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Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

News Review

Office Hours

Monday 2-4 p.m. copy, ads
8-10 p.m.

Tuesday - 8 to 10 p.m.
15 Parkway
474-4131

Volume 57, Number 5

P.O. Box 68, Greenbelt, Maryland 20768-0068

Thursday, December 23, 1993

City Votes to Ban Parking on Ivy Lane and Mark for Bicycle Lanes

by Diane Oberg

Bicycle issues dominated the December 13 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council. Council directed the staff to prepare a resolution banning parking on Ivy Lane and to mark bicycle lanes on that road. The action was supported by many members of the Greenbelt Bicycle Coalition and opposed by representatives of Capital Office Park (COP). In addition, council gave final approval to a resolution establishing a bicycle task force.

Although City Manager Daniel Hobbs has the power to make these changes on his own, he did not support the change. City Solicitor Robert Manzi said that council can order the change, but only by resolution, which must be in writing. Since Hobbs had already signed comments opposing the change, Manzi felt that even if Hobbs were willing to change his mind in the face of clear council consensus, the city may have a weak legal case if anyone challenges the parking ban.

Deferral Proposed

Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Wilson said that the city lacks information on the number of bicycles likely to commute to Metro, how much traffic will increase now that the station is open and commuter parking demand. She noted that bicycle commuting will likely be low in the winter and recommended deferring action on the parking ban until March, unless patterns or problems demand more rapid action.

The Advisory Planning Board (APB) has reviewed the issue and recommended an alternative, banning parking on the inbound side of Ivy in the morning and the outbound side in the afternoon. City police however, oppose timed bans, saying they would be difficult to enforce.

Council member Rodney Roberts made the motion to prepare the resolution. He had joined the bicycle coalition's trip from Schrom Hills Park to the Metro station and described the trip as dangerous the whole way, especially near Metro. He characterized the arguments in favor of retaining parking on the road as being for someone's convenience and argued that safety must take precedence over convenience.

COP Position

Nancy Slepicka, an attorney representing Capital Office Park, argued against the motion. As she did at the previous council meeting, she argued that council should consider the entire

area, not just Ivy Lane, in evaluating bicycle issues. She argued that the most dangerous points in the commute were crossing Kenilworth Avenue and the Cherrywood Lane bridge over the Beltway. She asked council to apply a more analytical approach, based upon data such as traffic counts and the anticipated number of bicyclists.

Mayor Antoinette Bram interrupted Slepicka's presentation for council questions, which led to some heated moments as council members challenged Slepicka for not addressing issues that she said she had not been given the chance to discuss.

Council members then asked questions about the adequacy and safety of the COP's parking lots and why tenants felt it necessary to park on the street. Slepicka countered that the lots met the county parking code and noted that she had presented council with petitions signed by 895 peo-

ple who wanted the on-street option retained.

Council member Judith Davis argued that as traffic volume increases, there will likely be more accidents involving on-street parking. This countered tenants' arguments that the street is safer after dark.

Roberts acknowledged that banning Ivy Lane parking would not solve all the problems bicyclists face in commuting to Metro, but "we have to start somewhere."

Citizens Support

At least 15 members or friends of the bicycle coalition attended to support the action. Seven argued their cause to council, citing the need for safe bicycle transit to Metro, even though some admitted that they still considered it too dangerous or arduous to attempt.

Keith Jahoda argued that a delay for study and data collection would be ineffective. As
See PARKING, page 5



Young Greenbelter prepares to test the water as citizens celebrate July 4, 1938 at lake.

—photo courtesy City of Greenbelt

Pioneer Greenbelters Recall Early Days in Planned Town

This is the second article in a three-part series about Greenbelt's history, featuring remembrances collected from original residents by Dorothy Lauber, currently Greenbelt City Clerk. Former City Manager James K. Giese presented excerpts from these reminiscences at a recent lecture at the Greenbelt Library, sponsored by the Prince George's County Historical Society.

In this article, moving into the experimental model, community and life in those times is described by some of the early residents, including among others, Greenbelt's first policeman, whose duties included serving as lifeguard at Greenbelt Lake. The wife of Greenbelt's first mayor, and the mother of a present member of the Prince Georges County Council.

Robert Dove

Linda and I and our two sons

wanted to live in Greenbelt. We were living in Hyattsville in an apartment that was the downstairs of a single family house. The owners had had it converted into two apartments and they lived upstairs. We were investigated very carefully, our apartment was inspected, our neighbors were questioned. Then the Selection Committee learned I was on a "temporary" WPA job — all the workers were "temporary"—and they advised us we were not eligible. I went
See PIONEER, page 8

The Grinch Hits Greenbelt

by Dorothy Sucher

"They tried to steal the Christmas tree, but they couldn't because the holiday spirit is in the hearts of all Greenbelters."
—City Manager Daniel Hobbs

When the community Christmas tree next to the Municipal Building toppled on Tuesday afternoon, it was first believed the culprit was a gust of wind. However upon closer examination of the 15' Douglas fir, the telltale marks of an ax were found on the trunk, and wood chips were observed on the ground. A hatchet had chopped more than halfway through the 7" trunk and sap had hardened on the cut, indicating that several days had gone by since the dastardly deed was done, according to city horticulturist Bill Phelan. A day of strong winds had finished the job.

A grinch had stolen Greenbelt's Christmas.

The fallen tree, which had been decorated with red balls, strings of white lights, and a glittering star in honor of the holidays, was moved to the corner of the Municipal Building about three years ago. Already a good-sized tree when planted, it flourished in that location until it met its untimely end on Tuesday.

Four days earlier, according to the City Manager Daniel Hobbs, police had responded to a call from a citizen reporting sus-

picious activities near the Municipal Building at 2 a.m. on Friday, December 17. When officers arrived on the scene, three adult Greenbelt residents were stopped and questioned, but not apprehended.

At the request of the City Manager, who was visibly upset at what he described as "malicious vandalism," the police are conducting further investigation.

Also contributing to this story was Elaine Skolnik.)

GHI Staff Meet with Board Describing their Low Morale

by Betty Timer

Some 40 employees attended the December 16 meeting of the Board of Directors of Greenbelt Homes, Incorporated (GHI). The Board's prime concern was identifying cost-cutting measures and reductions that would yield \$226,000 in budget reductions from that originally proposed for 1994. A speaker from the maintenance staff delivered a letter and briefly described the staff's "serious morale problem." That problem was caused by the membership's and the Board's decision to keep the 1994 budget (and member charges for 1994) unchanged from those for 1993, possibly by cuts in the personnel department.

"It is not an easy time for anybody, but suddenly I'm the bad guy, to whom some GHI members direct their anger for receiving such things as a fair salary and excellent benefits," stated Michael Grunberg.

Each Director thanked the employees for attending the meeting. Director Carole Levin added, "I am sorry for this year's discomfort. This thing we have to do (cut the budget), we must do together. We have to be a better, more efficient operation. We must all be a part of the solution, not the problem."

Motion

A motion was made to authorize "1994 pay increases in an amount not to exceed 4%, down from 4.75% originally offered in the 1994 budget and down from the 1993 amount of 6%." In addition, the motion established that if the decision is made to require a health insurance co-payment from employees, they will be given a 90-day notice before institution of the policy.

Because of the arrival of a new GHI manager, some of the Board members felt this motion should be delayed for three months. Nat Shinderman stated

that this Board was more familiar with the budget than most other Boards because of the amount of time and effort already expended on it. He added, "In 90 days, the directors will not have more information than the Board presently has. Accept the responsibility that is yours!" Director Donald Comis brought another issue to challenge the passing of this motion. He stated: "It is wrong to tie up funds unless we know the whole package." Director Keith Jahoda replied that no matter what the Board did, they would send a message. The motion narrowly passed.

Director Kathleen Weber voiced her frustration. "Let's get on with it! We're not moving forward!" Director Bill Phelan's persistence in finding common grounds eventually moved the Board to review specific budget items. Acting Manager Paul Sinner stated that, in the last two weeks to the best of his ability, he had been able to accumulate about 75% of the requested budget information. (The benefits package was not one
See GHI, page 5

Patronizing Attitude

Al Freas and his allies still don't get it! Despite the overwhelming vote of the membership to freeze the monthly fees, the chair of the "business as usual" board is still taking a derisive and patronizing attitude toward GHI members and trying to justify his actions based on a "parliamentary flim-flam," as Charles Hagelgans has correctly pointed out.

In the first instance, nothing that Freas has cited precludes such a membership vote on fees. More importantly, Freas is absolutely wrong to believe that no one protested his decision on the validity of the membership proposal. Within seconds, literally, of his arbitrary and imperial decision, I rushed to the microphone to protest it, and then I asked each of the other board members individually to state their position on the chair's ruling. His continued claims that everyone at the meeting accepted his ruling is utterly mendacious.

There is another issue surrounding the special meeting of December 5 that deserves debate as well, but has so far been ignored, namely, the incredible cost of the meeting. According to Freas, the special meeting cost \$8,000, that's right, eight-thousand dollars for a three-hour meeting at the local elementary school.

The largest amount of the \$8,000 spent on that meeting went to pay GHI lawyers. It boils down to this: the chair of the GHI board spends our money to find a way to circumvent our desires then has the temerity to blame the membership for wasting the money.

Al Freas has become, justifiably I believe, a lightning rod for criticism via his capricious behavior as chair of the board. He has preempted every attempt at dialogue and compromise. If Al Freas has any interest in seeing GHI become an efficiently-run cooperative, he truly ought to resign from the board of directors immediately, and then the healing process can begin.

Bob Buzzanco

Fed Up!

There are many of us seniors living here in Old Greenbelt. It is believed that we seniors are given special considerations here. I wish to relate an incident that I had last month to disprove this.

One of the features of this community that makes it so lovely is the many trees. Every fall these trees drop enormous amounts of leaves. I have resided here over 15 years and in all that time everyone in this area has raked up their leaves and dumped them curbside.

For years I followed this pro-

cess, but now being over 65 I hire a young man to do it for me, paying him by the hour. Being retired and on a fixed income, I asked him to do this job as quickly as possible—thereby the cheapest for me.

On November 10, he was cleaning the leaves up in my yard, dumping them where we had always dumped them. He was doing exactly as I had instructed him to do when a person from the city Parks Department accompanied by a Greenbelt policeman stopped him! He was informed that he had to "move the pile at once." He told the young man doing the work for me that if he did not clean up the leaves he would have the policeman give him a \$100 fine.

The young man stated he would pick up the leaves and carry them down to the area on Northway where the town dumps leaves and mulch. He was told that he was "not allowed to dump my leaves there." Keep in mind that this is where the town dumps the mulched leaves, yet this person from the city would not allow my leaves to be deposited there!

The bottom line of this story is that the young man had to carry my leaves to the county landfill and pay the \$33 dumping fee.

Greenbelt police are busy enough without having to accompany some city employee who has a need to feel in authority. I am so personally fed up and disgusted with such a person being allowed to be in a position of management that I am packing up, putting my house up for sale, and moving out of town.

M. Bartlett

City Comments

(Editor's Note: The News Review invited the City of Greenbelt to clarify its policy regarding leaf collection).

Northway Field is a park and athletic field and is part of the city's recreational facilities. Dumping has never been allowed there and the area was and still is posted not to do so. In the past, residents have disposed of their yard waste, brush, fallen leaves, and other junk and trash in the area and the City Public Works has spent considerable budget money to keep the area clean. Today's tight financial constraints do not allow this to be done anymore and we have sought the cooperation of all our environmentally concerned citizens.

It is the City Code to require contractors to dispose of debris and waste incident to their operations. In the matter referred to, a private contractor was engaged to collect and dispose of the resident's fallen leaves. Therefore, he was responsible to take the leaves to an authorized disposal place. Prince Georges County operates a composting facility for this purpose to avoid filling scarce landfill space with biodegradable material.

Please note that the city does not "dump" our leaves at North-

way field. To contain costs in these lean economic times, the leaves picked up by the vacuum machines are temporarily stockpiled while awaiting transport to the county composting facility. Thus far this Fall season, the city has hauled 51,725 tons (103,450 lbs.) of leaves for recycling into mulch at a disposal fee of \$517. Had we not done so, the landfill tipping fee would have been \$3,725. This represents a savings to our taxpayers of more than \$3,200 of additional costs . . . and the season is not yet over.

Had the resident had her leaves properly bagged as GHI requires, Public Works would have picked them up with our regular Wednesday special trash and yard waste collection. The Public Works employee who stopped the contractor from dumping at Northway Field was properly doing his job . . . and saving all of our taxpayers some of their hard-earned money.

Carl Hirsch
Public Works Director

Members Have The Authority

I also agree that the GHI Special Membership Meeting of December 5 was no "Sunday picnic" (Hagelgans, December 16). The News Review's coverage ignored the controversy of President Freas' ruling that the members' motions were "advisory." While it may be true that members did not formally appeal his ruling, it is untrue that it was not challenged. When asked if members of GHI's Board of Directors agreed, several Directors, myself included, expressed the viewpoint that motions passed in a Membership Meeting are binding on the cooperative.

When members are convened at a Membership Meeting, GHI's Bylaws (Article IV, Section 9) provide them the authority to " . . . determine policies of the Corporation. . ." (through motions) which the Board is responsible for implementing. The Bylaws (Article V, Section 4) also emphasize the membership's au-

thority over the Board of Directors by stating that the Board " . . . shall direct the affairs of the Corporation . . . not inconsistent with . . . the decisions of the membership meetings." The Bylaws do not state that the membership must first change these decisions.

That said, I am happy to report that the Board, in spite of President Freas' ruling, is working to implement the members' directive.

Carole Levin

Fine Staff

It has been my experience and that of others that I have talked with in recent times, that we members at Greenbelt Homes are very fortunate in having a great group of people serving us on the staff. In any organization there will be an occasional bad apple and mistakes will occur, but on the whole the staff is

skilled, hard working, and very dedicated. It is unusual to see in the business world a group of people with the dedication that many of these people have.

If you agree with me, now would be a good time to let the Board know. Take the time to write a little note to Al Freas, Board President, and let the Board know in this way that you appreciate the fine staff that we have.

Margaret Hogensen

Metro Schedule

Metro's holiday schedule will be as follows: Friday, December 24—5:30 a.m. to midnight; Saturday, Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st 8 a.m. to midnight, Friday, December 31, 5:30 a.m.-2 a.m.

Metrobus will run on a Saturday schedule on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and on a Sunday schedule on Christmas and New Year's Day.

On all four days, non-peak fares will be in effect and parking at transit authority-operated lots will be free.

Bicyclists with bike-on-rail permits will be allowed to transport their bicycles on Metrorail.



GREENBELT CONNECTION HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Because of the New Year's Holiday, Friday, December 31, 1993, the city's dial-a-ride service, the Greenbelt Connection will not operate that day. The service will be resumed on Sunday, January 2, 1994.

P & G
OLD GREENBELT
THEATRE
129 Centerway
474-9744
Giant Screen /
Dolby Stereo
ALL SEATS \$1.50

Jurassic Park
Sat. - Thurs. - 9:40



"TENSE AND TERRIFIC!"
An absolute don't miss!
Marilyn Beck
TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICE

MALICE

Sat. - Thurs. - 7:30

Department of Recreation
City of Greenbelt, Maryland
474-6878

SENIOR CITIZENS OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1994

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM AT THE YOUTH CENTER

REFRESHMENTS

LINE DANCING
1:00 p.m.

ARTS/CRAFTS DISPLAY

REGISTRATION FOR ALL
WINTER/SPRING ACTIVITIES,
TRIPS AND CLASSES

COME AND ENJOY THE FUN, ENTERTAINMENT,
AND SOCIALIZING

CALL 474-6878 FOR MORE INFO



NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY REFUSE SCHEDULE

Because of the New Year's Holiday, the CITY OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1993, AND REFUSE WILL NOT BE COLLECTED THAT DAY. The Monday/Thursday route will be collected on MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY. The Tuesday/Friday route will be collected on TUESDAY AND THURSDAY. Special Trash, previously requested, will be collected with the regular trash collections. Yard waste will be collected on Wednesday.

The recyclable routes will be collected on their regular schedule.

Subscriptions and Deadline Information
MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS: \$30 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 from 2-4 and 8-10 pm for display advertising; deadline is 10 pm. News articles and classified ads are accepted Monday from 2-4 and 8-10 pm and Tuesday from 8-10 pm.

Greenbelt News Review
ALFRED M. SKOLNIK, PRESIDENT, 1959-1977
ELAINE SKOLNIK, PRESIDENT, 1977-1985
PRESIDENT EMERITUS, 1985-
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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Published every Thursday, by Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Diane Oberg, president; James K. Giese, vice president; Virginia Beauchamp, treasurer; Bernina McGee, secretary; and Barbara Likowski.

Museum Activities

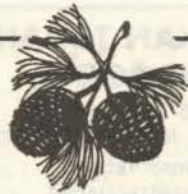
Friends of the Greenbelt Museum is attempting to contact families of Greenbelt pioneers and other long-term city residents. Interested persons may write to FOGM at: Post Office Box 1025, Greenbelt, Md. 20770.

Another flea market to benefit the Museum will be held on February 19. Contributions of jewelry and household items may be made by dropping them off at 2-G Gardenway. The October 9 flea market netted nearly \$500.

New board members and officers were elected to two-year terms at September's annual meeting. Elected to the board were Barbara Havekost, Judi Kerns, Sandra Lange, Anne Meglis, Sally Stokes, and Linda Warner. Elected to officers' posts were Lee Shields, president; Sandra Lange, vice president; Dorothy White, treasurer; and Morris Levitt, secretary. Continuing incumbent board members are Mary Linstom, Helene Mayock, and Greenbelt Mayor Antoinette Bram.

Five new volunteers have signed up as tour guides. Anyone else wishing to do so should call Linda Warner at 345-8361.

The Fiesta Ware exhibit, featuring over 50 items of the popular 1930s dinnerware, has been extended through December.



Bicycle Coalition

The Greenbelt Bicycle Coalition meets on Monday, December 27, 7:30 p.m., at the Greenbelt Police Station, 550 Crescent Road.

Progress on the petition for a bikeway through Greenbelt to the new Greenbelt Metro Station will be reviewed. Two city advisory boards, PRAB and APB, have given the petition favorable reports.

Bicycle related bills that are being introduced next year in the Maryland General Assembly will also be reviewed.

For more information, call Alan Turnbull, 982-6460.

GEAC Meeting

The Greenbelt East Advisory Committee (GEAC) has invited the members of the Greenbelt City Council to its next scheduled meeting on Wednesday, January 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hunting Ridge Community Center, 6914 Hanover Parkway. Topics to be discussed include GEAC's objectives and agenda for 1994. Residents of Greenbelt and Greenbelt East are invited to attend.

Contact Tim Sechrist at 345-6861 with questions or comments.

Community Events



New Officers Elected By Boys & Girls Club

At the annual meeting of the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club on December 7, the following were elected to serve on the club's volunteer Board of Directors for the 1994 year: Eleana Brooks, David Coley, Maurice Garland, Bob Green, Jeff Keir, Dennis Lewis, Marthea Lewis, Mark Markowich, Barbara M. Osborne, Ava Ramey, Randall Ramey, Mel Scites, Debbie Traas, Dianna Webb and Frank Wheeler.

Thereafter, the new board met to elect, from its own, the 1994 club officers. Elected were: Marthea Lewis, president; Jeff Keir, vice president; Debbie Traas, treasurer; Dianna Webb, secretary; Mel Scites, registrar; Ava Ramey, athletic director; and Mark Markowich, equipment manager.

Members thanked, on behalf of youth members, those who served on the board and as officers during 1993, especially Mark Markowich, the club's outgoing president.

The club's Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Youth Center. All interested persons are welcome. Volunteers are needed to serve as sport coaches and on various club committees, such as: (1) ways and means; (2) budget and finance; (3) audit; (4) publicity and public relations; (5) registration; (6) equipment; (7) awards; and (8) tournaments.

If interested in serving on any of these committees contact club president Marthea Lewis at: (H) 552-9078 or leave a message on the club's 24-hour Sports Line: (202) 310-1066.



GAB, the Student Advisory Board at Greenbelt Elementary School coordinated a project with classroom teachers and art teacher Virginia Wise to produce many creative holiday decorations for Greenbelt Nursing Center. L. to R. are Kelly O'Kane, GAB co-advisor, Melissa Cooper, Melissa Underdown, Greenbelt Nursing Center activity director, Allyson Collins, assistant director and Ryan Cooper.

—photo by Letty Morton

Recreation Review

New Year's Eve Sleepover
Need a babysitter? An evening of fun has been planned for children. The program includes a New Year's Eve party with games, movies, munchies and a light breakfast. The sleepover is for children 6-12 years of age. Call the Rec Depart. for fees and further registration information.

Ice Skating Trip
Children 12 and under are invited to meet Dec. 29 at the Youth Center to go to the Wells Ice Rink for an enjoyable afternoon on the ice. There is a fee for this activity. Please register in advance. Call 474-6878 for additional information.

Youth Center and SHL Holiday Hours
December 24 and 25—noon-5 p.m.; December 31 and January 1—noon-10 p.m.
Aquatic and Fitness Center
December 24—7 a.m.-6 p.m.; December 25—noon-8 p.m.; December 31—6 a.m.-5 p.m.; January 1, 1994—noon-8 p.m.

Fun at Goddard

Come tour the Goddard Space Center by bus on Sunday, December 26 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. All tours begin at the information desk inside the Visitor Center, which is located at the Soil Conservation Room entrance to the Space Flight Center. The tours include visits to special working areas that show satellite control and tracking.
For information call 286-8981.

Fifty Years Ago New Manager Voids Clothesline Curfew

by James Giese
October, 1943—Coming as a complete surprise, newly appointed Town Manager James T. Gobel lifted the ban on hanging clothes on outdoor lines after 4 p.m. and on Sunday. The ban had met with almost universal disfavor, especially with working housewives. Gobel did ask the residents to cooperate by having the clothes off the line by noon on Sundays.

The lifting of the ban must have been a godsend to the mother with baby triplets who had earlier expressed her plight in keeping a clean supply of diapers on hand if it rained on Saturday.

To All My Greenbelt Friends and Neighbors

May the Beauty of the Season

Fill Your Heart with Joy!

Judith "J" Davis

Greenbelt City Council Member

Happy Holidays

May the joy and peace of the holidays be with you now and throughout the new year!

My wife Ann and daughters Lisa and Tina join me in wishing you Happiness, Health and Prosperity in 1994!

Richard J. Castaldi

District 4, Prince George's County Council

GHI NOTES

GHI offices will be closed on Friday December 24 for Christmas Eve and Friday, December 31 for New Years Eve. For emergency maintenance only, please call 474-6011.

Warmest Holiday Greetings

to our

Greenbelt friends and neighbors
The Weidenfeld Family

Happy Holidays

to all

My Friends in Greenbelt

Warmest Wishes

Del. Mary A. Conroy



Holiday Greetings to my Greenbelt Friends and Neighbors

Bernie McGee

We Wish All Our Friends In Greenbelt A Joyful Holiday Season

George Loutsch Family

TOM AND HELEN WHITE AND FAMILY

EXTEND TO OUR

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN GREENBELT

BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

AND

A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS 1994



Chains made by the kindergarten classes at Greenbelt Elementary School are being hung at Greenbelt Nursing Center.

— photo by Letty Morton

Fifty Years Ago Liberated Nurse

by James Giese

November, '43—Lieut. (J. G.) Leona Jackson moved to Greenbelt in December, 1942 after being released from Japanese imprisonment. She was on Guam when the Japanese captured it.

She told the Greenbelt Women's Club how the Japanese made the hospital its headquarters as protection in case of U.S. bombing. Members of the nursing and medical staffs, as well as the chaplains, were considered military prisoners and taken to a prison camp at Zentsugi, near Yokohama.

The prisoners did their own cooking. They almost never received meat or fish and the vegetable allotment was so small that it had to be made into a very thin stew. "We called it weeds and water," she told the Greenbelt women. The prison was dark and unsanitary.

Later the group was transferred to the civilian prison camp at Kobe where conditions were somewhat better. In July, Jackson was among those to be returned on the exchange liner Gripsholm. At the time of her talk, she was working for the nurses' procurement division of the Navy. She had been a Navy

Help Big Brothers

"Little Brothers" and "Little Sisters" are benefiting from a joint effort by American Express Gift Cheques, financial institutions and American Automobile Association (AAA) outlets throughout Greenbelt this holiday season.

For every purchase of American Express Gift Cheques at participating locations from now through December 31, American Express will donate one dollar to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America and its local affiliated agencies—up to a total of \$100,000—as part of its second annual "Give the Gift That Makes a Difference" program.

In Greenbelt, consumers can participate in the program by purchasing American Express Gift Cheques at local American Express Travel Service Offices, as well as other participating financial institutions and AAA offices in this area.

ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Md.

MASS SCHEDULE:
Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
Saturday 5 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:30 a.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Rev. Thomas F. Crowley, Pastor
Rev. G. Paul Herbert, Associate Pastor

Greenbelt Community Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 474-6171 mornings

10:15 a.m. Sunday Worship


"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

Berwyn Presbyterian Church
6301 Greenbelt Road

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

All are Welcome

Rev. Sidney Conger 474-7573



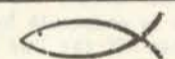
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Road

Worship Services:
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 8:30 & 11:15 a.m. (Infant care provided at each service)

Sunday School and Bible Classes 9:50 a.m.
Pre-School Department 9:50 and 11:15 a.m.

For information regarding programs for youth, young adults, singles, and senior citizens, please call the church office.

345-6111



Catholic Community of Greenbelt

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
Friday, 12/24, 7:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

Sunday Mass, 10:00 a.m.
Municipal Building

Paint Branch Unitarian Church
(3215 Powder Mill Road)

Fri., Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Candlelight Service - Children's Choir

9 p.m. Candlelight Service Adult Choir and Soloists

Sun., Dec. 26, 10:30 a.m. Year End Service, No church school. Child care available.

Service signed for the Deaf Assistive listening Devices
Rev. R. H. Thompson 937-3666

MISHKAN TORAH SYNAGOGUE
Ridge & Westway Rds.
Greenbelt, Md. 474-4223/4224
Conservative/Reconstructionist

Services: Friday 8 p.m.
(First Friday each month)
Saturday 9:30 a.m.
7:30 p.m.)

Rabbi: Saul Grife

Bahai Faith

"The essence of detachment is for man to turn his face toward the courts of the Lord, to enter His Presence, behold His Countenance, and stand as witness before Him."

— Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770

345-2918 220-3460

Saint John's Episcopal Church
Route 1 & Powder Mill Road
Beltsville, Maryland
(301)937-4292


Christmas Services

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24
Children's Service 4:30 p.m.
Holy Eucharist 10:00 p.m.
Festival Prelude at 9:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY
December 25
Holy Eucharist 10.00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
December 26
Holy Eucharist 8:15 a.m.
Lessons and Carols 10:45 a.m.
Please come and join us at St. John's as we celebrate the joyous Christmas season!

JESUS is the reason for the season!



Bible Study for all ages (Sun.) 9:45 AM
Worship Services (Sun.) 11:00 AM
7:00 PM

Midweek Prayer Service (Wed.) 7:45 PM
Intercessory Prayer (Sat.) 7:00 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 PM
For transportation, or questions, call 474-4212
8:30 AM - 12 PM

Greenbelt Baptist Church
Located at the corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads


UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MOWATT MEMORIAL
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Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Children's Education 10 a.m.
Adult Bible Study 10 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Prayer Service 7 p.m.
Arthur D. Shotts, Pastor 474-1924

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Good Samaritan Lutheran Church (ELCA)
10110 Greenbelt Rd.
(Between Lanham-Severn & Good Luck Rds.)
Phone: (301) 794-7300

Christmas Eve Services:

7 pm Service of Carols & Holy Communion With Junior Choir and Children's Sermon
9:30 pm Special Music with soloists and instrumentalists
10 pm Service of Carols & Holy Communion
11 am Sunday, Eucharist

GHI MEETING

(Continued from page one)

of these items.) The Board agreed to review each of these possible cuts and then take a nonbinding straw vote on each proposal. No discussion or rationale for their vote was permitted.

After this first round, the Board had identified potential cuts with a cumulative savings of \$150,000-\$190,000. Again, the goal is \$226,000. The Board decided to continue the budget-cutting process at a special budget cutting meeting on January 6, 1994.

The Board thanked Paul Sinner for the exceptional job he has done as Acting Manager in these difficult times.

The final business of the Board was to grant GHI employees a Christmas bonus, if it could be determined that there were sufficient funds remaining in the 1993 budget.

PARKING BAN

(Continued from page one)

both Wilson and Slepicka pointed out, bicycle ridership generally is low during the winter, biasing the study. In addition, he argued that any study would find that everyone drives to the Metro because bicycle access is so terrible. He commended council for its "radical" vision to create a situation where it is easy and desirable to get to Metro by bicycle.

Alexander Barnes Jr. reminded council that bicycles are legally recognized as vehicles. Hopi Auerbach argued that as congestion increases, the bicycle travel will become faster relative to a commute by car, encouraging more people to bike.

Cooperation?

Richard Perkins, one of the owners of COP, expressed disappointment that he saw no spirit of cooperation from the city, although he said he came to cooperate. Bram said that any compromise needed to be based upon COP's understanding of what council is trying to accomplish. She expressed surprise that COP did not have a more cooperative attitude.

Davis said that she could appreciate that Perkins was very upset because he was not getting his way.

Roberts called on Perkins to take a broader view: that underpasses and other actions conducive to pedestrians and bicycles are what made Greenbelt known. Such amenities, he said, bring people to Greenbelt, including some who work in the office park.

In the absence of council members Thomas White and Edward Putens, the motion directing that a resolution to ban parking on mark bicycle lanes on Ivy Lane passed on a 3-0 vote.

Police Blotter

Based on Information Released by the Greenbelt Police Department

Around 10:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14, a man had just parked his car in the 400 block of Ridge Road and was reaching inside his car to get his briefcase when someone coshed him in the back of his head with an unknown object. The assailant then tried to get the briefcase, but fled in an awaiting vehicle when he was unable to reach over the victim.

The assailant and accomplice are described as: (1) male, black, 17-18 years old, 5'8"-5'9", slim built, black hair, possibly a mustache, wearing a dark ski coat, dark jeans, white shoes, and a white T-shirt; (2) male, white, 16-17 years old, 5'8"-5'9", slimly built, shoulder-length blond hair, wearing a royal blue shirt. The vehicle was a dark blue, late model GEO Storm or Prism, with MD bay tags.

Around 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 15, a man selling cookies in an apartment building in the 9300 block of Edmonston Road, was approached by another man who placed an object against the back of the cookie-seller's head and demanded money. After getting the victim's money, the thief ran away.

Two non-resident men, aged 27 and 31, were arrested and charged with possession of cocaine with intent to distribute after an officer patrolling the 7500 block of Greenbelt Road had pulled them over and found suspected powder cocaine and "crack" cocaine inside their vehicle. They had initially been pulled over for an equipment violation. Both men appeared before a District Court Commissioner and were held on \$10,000 bond pending trial. The incident occurred around 2:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 15.

A 39-year-old non-resident man was arrested and charged with theft after police saw him operating a vehicle with stolen registration tags in the area of Greenbelt Road and Southway around midnight, Sunday, December 12. The man was released on citation pending trial.

An attempted breaking and entering of a residence in the 400 block of Ridge Road was reported on Wednesday, December 15. A witness observed a man taking a window screen off a window. Once the man realized that he was being watched, however, he ran away. The man is described as black, 24 years old,

5'9", 170 lbs., wearing a dark jacket with orangelettering on the back, a dark hat, and gloves.

Around 3 p.m. on Monday, December 13, a 30-year-old resident woman was charged with leaving an unattended child in a motor vehicle after an officer observed a five-year-old child inside a vehicle in the parking lot of Greenway Shopping Center. The woman was released on citation pending trial.

A gray, two-door, 1985 Mazda, MD tags PCN358, was reported stolen from the 7800 block of Mandan Road on December 8.

On December 13, a gray, 1989 Chevrolet Astro van, MD tags 559486M, was reported stolen from the 6900 block of Hanover Pkwy., and a 1984 Buick Century was stolen from the 8000 block of Mandan Road. The Buick was recovered later that day, and a 23-year-old man was arrested in connection with that theft.

Vandalisms to, thefts from, and attempted thefts of autos were reported in the following areas: the 6100 block of Breeze-wood Court, the 5800 block of Cherrywood Terrace, the 500 block of Crescent Road, the 6000 and 7500 blocks of Greenbelt Road, the 6900 block of Hanover Pkwy., the 7900 block of Mandan Road, 71 Court Ridge Road, the 6000 block of Springhill Drive, the 9100 block of Springhill Lane and Westway.

City Narcotics Unit Makes Drug Arrest

The Greenbelt Police Department reported that on December 16, as a result of investigation by the department's Narcotics Unit, members of the Department's Warrant Entry Team executed a search and seizure warrant at a residence in the 11 court of Southway at 9:55 p.m. According to the press release, a quantity of suspected liquid phencyclidine (PCP) parsley laced with suspected PCP and drug paraphernalia was recovered from the residence.

The press release further stated that arrested and charged

with possession of PCP with intent to distribute, possession of PCP, and possession of paraphernalia was Carolyn Ann Parish, age 40, of 11-C Southway. Parish appeared before a District Court Commissioner, where she was held on \$3,500 bond pending trial.

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Fresh Half Turkey Breast lb. \$1.59	Fresh Sauerkraut 2 lb. pkg. 79c
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Kahn's Honey Ham lb. \$4.79	Breakstone Sour Cream Pint 79c
Super Tru Roast Beef lb. \$4.29	Best Yet BUTTER 1 lb. 1/4's 99c
Russer German Bologna lb. \$1.29	Mama Mary's Gourmet Pizza Crusts 2 pk. \$1.99
Muenster Cheese lb. \$2.79	Kraft Chunk Cracker Barrel Cheeses 10 oz. \$2.19
Cream Cole Slaw lb. \$1.09	Kraft Quality Dips onion-bacon-Clam-French 8 oz. 69c

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Fried 2 piece Chicken Dinner \$2.99	Stand Up Colgate Toothpaste 4.7 oz. 99c
In Store Bakery Dept.	Alka Seltzer Antacid 24 pk. \$2.59
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Green Giant Golden Corn-Sweet Peas-Sliced & Fr. Green Beans 14 1/2 oz. **2/79**

Smack Ramen Noodle Soups 3 oz. **8/99**

Angel Soft 4 pk. Bathroom Tissue **89c**

Best Yet 15 oz. Kidney Beans **3/89c**

Cains Country 8 oz. Salad Dressings **89c**

Dove Liquid 22 oz. Dish Detergent **89c**

Nescafe reg. Classic 8 oz. Classic Coffee **\$2.99**

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Surf Dble Pwr 32 oz. Liquid Laundry Detergent **\$2.39**

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Fox Cheese-Pepperoni-Combo 7 oz. **FROZEN PIZZA 39c**
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Heinz #771017 any variety 12 oz. **HOME STYLE GRAVY 59c**
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Harvest Pride Sliced Rye Breads 1 lb. **99c**

Canada Dry Ginger Ale 2 Liters **89c**

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Sunshine Cheez-It 16 oz. Snack Crackers **\$1.89**

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Pioneer Greenbelters Remember

(Continued from page one)
to Senator O'Connor of Maryland. . . . He got me a job as a driver of a gasoline truck with American Oil Company. As soon as I notified the Selection Committee that I had a permanent job, we were told we could move in; our moving date was Armistice Day, November 11, 1937.

Mary Jane Kinzer was in charge of rentals and she interviewed us. We wanted an end unit (they cost \$4 or \$5 more a month than the inside units. . . .

We were among the first 100 families chosen, and we went up on Hillside to 6 Court and when we saw 6-M, we decided we wanted it instead of an end unit because it had two shade trees in the yard.

Marie Castaldi

We were married in April, 1936 and came to Washington on our honeymoon. Ed had taken a civil service exam some time before, and when we went through the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on the tour, he asked me how I would like to

(Richard Castaldi, still a Greenbelt resident, is now a member of the Prince Georges County Council).

Hazel Mae Ashley (Mrs. Julian)

My husband, who passed away seven years ago, our three children, and I were the first family to move into Greenbelt.

The electricity was turned on the next day, so we used candles that night.

We knew most of the first 100 families who moved in quite well.

There were eight houses (four on each side) in our block. In those eight homes lived the City Manager, the Mayor, two councilmen and us—the first family.

Dorothy Harris

The first thing we did after moving to Greenbelt was put up curtains. Hordes of people used to come out here, especially on weekends. We would be eating dinner and there would be the sound of voices. We'd look up and people would be walking up the hill in front of

sides being mayor and editor, he helped organize the medical cop and the citizens' association. His heart was wholeheartedly in the work, hence he gave of himself in full measure to the point of physical exhaustion.

Robert Dove

We didn't have hardly any furniture, and we were told we could buy some and include the payments with our rent. We went to the Center furniture store provided by the town and purchased our furniture; twin beds for our boys in white maple, light oak dining room furniture, and our bedroom furniture of gum. All this cost us approximately \$250 for which I believe we paid about \$8 or \$10 per month. I don't believe there was an interest charge. Our furniture was made by a group at Radford, Virginia.

There was no grocery store at first. We could place an order where the tailor—cleaning shop is now. Someone would go into Washington and get all the food, bring it back and we would pick it up in the evening.

Linda and I were active in a number of groups. I was on the first board that started the churches along with George Esbaugh, Annie Halley and others. We worked under the guidance of the Council of Churches in Washington, and we met in Center School. We started the Sunday School. Bob Kinchelov was our first minister. The Council of Churches had advised us not to have more than one Protestant church in the beginning, as it would be better to have one strong Protestant church than three or four small, weak ones.

Greenbelt used to have a fair every year in Center School. The scouts always had a display, sometimes we would paint ourselves up like Indians. The women made all kinds of baked goods. One year Linda had made pickled relish and she won 1st prize. The health nurse always had a display and that is where our sons learned about "the birds and bees." She had a display one year about the nine month development cycle of a baby.

Pearl Ellerin

We washed clothes in the basement of the apartment. My day was Wednesday. People really objected if you washed on their day. The washer was a wringer type. Though it took hours, that Norge washer washed better than any we use today. We had no dryer. Our apartment was on parkland but we hung out our clothes anyway. There was a town rule—no clothes on weekends or after 5:00 p.m. One day officers Faulconer and Zoellner knocked on the apartment door, and I had to take down all the clothes. WET. Nettie Granims who lived on Plateau Place was kind enough from then on to let me use her clotheslines.

When we went to the store in the summer—no shorts and no hair curlers. Of course, there were no air conditioners then.

Milk was delivered to the house. The bottle had a neck and we used a special ladle that fit the bottle so we were able to skim the cream off the top.

George Panagoulis

I was Greenbelt's first em-

We Pioneers

We did not arrive in Greenbelt after long, tiresome miles by covered wagon; nor did we find this place by chance. We were not first to gaze upon this spot of ground; nor did we cut down trees in order to build our homes. Nor is it necessary to clear the land to plant our crops that we may eat, nor dig a well that we may quench our thirst.

Yes, we are pioneers — of a new way of living. We are the sculptors handling the soft, yielding clay of a new community. What form shall we mold out of it?

This project has given most of us an opportunity we'd never anticipated. We are in the process of creating homes. Our families and our children will live under laws of our own making. Only in our fondest and most youthful dreams have we imagined such a chance. What will we make of it?

Let us make good laws — wise laws, and not too many of them. Let us keep ourselves, our community, our city government, our ideals, as clean as our new, windswept roofs. Let us conduct ourselves and the management of our Greenbelt in such a way as to deserve the pride with which all America will be looking on.

We who have been endowed with the greatest heritage on earth by our ancestors still have that hardiness and determination underneath. Greenbelt will be a success, with the cooperation of her citizens and with the help of God. We will have proved ourselves — we pioneers.

—Mary E. Van Cleve—



Cooperative Grocery Store in the Center opens its doors for business, December 1937. Courtesy Library of Congress

live in this area as he wanted to work there. I never thought it would happen, but it sounded like a good idea and he made inquiries while we were there.

One day we drove out to see some old friends, the Joseph O'Mearas, who had moved to their new home at 16 Ridge Road. The town seemed to be all mud that day, but it looked promising, and we put in our application, just in case.

We hadn't been back in New York too long when Ed was offered a job at the Bureau as he had been hoping. We moved to an apartment in Washington and finally we were called about our application for a place in Greenbelt. We moved to an apartment across from Center School with our first child, Al.

Later, Mary Jane Kinzer told us we should move out of the apartment soon, as Al would be needing a separate bedroom. And I asked her if we could wait a while as I thought I was pregnant. We didn't want to move into a two bedroom home, and then have a daughter and be required to move into a three bedroom unit. And that's how we got to 11-V Ridge Road. Lillian was born in 1940 and then Richard arrived in 1944.

our house. Some would peer in the windows and say things like, "They're eating their dinner." just as if we were on display and we were not real people. It happened often. Greenbelt was written up everywhere, it was so different. It was innovative with a capital I.

Mabel Bessemer

My husband was the town's first mayor (\$25 per year) and The Cooperator's first editor. He had lived in a religious cooperative group as a boy—and he was very interested in cooperatives. Rents were too high for us in D.C., and Greenbelt was a much better place. We received our notice of acceptance while I was in the hospital after the birth of our first and only child David. We moved to Greenbelt six months after he was born, about the time of Thanksgiving 1937. David was the youngest baby in town until the Fulmer baby was born. There were less than 100 families there when we arrived. Of the ultimate 4,000 population, 1,000 were children, 500 being under school age.

We lived at 45-J Ridge Road. During our first year there, Louis was out practically every night until 12:00 or 1:00 o'clock —planning, organizing, etc. Be-



Minister tells Bible story to children during Memorial Day church service in the Center School gymnasium, used in early days as a community room by Greenbelt church groups.

—photo by Marjorie Collins, courtesy Library of Congress

ployee. Previously everyone involved with Greenbelt worked for the federal government, and when I was appointed police officer December 1, 1937, I became the town's first employee. My salary at that time was \$125 per month. In a little while Yaie Hoffman and Buddy Attick were appointed police officers, and then I became Chief. I served as Chief for 15 years, and then in 1955, I became Chief of Prince Georges County's Police Department.

Back in the early days, one of our biggest responsibilities was making sure all the clotheslines in town were cleared by 4:30; another was making sure residents didn't start bringing in dogs and other pets. The regulations about clothes not being on the lines after 4:30 or on Sundays, and not allowing any pets were not too popular with some people. But the Town Manager, Roy Braden insisted that Greenbelt be a model community, that it be neat, so we enforced all regulations. He was a tough man, but a good one to work for.

In those days the police did about everything. We did fire and rescue work, kept people out of the lake. When it was open for swimming, one of the officers acted as the lifeguard. When the pool opened, kids would climb the fence and swim at night, and we'd have to stop that. Anytime there was something special going on, we were there—4th of July annual picnics and fireworks at the lake, the fairs at the end of summer, and the New Year's Eve parties at Center School. When it snowed, we'd go out to the power lines after dark and turn our cruiser lights on, so that sledding could continue. All the kids who liked sledding were there.

Townhouse for Rent

Super 2BR end unit w/deck, fenced yard, shed, updated Kitchen, W/D. Only \$600/month.

Call

345-3873 or 474-7668

Our Neighbors

by Linda Savaryn, 474-5285

Mrs. Becker's Life Science Mod 2 Class 1993 at Greenbelt Middle School received a plaque from Citizens Concerned for a Cleaner County. The students wrote a six-page newsletter titled "The Triple R—Reduce, Reuse and Recycle."

Gordana Borisav Sindic-Rancic is a candidate for a master's degree in science from the University of Oklahoma.

Charles Bartlett Byers, son of Elizabeth Byers, has been accepted by Bauder College in Georgia for the Fashion Merchandising Program beginning in January.

David Anna of Mandan Road has been awarded the President's Scholarship from Case Western Reserve University.

Elizabeth Lilly and Beverly Stone, students at Prince Georges Community College, have been inducted into Psi Beta, the national honor society for psychology majors.

Lawrence Shanahan of Westway celebrated his 80th birthday December 11 with the greatest gift of all when his granddaughter Donna and Alan Vaughn presented him with his first great-grandchild, a beautiful 6 lb. 13 oz. girl named Nicole Alexandria. Donna's mom, Margaret Brunatti, is thrilled with her first grandchild, as is Aunt Debbie Brunatti. George Brunatti of Lakeside is also a proud great-granddad.

Nicole has many aunts, uncles and cousins in Greenbelt. Mr. and Mrs. Shanahan have lived in Greenbelt for over 40 years. They have reared three children and helped rear 10 grandchildren here. They now plan on helping in some small way to let another generation see what a wonderful town Greenbelt is. They all love Greenbelt and they are sure Nicole will, too.



Lawrence Shanahan of Westway holds his first great-grandchild, Nicole Alexandria Vaughan, who was born on his 80th birthday, December 11.

Former VISTA Volunteers Sought

During this holiday season, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is urging its former volunteers to "phone home" and find out about VISTA's new role in President Clinton's national service program as well as events marking VISTA's 30th anniversary next year.

More than 100,000 Americans have served as VISTA volunteers but have lost contact with the program. VISTA hopes to contact them, involve them in national service efforts in their home areas, and ask their help in organizing local events that commemorate three decades of service. It also hopes to have a national anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C. in the spring of 1995.

Former volunteers are urged to call VISTA at 1-800-424-8867.

Oil and Water Don't Mix

by Tracy Vincent

Neither does water and antifreeze! Since 1988, under Maryland law, it is illegal to dump used motor oil on land, into waterways, down sewers and storm drains or to place it in the trash! The Maryland Environmental Service established and continues to service over 180 "used oil and antifreeze recycling centers," including the one here in Greenbelt at the Buddy Attick Park.

Oil recycling is important. First, we keep it out of the precious water systems, then we have it recycled into more motor oil. When depositing used oil/antifreeze, pour carefully and leave empty containers in the trash barrels. The plastic motor oil bottles are not recyclable because the oil residue is considered a contaminant. Residents who

see anyone dumping oil into a Greenbelt storm drain are asked to call Public Works immediately at 474-8004. Recycling oil in Greenbelt is easy, convenient and environmentally responsible!

Used motor oil is recycled in two ways. Used motor oil is processed and sold as a supplemental fuel source to asphalt plants, utilities, and companies with large industrial boilers. Also the oil can be re-refined into lubricating oil stock. Did you know that oil doesn't wear out—it just gets dirty. Once it has been cleaned, with additives replenished, the re-refined lubricating products are comparable to virgin oil products.

In 1992, the Greenbelt collection point took in 5,422 gallons of used motor oil and 385 gallons of used antifreeze—the second largest volume in Prince Georges County! Which means Greenbelt Lake and area ground water are protected against pollution.

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**School Closing Info
To Be on Radio/TV**

The upcoming snow season means that parents should become familiar with the emergency weather operating procedures for the Prince Georges County public schools. When it snows or the roads are icy, the best advice is to listen to the radio or watch the television news.

Decisions concerning early morning school closings or late openings are generally made by 5:15 by the Superintendent of Schools. An announcement is then provided to 38 radio stations and eight television stations in the Washington and Baltimore area.

After 6 a.m., parents can also access the school system's Voice Mail Bulletin Board by calling (301) 952-6000; wait for the opening message, then press the number nine. A recorded message will inform them of delayed openings or school closings.

When schools are closed all day, all other activities are also cancelled, and the buildings are not available for afterschool activities by private or other public organizations.

Decisions of early dismissal, in which schools close at half-day or one to two hours early, are also communicated to radio and television stations for broadcast in the same manner as the early morning school closings. During emergency weather conditions, parents should monitor the weather reports on television or radio during the day and listen for announcements concerning school operations.

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JOE'S TIPS OF THE WEEK
Season's Greetings:
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IN GRATITUDE to St. Jude for prayers answered. H.F.

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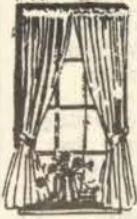
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Monday, January 3, 1994 7:15 p.m.
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 Please call receptionist at 474-4161 for reservations and information. The sessions are free, and there is no obligation.
GREENBELT HOMES, INC.
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The View from Ridge Road

by Christina O'Boyle

Lights On

Another light show went up on Ridge Road today. Even as ubiquitous as they've become—being used by banks and restaurants all year long—I can't help noticing electric decorations. At any time of year lights catch

my eye, but on my own street their sudden appearance is stirring. In a couple weeks I expect them to be there, dazzling. But at first, just after my neighbor has put in all the effort, I revel in the spectacle. No matter how awkward, no matter how meticulous, they flash in light-hearted celebration for me, for anyone, for everyone who passes by.

I have always loved lights. All of them: chandeliers over the dining room table; cozy corner lamps beside a reading chair; warm kitchen lights; Christmas tree lights. When I was old enough to steal the job from

my dad, I took over as tree technician. I would hold the small white lights like stars in my hands and hang them wherever a branch was dark.

Lights' transformation are wonderful. Light parts the darkness, shows us what's there and makes it more friendly or fascinating. A pine tree lined with lights changes the landscape. A bare windowsill with a candle becomes a beacon. Across the street my friend Sue has electric candles in all her windows. She keeps them on all day, all night, all year long. If I awaken with worries in the middle of the night and go to the kitchen

for tea, through my windows I see her candles and feel comforted. I respond as if they were real candle flames; as if she were in those rooms just then, awake too, and keeping me company.

Lights restore my spirit whether they're in my house or the neighbors'. Each display is unique to the owner, like hair, eye or skin color. Even if we all buy the same computerized strands we hang them differently: some trace the doorway, others drape them in a naked tree. And we all do it for free. For each other we drum up the idea, pay for

it, pull back muscles stretching the last wire up on the roof, and turn it on every night for the joy of it.

Twinkle light aficionado that I am, I'm jealous of the people who hang hundreds and thousands of lights over their houses and yards. I harbor secret dreams of joining their outrageous ranks. But I'll never achieve that goal since I can't even get the cards addressed or cookies baked. So far greeting the holiday and bidding 1993 adieu, our tree with colored lights will cast its best efforts into the Ridge Road show.

Holiday Greetings

In 1993, a number of changes occurred in our community which will have great impact on many lives; a beautiful, \$8.6 million elementary school opened; renovation of our old school into a new multi-use community center began; the fitness center was completed; and Metro Rail finally came to Greenbelt.

These and other worthwhile goals are achieved because of the caring spirit of many of our citizens, who share a common commitment to Greenbelt, and work together to keep it a vital, special community. We - the elected officials, employees and volunteer members of the city government - also share this commitment. Now that the holiday season is underway, we are joined together in our common wish that it will be a joyful, peaceful and meaningful occasion for all the citizens of Greenbelt.

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