

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 47, Number 6 P.O. Box 68, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770 Thursday, Dec. 29, 1983

Co-op Seeks to Sell Food Store And Gas Station by March 1984

by Bill Rowland

Two fixtures of Greenbelt life since the earliest days of the city — the Co-op grocery store (including its pharmacy) and the Co-op gas station — have a most uncertain future. The Board of Directors of the parent organization, Greenbelt Co-operative, Inc. (GCI), decided on December 17 that GCI will divest itself of its money-losing supermarket and service station divisions, if possible by the end of March. At the same time, the board directed GCI's operating management to develop preliminary plans for major expansion of its only remaining operating division, the profitable SCAN furniture stores; to work out criteria for GCI to enter into an unspecified new business; to reduce overhead; and to develop "capital and organizational structure" plans, including stock conversion or repurchase.

According to a written GCI statement of the board decision, "Operating management is directed to provide by March 1 . . . complete plans for divesting by March 1, 1984, with no sale to be effective until March 31, 1984, and with the first option to be available to an existing cooperative, community, member and/or employee group, provided that such a cooperative or group has submitted a credit-worthy proposal as accepted by a financial institution by the first of March 1984."

Besides the facilities in Greenbelt, GCI has four other food stores and three other service stations in Maryland and Virginia affected by the divestiture decision.

A December 23 release by GCI, together with a News Review telephone interview with GCI's President and Chief Executive Officer, Robert Satake, have provided additional information about the impending changes.

Losses

Over the past 13 years, the food and service station divisions have had combined average losses of \$700,000 a year. The deficit for the five food stores alone in 1982 was \$538,000, with the 1983 loss expected to be slightly less. According to Satake, the situation could be expected to worsen in 1984 because a substantial employee health and welfare benefits increase costing \$125,000 is scheduled to go into effect, and because the employee union contract expires at the end of January. Satake's assumption is that contract negotiations could be expected to result in a wage in-

crease for employees, thus adding to operating losses.

Chairman of the Board Paul O. Mohn is quoted as expressing regret about the unanimous Board decision, but as adding, "Despite hard work by our employees and concerted efforts by management, these divisions (food and service stations) have not been viable. Over the past 20 years Greenbelt Cooperative has tried a number of different marketing and merchandising options to provide our members food and petroleum goods, but none have been completely successful."

Greenbelt's Co-Op

The GCI release cites Satake as recognizing the particular importance of the Co-Op food store to Greenbelt residents. According to the release, Satake has said the GCI goal is to sell the store to some other supermarket operator or a community group that would continue to operate a food store in the Center. In the words of the release, "Within the next week, Satake said, GCI will begin work with the community if there is an interest to take over the food store."

The GCI release refers to the "closing" of the food and service station divisions. However, Satake, in talking to the News Review, emphasized strongly that "We are not going to close the stores. . . . We are going to keep them open until we find a buyer." He expressed his belief that the food stores could be sold to an independent buyer within a short time, although he said he had no one specifically in mind. He repeated the priority given by the GCI board to community groups, other cooperatives, members or employees as possible purchasers, but volunteered his own realization that purchase by a community group is not too feasible.

Co-Op Employees

According to the GCI release, "Satake noted the commitment of the Cooperative to help employees of the divisions being closed. In Greenbelt 21 fulltime and 15 parttime people will be affected. "We are keenly aware of the hardship these closings have on our employees," said Satake. "We will place as many employees as possible elsewhere within the organization, and we are developing an out-placement program to help those we cannot place."

Satake, in answer to News Review questions on December 23, said there had not been any official talks yet with employees, but that a meeting with employees is to be scheduled after January 1. He also said there would be no negotiations toward a new union contract to replace the one that expires January 31, labelling such negotiations

"moot" in view of the divestiture decision.

Decision Final

Satake told the News Review that the GCI board had been working through most of 1983 to reach its decisions on divestiture and future directions to be taken by the 75,000-member cooperative. In reply to a question, he said there is no provision in GCI bylaws requiring membership approval of the board's decisions, or permitting a challenge by referendum to the decisions. According to Satake, the decisions made by the board in this matter are final. He suggested that in view of the continuing operating losses, the membership could have found the board remiss in its duties if it had not reached the decisions it did.

Asked about the timing of the public announcement, Satake termed it unfortunate that rumors about the decisions had forced public disclosure before GCI staff could get a complete plan of action in place.

At the Library

Wednesday, January 4
Twelfth Night Celebration, 7-8 p.m. A medieval holiday festival for all ages—includes drama, music and dancing by the Markland Medieval Madrigalia, and refreshments.

The library will be closed on Monday, January 2.

Holiday Refuse Schedule

Because of the New Year's Holiday, there will be no refuse collection on Monday, January 2, 1984. Monday's route will be picked up on Tuesday and Tuesday's route will be picked up on Wednesday. THERE WILL BE NO PAPER PICK UP ON WEDNESDAY. Thursday and Friday will be on regular schedule.

LOCATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Beginning January 3, 1984, the city's parks crew will collect Christmas trees at the following DESIGNATED LOCATIONS. THEY WILL NOT COLLECT FROM INDIVIDUAL HOMES.

Playground opposite 73 Court Ridge Road
Corner of Research and Hillside Roads
Playground at Plateau Place and Ridge Road
Corner of Eastway and Crescent Roads
Entrance to 21 Court Ridge Road (across from Green Ridge House)

Area adjacent to Candy Cane City
Playground at junction of Crescent and Ridge Roads
Playground at Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane
Charlestowne Village & Charlestowne North - Adjacent to Lake Park Service road

University Square - Front of Swimming Pool
Lakeside North - Near Swimming Pool
Springhill Lake Community Building
Greenbriar -

Between Buildings: 7708 and 7710; 7728 and 7730;
7826 and 7828 Hanover Parkway

Between Buildings: 8003 and 8009 Mandan Road

Glen Oaks -

Between Buildings: 7903 and 7905; 7509 and 7511
Mandan Road

Windsor Green -

Adjacent to playground on Canning Terrace
Court Entrances: 7248 - 7249 Mandan Road
7200 - 7246 Mandan Road

Entrance to Burkart Court

Entrance to Bird Lane

Glen Ora -

Between 7257 and 7315 Morrison Drive

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OR

322-0781



Prince George's
Community College

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER
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Pres., Elaine Skolnik; Vice Pres., Bill Rowland; Sec., Barbara Likowski; Treas., Virginia Beauchamp; Mavis Fletcher.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$20 per year. Advertising and news articles may be mailed (Box 68, Greenbelt); deposited in our box at the Greenbelt Co-op grocery store before 7 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 p.m.

Volume 47, Number 6

Thursday, December 29, 1983

Weldon Drake, Sr.

Weldon Drake, Sr., of the 9 court of Ridge Road died on December 25. He was born in Logan County, Kentucky, on October 25, 1913, and has lived in Greenbelt since 1952. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, and three children—Weldon, Jr., James and Wendy. He is also survived by his sister, Evelyn, who still resides in Kentucky, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Drake served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He retired from the Washington, D.C., Dept. of Corrections in 1967, and from the University of Maryland in 1982 where he was the Chief Supervisor of the Maintenance Plant. He was a member of the American Legion Post 136 in Greenbelt.

Mr. Drake was buried Wednesday from Gasch's Funeral Home, with interment in Fort Lincoln Cemetery.

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NEW YEAR'S AT MOWATT

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will host an alternative New Year's Eve celebration on December 31 at 10 p.m. The film "It's Friday, But Sunday's Coming," featuring Antony Campolo, will be shown in the Fellowship Hall, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

'The best way to thank God is to love one another. Mere verbal thanksgiving is without effect.'

Baha'i Sacred Writings
Bahá'í Faith
Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
345-2918 / 474-4090

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH Episcopal

Baltimore Blvd. at Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
First and third Sundays
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
Second and fourth Sundays
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
Rev. John G. Bals, Rector
422-8057

Mowatt Memorial

United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Rd. 474-9410
Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
(for all ages)
Morning Worship 11:00 A.M.
Rev. Dr. James Chong Park
Pastor
474-1924

SUBURBANTM THE NEIGHBORHOOD BANK

MEMBER SUBURBAN BANCORP

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Greenbelt Office
103 Centerway • Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
270-7521

Greetings

The following were inadvertently left off the City's holiday greeting ad last week.

CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Clifton L. Brown, Jr., Chairman
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George W. Stover, III
Richard G. Cripe
Sharon Weidenfeld
Rex A. Smart

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Judith Davis
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PUBLIC ACCESS & LOCAL ORIGINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CABLE TV)

Gary Kohn (in place of David Lychenheim)

KAVA TEEN CLUB

sponsors

SKI TRIP



WHERE: Ski Liberty, Fairfield, PA
WHEN: Friday, January 6, 1984
TIME: Night Skiing — 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
COST: \$20.00/person - Includes lifts, transportation and rentals
\$14.00/person - Own equipment
\$ 6.50/person - Lessons - Suggested for ALL first time skiers.
ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be 13 years of age or older. Permission Slip, with parental signature, required for those under 18. First come, first serve; only 35 persons will be taken.
DEADLINE: Friday, December 30, 1983
For further information, call Anne Herink at the Youth Center, 1:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

GHI NOTES

The GHI office will be closed Jan. 2. E & M Committee will meet at 8 p.m. Jan. 3.

Next week, the GHI Newsletter with a special insert about moisture, is due. Call 474-6644 if copy not received by January 3.

Mobile Crime Watch

Citizens interested in learning more about crime prevention can attend a training session, scheduled for Jan. 5 in the Community Room, above the drug store in Springhill Lake at 7:30 p.m.

Greenbelt Community Church



(United Church of Christ)
Hillside and Crescent Roads
Phone 474-6171 mornings

10 am Sunday Morning Worship and
Church School for Children
Infant Care Provided at
Fellowship Center behind Church
Richard Leavitt,
Interim Minister

Yes, You Can Begin Again

Worship With Us and Find Out for
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GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

474-4212

Crescent & Greenhill Rds.

Bible Study for all ages (Sun.) 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Midweek Prayer Service (Wed.) 8:00 p.m.

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Rev. David Conway, Pastor
Rev. Francis G. Kazista, Associate Pastor

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday 6 p.m.

Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:30 a.m. Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. Monday - Saturday
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4-5 p.m.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Road

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

Sunday School: 9:50 a.m.

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Edward H. Birner, Pastor Phone 345-5111

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\$2.00 minimum for ten words, 10c each additional word. No charge for listing items that are found. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office between 8 and 10 p.m. of the Tuesday preceding publication, or to the News Review drop box in the Greenbelt Coop grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to P.O. Box 68, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. BOXED: \$3.75/column inch. Minimum 1 1/2 inches (\$5.63).

PAINTING/PLASTERING—reasonable rates, call John Cantwell, 441-8854.

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LOST: Black poodle, "Sam", University Square Apts., reward, 345-6826, 474-8237.

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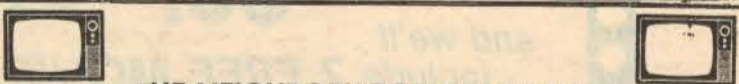
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SALE ENDS 12-31, 1983

Fire & Rescue Review

by April Walker

On Christmas day a fire occurred in a house on Northway. A propane fuel torch which was being used in an attempt to thaw a frozen water pipe set fire to the wall. The fire was extinguished shortly after the fire department arrived on the scene.

Safer ways of thawing frozen water pipes include using hot water or bright lights. If lights are used supervise them constantly to make sure the surrounding area does not overheat. Never use any type of flame to thaw pipes.

Frost bite and hypothermia are two medical emergencies that often occur in freezing temperatures. Remember, dress warmly in layers, avoid becoming overheated, remove wet clothing immediately and periodically go inside to warm up.

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 10280 Baltimore Blvd., Rt. 1 **474-7300**

ATTENTION



If you want to —

- Find out when to call the police
- Find out what's suspicious
- Learn how to protect yourself and your neighbors from crime
- Learn how to organize and participate in a NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH PROGRAM

Then come to the GHI Board Room
 HAMILTON PLACE
 7:30 p.m.
 January 10, 1984

Meeting sponsored by GHI Board of Directors.

"Rick" Barber, GRI, CRS
 of
Nyman Realty, Inc.

Greenbelt Properties Available for Inspection:

A.) BRICK: 3 BR end, above Center, upgraded throughout, CLOSING HELP, \$53,900.

B.) MASONRY: (1) 2 BR end, attached garage, and large addition, central air conditioner, \$49,900. (2) 3 BR above Center - many extras, \$46,000. (3) 2 BR, attached garage, CLOSING HELP, \$45,500.

C.) 3 BR FRAMES: (1) Redecorated, private location, ready to move in, CLOSING HELP, \$35,900. (2) Super neighbors, wooded lot, CLOSING HELP, \$34,900. (3) Good location, great condition, CLOSING HELP, \$34,900.

D.) FRAMES: (1) Excellent condition, upgraded throughout, above Center, CLOSING HELP, \$35,000. (2) 2 BR end, nice location, near Agricultural Center, CLOSING HELP, \$34,900. (3) 2 BR end, wood deck, great terms, CLOSING HELP, \$33,900. (4) 2 BR end, freshly painted, new kitchen floor. CLOSING HELP, \$32,900.

Properties Surrounding Greenbelt:

A) RIVERDALE, 3 BR, Many improvements, large addition, family room, VA assumption, all terms, \$63,900.

B) CHARLESTOWNE VILLAGE, (1) 3 BR condo townhouse, many extras, near lake, CLOSING HELP, \$63,500. (2) Estate Sale 2 BR condo., wall to wall carpeting, upgraded throughout CLOSING HELP, \$57,500.

C) 10.9999 acres in Glenn Dale, owner financing, zoned for residential building, \$155,000.

D) NEW CARROLLTON, 3 BR rambler, close to all transits, great terms, good condition, CLOSING HELP, \$83,900.

E) CHEVERLY (Tuxedo) 3 br. with attached garage - for rent \$550.

CONSIDERING A CHANGE IN RESIDENCE?

There are three key elements to consider:

A) Your needs: things you positively have to have.
 B) Your wants: things you'd like to have, but don't necessarily need.
 C) Your qualifications:

- 1) Your initial investment (cash to move in)
- 2) Your total income (gross yearly income)
- 3) Your debt service (total indebtedness)

I would like the opportunity to discuss with you how we can combine these three factors to assist you and your family in achieving your housing goals both within Greenbelt and the metropolitan area - of course with no obligation.

441-1010 474-5700
 Please ask for "Rick"

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