for the special consideration given council. Council has scheduled a date to take the course.

In another request, Morris asked council's advice on insulating the clubhouse beside St. Hugh's. After receiving damage from a fire, the building, which the city was using for its summer day camp program, Camp Pine Tree, is being restored by the Jaycees.

To date 1300 man hours have been devoted to restoring the building, much of the work being done by the Jaycees themselves, Morris explained. He said studding has been put on the walls and a vapor barrier installed. At this point a decision needs to be made about putting insulation on the walls and ceiling. Morris stated that the Jaycees would like to see the building better utilized. He said an estimate of \$423 has been received for the necessary materials which would include styrofoam for the walls.

City Manager James Giese felt insulation was a good idea. Also finding the request appropriate, Mayor Richard Pilski felt it was better to do the job all at once if it was going to be done. Councilman Richard Castaldi, who is also State Director of the Jaycees, abstaining, council passed a motion to give the Jaycees no more than \$500 for insulation for the building.

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