City Council Will Pursue State Funding for Sustainability Efforts

by Kathleen Gallagher

At its September 25 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council acted on two items which commit the city to sustainability and energy efficiency measures which will also make Greenbelt eligible for state grant funding. Facing an October 2 deadline, council suspended rules requiring separate readings at two meetings and adopted a resolution requesting designation of Greenbelt as a “Sustainable Community” by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In addition, council approved the adoption of two energy-related policies as a requirement of accepting a grant from the Maryland Energy Administration.

Sustainable Community

Assistant Planning Director Terri Hruby hastened to explain that despite the similarity of names, the Sustainable Community designation under discussion was unrelated to the Sustainable Maryland status on which council has been working with the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES). Hruby apologized for the last-minute application, which she said was a result of staff confronting too many deadline-driven tasks to too short a time. She stressed, however, that the application and plan drafted by staff are based upon projects and processes that already have received significant public and council input.

The state General Assembly established the Sustainable Community designation as a result of the Sustainable Communities Act of 2010. That law consolidated previous DHCD-designated Community Legacy Areas and gave those areas an interim Sustainable Communities designation. Since Greenbelt’s existing Community Legacy (CL) designation expires on December 31, the city needed to submit a new application and action plan to be sure of continued eligibility for state revitalization funding.

Designating the entire city as a Sustainable Community is consistent with Greenbelt’s CL designation. The application and action plan proposed by staff incorporate prior CL activities, council’s vision and goals developed from the 2012 visioning sessions and strategies contained in the Adopted Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Plan. They also incorporate such recent initiatives as the Pedestrian and Bicyclist Plan, Bus Stop Safety and Accessibility Plan, GreenACES sustainability plan and the current fiscal year budget.

In addition to discussions of illegal rentals and Greenbelt Stream Restoration, reported separately, the Greenbelt City Council at its October 14 regular meeting received reports calling for increased signage for the police and fire stations and reviewing the sign plan for Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station, approved the city election questionnaire and set the number and pay for election judges and clerks.

Signs

Signage was the theme of two committee reports accepted by council without discussion.

In the Public Safety Advisory Committee’s Police Signage Report, the committee agreed with the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee that there is not adequate signage to ensure the police station is easily visible and easy to locate. The committee also found a need for more signage for the firehouse.

The committee suggested placing new signs at seven locations: east- and westbound Greenbelt Road at Southway, north- and southbound Kenilworth Avenue at Crescent, inbound Southway at Crescent, inbound Crescent at Ridge (police only) and inbound Crescent after Ridge (fire department only).

What Goes On

Thursday, October 24 through Friday, November 1

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Tuesdays till 8 p.m.) Early Voting, Municipal Building

Friday, October 25

4:30 p.m. sharp, Costume Contest and Parade, in front of CURVES (Registration is from 4 to 4:30 p.m.)

Saturday, October 26

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Electronics Recycling, Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Early Voting, Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Sunday, October 27

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Early Voting, Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Monday, October 28

8 p.m., Council Meeting, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov
Antithesis of Change?
How did Greenbelt politics come to be the antithesis of change?
In a long slide from tragedy to farce, our municipal elections have a now-normal turnout of less than 1 in every 5 percent of the voters. As someone has noted, in 2011 that was a sub-15 percent turnout (even with early and absentee voting options).
Source: http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/73
In the first 15 years of Greenbelt’s history, the city had five different mayors. In the last 15 years, Greenbelt has had only one.
In 1937, there were 17 candidates for five City Council seats; this year we have one serious challenger and one perennial chasing seven incumbents.
Source: http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/
Perhaps that’s all because most would-be candidates (and 85 percent of voters) realize the folly of challenging sitting members; an elected municipal official has not lost a re-election bid in Greenbelt since at least as far back as the 1980s. Not one challenger has dislodged an elected incumbent since then, I’m told. So Greenbelt is fast approaching three straight decades of retreats.

That may explain why the median age of current city councilmembers is 60 while for the population of Greenbelt it is 33 (Census 2010).
Representative government? No.

Besides, is it really one’s civic duty to weakly rubber-stamp a foregone conclusion? How exactly did our community’s politics become so sclerotic, so choiceless and sadly predictable? When, why and how did a place renowned for change and reform come to almost epitomize political stagnation and stale ideas? In short, how did Greenbelt become so very conservative?
Andy Carruthers

Dogs Need Leashes
The week of October 4, I tried to take two separate walks starting from my home on upper Northway down to Crescent Road only to be stopped in my tracks by a dog barking loudly.
This dog was not on a leash and should have been. The first time the owner stopped the dog and said I should continue walking. When I made a move to do so, the dog was nearly to the street when the owner hurried down to get the dog. As I made my way further down Northway, I saw an acquaintance walking down the street when the owner hurried to get the dog.
This problem on Northway is not just a Northway issue. It happens in other locations in Greenbelt as well. A year or two ago, I was walking on Ridge Road and there was a large dog trying to get over the fence, probably to take a bite out of me. I did report this at the time to GHI. I backtracked and went to GHI. I backtracked and went out again. I was too far down the street to see if either dog or acquaintance was hurt but I saw both people and dogs were standing around for awhile.
The next day, I decided to take another walk down Northway forgetting the episode of the day before. Once again the dog started toward me so I turned around and walked back up the hill to Hillside and down Greenhill to Crescent. This took me about 15 minutes out of my way. Coming back from my walk, I refused to go back up Northway so I walked to Hillside to get to my home on upper Northway.
I’ve heard of electric fences for dogs though I do not know how they work. If this house has an electric fence for the dog, it did not work. My personal opinion is that if you have a dog outside and no fence to keep it in, the dogs should be on leashes at all times.
I’ve heard from a few other people who said they have had this problem on Northway as well. To clarify one thing: This is not a Northway issue. It happens in other locations in Greenbelt as well. A year or two ago, I was walking on Ridge Road and there was a large dog trying to get over the fence, probably to take a bite out of me. I did report this at the time to GHI. I backtracked and went to GHI. I backtracked and went to GHI.

See LETTERS, page 11

Notice
This week, October 24, is the last issue for anyone to write a story or a letter to the editor that for the first time broaches a new issue concerning the city council election. This is to give everyone an opportunity to present the other side before the election.
It is our policy not to permit an attack on any individual to be published in this newspaper whether in an article, a letter to the editor or a paid advertisement.

Grin Belt
“I’m doing my trick or treating days in advance as a quality control taste tester.”

Greenbelt News Review
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Eileen Farnham, president, Thomas X. White, vice president, Judy Bell, treasurer; Mariel Moore, secretary; James Green, Diane Obern and Alene Bell Ross.
DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads — 10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in box in the Co-Op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions — $45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 – 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 – 4, 8 – 10 p.m.
Menu for Senior Nutrition Program
The Senior Nutrition “Food and Friendship” program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.
All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. The fee for October 22 through 31 are as follows:
Monday – Fruit punch, potato chips, cheese and a milk or orange juice.
Tuesday – Apple juice, corn chowder, seasoned salad, mixed green salad, fresh fruit.
Wednesday – Orange juice, baked potato with sour cream, diced turkey and shredded cheese, mixed green salad, fresh fruit.
Thursday – Gall Orange juice, Philly cheesesteak, tater tots, coleslaw, hot spiced fruit, orange fruit tart.
November menus were not received by press time.

At the Library
Storytime
On Thursdays, a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and storytelling. Pick up a free ticket from the information desk before the session.
Thursday, October 31, 10:30 p.m. Drop-in Storytime for ages 2 to 5 years mixes stories with fun activities including songs, rhymes, and fingerplays. Babies are also welcome. The usual 20-person room limit is relaxed. A
Adult Programs
Thursday, October 29 at 7 p.m., the African History Culture and the African Roots of His
GHI Notes
Thursday, October 24, 6:45 p.m., Investment Committee Meeting – Board Room
7:30 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting – Board Room
Friday, October 25, Office Closed For emergency maintenance call 301-474-6011.
Monday, October 28, 7 p.m., Communications Committee Meeting – Hillside Lobby
7 p.m., Board of Directors Executive Session – Board Room
Saturday, November 2, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Room
Note: Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Library Board to Hold Open Meeting Here
On Saturday, November 2 from 9 a.m. to noon, the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System Board of Library Trustees will hold an open meeting at the Greenbelt branch library. The meeting, in lieu of its regularly scheduled meeting for November, is open to the public.
The trustees determine library policy related to types of services, personnel, regulations, budgetary controls and all phases of library operations. No official actions will be taken during the session.
Topics for discussion will include development and fundraising, the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, a debriefing on the trustees’ August board retreat, committee charters and meeting schedules.

Cadillac Antique Car Show Here
On Sunday, October 27 at 11 a.m., a Classic Cadillac will be displayed at the free annual Fall Cadillac and LaSalle Show at the county’s CadillacsCOMP 6500 Capitol Drive
The show theme will be Colossal, and we’ll be by appointment at the show at 10 a.m., with awards presented at 3 p.m. Approximately 80 classic and antique Cadillacs will be on display both inside and out, rain or shine.
For details call Dan Ruby at 301-394-8029.

St. Hugh’s Holiday Bazaar Nov. 2-3
Next Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3 the annual St. Hugh’s Christmas Bazaar will be held on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
There will be vendors, crafts, a bake sale, plants, religious items, door prizes and more. Hugh’s own Father R. Scott Hurd, author of recently-published “When Faith Feels Invisible” will sign and sell his books. Greenbelt Writers Group member Peggy Rooney, author of several books including newest “The Tree House,” will sign her books, also available for sale.
On Sunday, Santa and Mrs. Claus will stop by for a visit.
St. Hugh’s is at 135 Crescent Road. See ad on page 2.

Greenbelt Co-op
Celebrate Co-op Month 2013 in Greenbelt
October 10 to 31: Greenbelt Co-op
Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance
Celebration Co-op Month 2013 in Greenbelt
October 10 to 31: Greenbelt Co-op
Greenbelt Cooperative Alliance
Booking at Farmers Market
Oct. 30 5-7 p.m; Wine Tasting. Alsatian albatross vineyards. Greenbelt Co-op.

Greenbelt Arts Center
N E A R S O L D O U T L A S T W E E K E N D

October 25 – 26 - Fri, Sat at 8pm
Ticket prices: $20 General Admission, $17 Students/Senior Citizens
$15 Child (12 and under with adult) Reserve tickets now! Sell out likely!
Note: Some subjects in the show may be unsuitable for children.
For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email info@greenbeltartscenter.org or BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at greenbeltartscenter.org

Greenbelt Toastmasters Meet On Wed., Oct 30
The next meeting of the Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will be on Wednesday, October 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside Crescent Roads. Toastmasters offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership. Members learn to lose the fear of public speaking, become better listeners and build skills for success.

Tickets Still Available For Empty Bowls
There are still tickets available for this year’s Empty Bowls, which will be on Saturday, October 26 from 4 to 7 p.m. at Greenbelt Community Church.
Attendees are treated to bowls hand made by The Greenbelt Potters and soups that will be available for the tasting. All proceeds of the event go to Help-By-Phone, a nonprofit whose volunteers run eight food pantries on Wednesday and Thursday. Attendees are also encouraged to bring canned goods for the pantries.
Tickets can be purchased at 301-345-7631 or Kathy at 301-474-4372.

GAIL to Help Review Medicare D Plans
This year’s open enrollment season for Medicare Part D Plans runs from November 27 to December 22. There have been several important changes to Part D plans including changed deductibles and formularies. It is important to review one’s plan and can take 20 or so minutes but could save thousands of dollars. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program is now scheduling appointments for Greenbelt residents to help them review their Medicare Part D plan.
To schedule an appointment call 301-345-6660, ext. 201.

Arts Advisory Board To Meet on Nov. 5
The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, November 5 ( Election Day) at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, Hillside Road.
For additional information contact Staff Liaison Nicolé DeWald by email at nicolé@greenbelt.gov or at 240-542-2057.

Greenbelt Dances At Artful Afternoon
As part of the November Artful Afternoon the Alight Dance Company will kick off their season of artistic works in development. Performances will be held on November 3 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd. Tickets are free.
Beltway Plaza Offers Pumpkin Fun Sat.

On Saturday, October 26 from noon to 2 p.m. there will be several seasonal pumpkin-themed events at Beltway Plaza’s West Court to entertain shoppers and community members.

There will be a pumpkin toss, with people tossing the pumpkin at a target - get it in the hole to win. All are invited to bring their creativity to decorate pumpkins in the Pumpkin Decorating Contest. The scarcest and the cutest pumpkins will win with the person decorating the pumpkin getting to keep it. Pumpkin supplies are limited.

There is a huge pumpkin on display with a competition to guess its weight. The person guessing closest to its actual weight wins.

There will also be prizes of gift cards and other items. Everyone is invited to stop at the Security Office Saturday to pick up a pre-Halloween safety item while supplies last.

You must be free from prejudice and fanaticism, beholding no differences between the races and religions. You must look to God, for He is the real Shepherd, and all humanity are His sheep. He loves them and loves them equally.

(Adludo Baha’i)

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6717 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.
Clara Young, Interim Pastor

Beltway Plaza Offers Pumpkin Fun Sat.
On Saturday, October 26 from noon to 2 p.m. there will be several seasonal pumpkin-themed events at Beltway Plaza’s West Court to entertain shoppers and community members.

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(Adludo Baha’i)
GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, October 28, 2013 - 8:00 p.m.
Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations:
- American Legion Post #136 – Veterans Day Program
- America Recycles Month Proclamation
  Oath of Office – New Greenbelt Police Officer

Petitions and Requests (Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

Minutes of Council Meetings
Administrative Reports
Council Reports
Committee Reports

LEGISLATION
- A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of a Mobile Tag Reader with Installation from ESLAG North America in the amount of $18,150 – 2nd Reading, Adoption
- A Resolution to Reappoint Attorney J. Thomas 706 to Update the Charter of the Advisory Committee on Trees – 1st Reading
- A Resolution to Designate the City of Greenbelt as a Healthy Eating Active Living City – 1st Reading
- A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Removal of an Underground Fuel Tank at the Police Station and Replacement of an Above Ground Fuel Tank at Public Works from Capitol Petroleum Equipment Inc. at a Cost of $132,974 – 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS
- Award of Purchase – Public Works Truck
- Advisory Planning Board, Report #2013-14 (Details Site Plan for Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station Sign Plan)
- Maryland Department of Transportation’s Consolidated Transportation Program
- Greenbelt Green Team – Sustainable Maryland Certification
- Other Reports
  - Amendment to the Code of Personnel and Administrative Regulations (COPAR)
  - Appointment to Advisory Group
  - Reappointment to Advisory Group
  - Resignation from Advisory Group

MEETINGS
NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the day meeting. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION
Any registered Greenbelt voter may choose to vote by Early Voting or Absentee Voting! NO MORE EXCUSES!

EARLY VOTING:
Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may choose to vote by EARLY VOTING.

EARLY VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS
Spring from 10-11:30am at Community Center
6101 Cherrywood Lane
Saturday, October 26th, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and Sunday, October 27th, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road
Monday - Fridays
October 21st – November 1st, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

ABSENTEE VOTING:
Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may choose to vote absentee ballot. Applications to receive absentee ballots are available in the City Clerk’s Office and online at www.greenbeltmd.gov.

Applications to receive absentee ballots must be received by noon on Monday, November 4, 2013. The completed ballot must be received by the City Clerk no later than 6 p.m. the day of the regular election, November 5, 2013. No absentee ballots will be distributed prior to October 16.

Use your executed absentee ballot by 1) sending it through the U.S. mail in time to arrive by November 5, 2) hand-delivering it to the City Clerk’s office, or 3) placing it in the locked drop-box at the east door of the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road.

Questions? Call the City Clerk at 301-474-8000, or send email to cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Rd

City residents can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items. Accepted items include: TVs, CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptop computers, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, fax machines, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, batteries taped on one end, expanded polystyrene block (“Styrofoam” #6)

NO cups, egg-cartons, nor food trays.

PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU WANT TO DROP-OFF MORE THAN 10 ITEMS OR ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.

For more info: 240-542-2153.

City of Greenbelt Recreation Department
COSTUME CONTEST & PARADE
Friday, October 25
Starts at 4:30pm Sharp
Roosevelt Center-Centerway
FREE-Registration will be from 4-4:30pm on the grassy area in front of Curves. All ages are encouraged to come dressed in their creative costumes. Prizes will be awarded to the best costumes for infants through 6th grade. Best Family and Pet costumes. Variety show and light refreshments after the parade.

Recycled Right Contest
“WIN WITH YOUR BIN”
You can win prizes by properly preparing your residential recycling bin during the next couple of weeks (Oct 21 to Nov 1). Five winners will be selected: one winner from each of the four City Recycling Collection Routes and one winner from a Contractual Recycling Collection Route.

Make sure you have clean, properly prepared recyclables set out on your collection day! Check out our website to see what goes in your bin: http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/Documents/View/560

Part of the AMERICA RECycles Day Celebration, America Recycles Day is November 15. This event is sponsored by the City of Greenbelt and the Metropolitan Council of Governments.

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 21-25
Monday, October 28 at 7:30pm, SENIOR CITIZEN’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE room 111 at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Monday, October 28 at 8:00pm, CITY COUNCIL MEETING Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and www.greenbeltmd.gov.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

Notice of Unclaimed Funds
The City of Greenbelt is holding $1,828 collected by a Petition to Repeal Resolution 706 to Update the Charter. If no one comes forward by November 8, 2013, the City will claim to these funds, please contact Michael McLaughlin, City Manager, at 301-474-8000 or email him mmclaughlin@greenbeltmd.gov.

If no one comes forward by November 8, 2013, the City plans to make these funds available to a new group which has an interest in establishing a non-profit to operate the theater. The funds would assist the new group with grants seeking.

Greenbelt CityLink www.greenbeltmd.gov

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, and Youth Advisory Committee. For information call 301-474-8000.

FREE FLU SHOT CLINIC
It’s Time to Drop In For A FREE Flu Shot!
Monday, October 28
Springhill Lake Recreation Center
6100 Church Road
Lan from 1 to 7 p.m.

*No Appointment Needed. Both intranasal (Flumist) and injectable (shot) vaccine will be offered

Under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Request for Proposal
Consultant Services for Police Promotional Process
The City of Greenbelt is requesting proposals for consultant services for the purpose of developing and facilitating a fair and valid promotional program. A Request for Proposal can be downloaded from www.greenbeltmd.gov, or can be obtained by contacting by contacting the Personnel Office at 301-345-7203.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER LATELY?
550 A Crescent Road
(behind Police Station)
Give us a call 301-474-6124
Come out and visit all of our available pets! The shelter is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment. See all our pets on Facebook!

Greenbelt CityLink www.greenbeltmd.gov

City Information

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW
Thursday, October 24, 2013
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Fit ‘N’ Fun Cardio
M/W/F from 10-11:15am at Community Center
Dance, Boot Camp, Weights and Floor Work
Drop-In Available. To register call 301-397-2208

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
Greenbelt Habitat for Humanity is looking for a Greenbelt family to be Habitat’s 12th homeowner. To apply, call 301-474-8000 or visit www.greenbelthabitat.org.
and shopping centers, existing businesses must be retained if they provide jobs and necessary services. This will require greater attention to economic development by Council and staff. I would support having a city position, as other cities have done, that specifically promotes our City’s assets, coordinates efforts to market Greenbelt to our advantage and works with the County’s Economic Development Corporation. A more viable commercial and retail base will add much-needed tax dollars. Council and staff must interact with our business community beyond an annual breakfast. Businesses, both large and small, are a vital component to the fabric of our City. Council must recognize the importance of businesses by more visible means, such as instituting an Outstanding Business Award, to highlight those businesses that are impacting our community in positive ways.

3. We are one City with many unique and diverse neighborhoods, but not all of our citizens are aware of what our City offers nor do they always have the means to get to our many amenities and services. Connectivity and communication must continue to be enhanced throughout Greenbelt. Council and staff have already done a great deal to address this issue, but even more must be done to ensure that city services and programs are equitable and accessible. Transportation within and to all parts of our City is key – it must be dependable, safe and available every day. We can no longer rely on older forms of communication to get our message out – we must also utilize newer forms of social media and technology. Another approach is to provide expanded facilities and services in Greenbelt East and West. Since 1993, my campaign slogan has been “Committed to Community.” I remain determined to remove barriers that prevent full participation by all our citizens in all aspects of Greenbelt life.

Emmett Jordan
Defining economic development goals, streamlining operations, and enhancing citizen involvement are my top objectives. To move toward the future we want, we need clear plans. We must pursue beneficial activities in order to thrive in Greenbelt. While College Park, Hyattsville and Riverdale Park are transforming, change is slow to come here. I will continue to push for focused planning and better follow-through to achieve the community and economic development goals shared between citizens, local businesses, and our neighbors. We must do more than rely on the County or State to steer our progress. In order to remain true to community values like open space preservation, sustainability, and smart growth, we need to expand our tax base so that we can afford to make those choices. I believe that home values are becoming more dependent on access to transportation and other economic factors. In recent times, Council has focused on quality of life issues, and not on the forces that shape the community. If we want Greenbelt to be a desirable and affordable place to live, we need to commit the time, thought, and effort to realize those goals.

Last year, I helped to initiate an "organizational assessment" study to look at the structure of city departments and the job functions of staff. Its recommendations should lead to common-sense decisions to streamline city operations and cut costs. Many senior staff and several department heads will likely retire in the next 4 to 10 years. As these changes occur, there will be opportunities to organize more efficiently and save resources, without cutting services.

Balancing the City’s long-term needs, managing debt and moderating taxes are inter-related. Although taxes here are higher than many places in Maryland they help pay for services that make Greenbelt special. I will be working to see that these services are delivered in the most cost-effective way. Increasing efficiency and growing the tax base are the best solutions for relieving the burden of taxes.

Good government is based on citizen engagement and access to information. Our city has a tradition of civic participation. I will work to find new ways to make information more available to citizens to enhance participation.

Substantial investments have been made in electronic record-keeping systems. More timely and detailed information about public safety, public works projects, code enforcement and community planning can and should be available to the public.

Work sessions at the Community Center are not broadcast; yet many important discussions take place. Within the next two years, we need to find a way to broadcast these sessions.

Council expanded from five to seven members in 2009. Council should split the responsibility for work sessions and use working groups or taskforces with citizens to gather information on complex topics. I think this would improve the quality of work sessions.

Important objectives are not necessarily accomplished in two years. Councilmembers should think beyond two-year election cycles to focus on broader goals. Success in achieving objectives comes through persistence, hard work and patience.

Roderick Roberts
At the recent candidates’ night at Greenbriar, I was approached by a young man who asked me what I would do about the basketball court at Mandal Road. He said he liked to play basketball and wanted to play at the Mandal court but couldn’t because the City had removed the hoops. I told him I was aware that the hoops had been removed because a few people had misused the area. I also said that I had already protested the removal of the hoops and I promised him I would do my best to have them restored. Important services like recreation facilities that Greenbelt residents of all ages need and deserve, we need to increase the size of our police patrol squad and provide police patrols at whatever level is necessary to protect our neighborhoods and the recreation areas that are an integral part of them.

I would also like to move forward with the plan to expand the Springfield Lake Recreation Center. This project has been on hold since 2005. There should be enough money in the “Greenbelt West Fund” to accomplish this project.

Also, I want to see the proposed Secrecy law defeated once and for all. There’s nothing more important than to have an open and honest City government. It should not be up to City Staff to determine what is confidential and what is not. To accomplish this goal, I will have to rely on the citizens of Greenbelt, who clearly opposed it, to be active and come to the City council meeting when the proposed law comes back to the Council.

Slavic Food Festival
At St. Gregory Nov. 2
St. Gregory of Nyssa Byzantine Catholic Church in Beltsville will hold its annual Slavic Food Festival on Saturday, November 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Eastern European foods including holupki, pirohi, halushki and kolbass with sauerkraut will be available for eatin, hot carry out or frozen carry-out.

Bake sale includes kolaci (walnut, poppyseed, apricot, raspberry and prune/lekvar).

The address is 12420 Old Gunpowder Road Spur. Contact the rectory at 301-953-9232, social hall at 301-776-7929 or www.stgregoryofnyssa.net.

J makes time for numerous visits to all Greenbelt schools, meeting with children, teachers and parents.
J found the means to fund expanded service for the Greenbelt Connection.
J suggested the Greenbelt property tax credit that piggybacks on the State’s program, thus lessening the impact of property taxes for qualified applicants.
J instituted regular meetings with important City Stakeholders, such as Beltsway Plaza, GHI, GEAC, and WMATA.
J was instrumental in convincing the State to set aside the forested wetland area, 1/3 of the Metro site.
J proposed that the City commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which led to CRAB’s idea for a Community Service Day.
J brought the idea to hold a Naturalization Ceremony in Greenbelt.
J promoted a citywide visioning process as a vehicle for input of citizens’ ideas concerning goals for Greenbelt’s future.
GHI Board of Directors Discusses Transfer Fees at Meeting

by Mike Persley

A question was brought up at the October 3 Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Board of Directors meeting about the high cost of GHI members moving from one home to another. Speaking in the visitors and members portion of the meeting, Angelia Foster, who with her husband has lived in a one-bedroom unit in GHI for almost six years, wondered why the cost of moving from one GHI home to another is only $25 cheaper than the cost for new members.

“I mean I love it here and I don’t want to leave,” she said, “but I almost feel like I’m being punished.”

Foster and her husband recently welcomed a baby girl and plan to move soon to one of GHI’s three-bedroom homes. To do so requires them to pay a $900 fee to sell their previous home plus the new membership fee for the new home, given at a discounted rate of $475 from the $500 charged for new members.

“The steep cost is easily difficult for a young couple with a new baby,” Foster said.

“We’ve been good members in good standing for almost six years,” Foster said. “It seems like they would make it easier.”

Susan Ready, president of the Board of Directors of GHI, seemed open to looking into the matter, but said she was not sure what could be done.

“What happens when members speak at that time is we don’t have all of the information in front of us,” she said. “So it’s something we will have to go and look at.”

Ready said the topic would come up again at the weekly Finance Committee meeting. The finance committee will have to look at whether there are alternative ways to raise the money to pay staff other than charging a membership fee to established members moving from one house to another.

The current fee pays for items such as the member’s employment verification, credit and background checks, document preparation, lock changes and other services. It’s not clear now that these items can be paid for without the fee, said Ready.

“It’s a good idea to look into what the actual cost to the co-op is and align that with members who are moving from one house to another,” said Steve Skolnik, vice-president of GHI. “But the real costs have to be identified and we have to look at how that would affect other members of the co-op.”

Foster, the artistic director for Alight Dance Theater and director of studio dance at the Community Center, hopes that she can make it easier for others in the future.

“If we changed this policy,” she said, “we would still have to pay the fee. But we want the co-op to stay good and strong and it isn’t a good policy for the kind of community we have,” she said.

Vote for City Council and Re-elect

Leta Mach

Serving YOU on City Council since 2003

- Experienced
- Involved
- Committed
- Knowledgeable

Building on the Spirit of Greenbelt … and Expanding the Possibilities

Questions/Comments? Call me at 301-345-8105 or e-mail leta.council@verizon.net

Visit my website, http://www.themachs.net

by authority of Alla Lake, Treasurer

Work Together + Respect the Past + Build the Future

Genealogical Society To Meet on Nov. 6

The Prince George’s County Genealogical Society will meet Wednesday, November 6 at 7 p.m. in the New Carrolton Municipal Building, 6916 Princess Garden Parkway. After a brief business meeting, Heather Olsen will present “Why Can’t I Find My Ancestors In The Census?”

All are welcome to attend. For additional information see www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/mdepics or call 301-362-2063. The society meets on the first Wednesday of the month from September through June, except for January.

GHI Members Covered by New Insurance Plan

The GHI Board of Directors have approved a new insurance plan for GHI members. This website will televiewed. They should be broadcast, so residents can conveniently follow issues.

Public meetings must be conducted in a way that will encourage involvement. I will push to put resident issues first on Council agendas and work to accomplish more in shorter meetings.

Streamlining City Operations

Last year, I helped to launch an “organizational assessment study” to look at the structure of city departments and staff job functions. Its recommendations should lead to common sense decisions that improve city operations and possibly cut costs.

Our citizens are Greenbelt’s greatest asset. Volunteers multiply what government can do. I will work to find ways to use the skills of volunteers in substantial and meaningful ways. Good staff supervision is required, but is a prudent investment of time.

“I consider the role of a Councilmember to be to prepare for meetings, to consider alternative approaches to problems, and then to work with the rest of council to choose the best course of action. I listen to the views of residents, stakeholders, other Council members, and do research. In the end, my job is to make decisions that are in the best interest of our community.”

I am listed # 3 on the ballot. Please cast a vote for me.

Promoting Open Government

Citizen engagement and access to information are the basis of Good Government. I will work to enhance civic participation and to make information more available to residents. Council Work sessions held at the Community Center are currently not televised. They should be broadcast, so residents can conveniently follow issues.

Building on the Spirit of Greenbelt

I continue to push for focused planning and follow through by Council and Staff to achieve the community and economic development goals of residents. Increasing efficiency and growing our local economy is ways to maintain quality municipal services without compromising the City’s future. We must do more than rely on the County or State to steer our progress.

Working for a Stronger Greenbelt

I will work to find ways to use the skills of volunteers in substantial and meaningful ways. Our citizens are Greenbelt’s greatest asset. Volunteers multiply what government can do.
Council Debates What to Do about Illegal Condo Rentals

by Diane Oberg

The item on the agenda of the October 14 regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council looked innocuous enough: “Review of Council Bill 89-1202 and Applicability to Greenbelt.” It turned instead into a wide-ranging, sometimes fiery discussion of the problem of illegal rentals in the city and what could be done about them.

In the end, council unanimously approved the staff recommendation to refer the matter to the staff themselves for further review with a report due by December 31. The issue will also be referred to the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB), which may not happen itself until the staff report is complete. Afterward, Mayor Judith Davis said, council will hold a work session on the topic.

CB-89-2012 authorized the county to deny a license for a rental unit if the owner of that unit is delinquent on homeowner association (HOA) fees. City Manager Michael McLaughlin, in his agenda comments, wrote about a number of requests from city HOAs that the city adopt similar authority. While the county bill focused on the authority to deny licenses, council members said that delinquent rentals may be at least as much of an issue.

Several Issues

A number of issues arose during council discussion: 1) collection of delinquent fees, 2) unlicensed rentals, 3) the county exemption of rentals to relatives from licensing requirements and 4) to what extent rental issues, relative or not, are the responsibility of the city rather than the HOAs.

Delinquent Fees

It is difficult for HOAs to collect from delinquent homeowners. Through legal action, they must obtain a lien on the property. Then they must attempt to collect. Councilmember Silke Pope, who is also the president of the Belle Point HOA, said that after the HOA invests in the legal costs and time to obtain the lien, they may not be able to collect. In that case, they have to request and pay for a sheriff’s sale.

Davis commented that some delinquent homeowners know how to work the system and can delay action on their cases for years, resulting in large losses to the HOA. In some cases, HOAs may be awarded legal fees in the judgment. That is not certain, however, and can happen long after the HOA has paid the fees.

McLaughlin noted that the city could enforce a code of illegal renters, and in response, Councilmember Edward Putens described himself as angry. He said he had told the code enforcement staff about some cases but no one is doing anything about people renting out properties without a license. He said that when the HOA has a lien, the process has nothing to do with HOA covenants and that the city needs to enforce the code.

Unlicensed Rentals

Putens, who asked that this item be put on the agenda, said that the many unlicensed rentals in the city affect the livability of neighborhoods and that the lack of adequate response to unlicensed rentals leads others to question why they should bother to get a license since others don’t. The challenges of combating such unlicensed rentals was the focus of much of the rest of the discussion.

Exemption for Relative

One of the biggest challenges appeared to be the exemption for relatives. County law exempts landlords from the requirement to obtain a license when they rent to a parent, child, sibling, grandchild, grandparent or in-law. However, there is no mechanism whereby the relation of a landlord and tenant can be verified and landlords do not need to take any action to claim the exemption.

Putens described a situation where, in conversations, the tenant said the landlord was not a relative but when the city investigated, the landlord claimed the tenant was a relative. Putens asked for a commitment from council to do something about this problem.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts, who had sought to raise this issue earlier in the meeting, called on council to close this loophole.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan asked if the city could find a way to have landlords provide an affidavit that the renter is a relative. Roberts suggested that this may not completely solve the issue, asking what would happen if the landlord then claims that the family member is not paying rent. The county law’s definition of a relative was also an issue. Davis thought the definition was quite broad but Jordan had the opposite concern. The city has a very diverse population and many alternative families, he said, and the law’s list of relations may be too narrow. Pope and Councilmember Konrad Herling shared this concern.

City Solicitor John Shay raised the possibility that if the city passed a law comparable to CB-89, it could close the loophole. McLaughlin said he would work with Shay and City Solicitor Robert Manzi to determine if the city could remove the exemption.

City Concerns

Putens asked whether an illegal rental is really an HOA covenant issue or a code enforcement issue. Shay said the city could file an enforcement action in the Circuit Court of Maryland against landlords who do not obtain a license.

Pope, after describing the difficulty of collecting delinquent fees, asked what the city could do right now, to help communities with illegal renters.

On the issue of addressing unpaid fees, Shay relayed the concerns of Manzi who in a memo to council had reminded them that “the covenants that govern a property are a private contract regarding which the city is neither a party or a third-party beneficiary and therefore, has no standing to enforce.” Further, he asked that council consider whether becoming involved in enforcement of private covenants to any degree would establish a bad precedent.

Herling asked if passing such a law would affect the city planning staff. If so, the city would be taking the role of the county and might require additional staff.

Jordan noted that the new county law seems difficult to manage and time-consuming to enforce.

Next Steps

Councilmember Leto Mach noted that the illegal rental situation was multi-faceted, very emotional and very hard to enforce. She asked that the staff recommendation be expanded to include referrals to CRAB, city HOAs and condominium owners associations.

Timing is an issue, Davis said, adding that council will need a work session once they get the staff report. This review needs to be completed prior to next year’s budget process to ensure the city has code enforcement inspectors.

Howl-queen Activity at Beltway Plaza

On Thursday, October 31 from 6 to 8 p.m., Beltway Plaza will be celebrating Halloween with fun for mall visitors.

Following that at Center Court there will be a costume contest with judging from 7 to 8 p.m. and prizes distributed.

With Investments, it is said, “Past performance is no guarantee of future results.”

Since 2003, Konrad’s performance, as both a Council member and a citizen, has resulted in a more enriched and unified Greenbelt.

RECOMMENDATION: The City operate a “Welcome Wagon”

RESULT: A “Welcome Wagon” packet was approved by Council in 2009. Currently, packets are distributed to new Greenbelt residents informing them about opportunities provided by the City and community organizations. The next step is to greet new Greenbelters in person and materials in Spanish.

RECOMMENDATION: The City hold “Visioning Sessions” based on experience with organizing community planning 1985 Charrette of the Roosevelt Center.

RESULT: Visioning Sessions were held in 2008 & 2013, with input from citizens regarding desired goals, with many already adopted by City Council.

RECOMMENDATION: Transportation be a higher priority

RESULT: secured a $20,000 grant to hold a Transportation Charrette. Worked with Transit Riders United, Metro, and the County to improve bus service; Co-authored the Transportation section of the Environmental Sustainability Framework of the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION: The City implement a sustainable economic development strategy; establish an Office of Economic Development.

RESULT: A “coffee” with several business leaders was held as part of an outreach to that community. I am still working to secure greater community support and at least two more votes on Council to move forward.

RECOMMENDATION: Create a New Year’s Eve city event when the City Council voted to defund the City sponsored program.

RESULT: Worked with Greenbelt citizens to produce a collaborative celebration, and to mark the end of our 75th Anniversary events.

RECOMMENDATION: Create an International Cultural Festival to celebrate the diversity of Greenbelt residents.

RESULT: Three different events in 2006 that brought approximately 250 people together to learn from and about each other’s cultural heritages.

RECOMMENDATION: Produce a cultural program as part of the City’s Earth Hour.

RESULT: A program that attracted families to participate in a cultural event celebrating Earth Hour to have a fun electricity-free evening.

If re-elected, I will continue my efforts to accomplish goals in the following areas to bring our community together:

Community Development, Inclusion, and Diversity “Sustainable Economic Development Expanding the Arts in Greenbelt “ Health and Public Safety “ Environmental Stewardship Initiatives

PLEASE VOTE TO RE-ELECT KONRAD HERLING TO CITY COUNCIL

By authority Trina Coore, Treasurer

Page 8 GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW Thursday, October 24, 2013
By: Jordan L. Scott

The festival was held on Saturday, October 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. The purpose of the GCDC is to enhance the community by improving all aspects of the quality of life for residents, businesses, and visitors. The festival provided music, smiles and wellness to the area.

The festival catered to a variety of ages and interests. One of the bands to grace the stage, Crash Jackson from Germantown, played their own music as well as a cover of a classic rock song from the 1970s. The band was made up of middle-aged men and women who were having a good time. One of the vendors at the festival was Papasa massage therapist. She offered massages to festival-goers and managed to brighten up the day for many people. She said, “I love seeing people’s faces light up with happiness when they get a massage.”

The festival also featured live music. One of the bands that performed was the Violins. They played an arrangement of popular songs, including “Bohemian Rhapsody” by Queen. The music was well received by the crowd, who danced and sang along. The festival also featured food trucks and vendors. One of the vendors was Acorns a Go-Go. They sold vegan food and the culture around it. The festival catered to vegans, and the Acorns a Go-Go booth was well attended.

The festival also featured a variety of food trucks and vendors. One of the food trucks was Beltway Plaza Hardware. They sold a variety of foods, including hot dogs, hamburgers, and fries. The festival also featured a variety of vendors, including a booth selling vegan food. The festival provided a great opportunity for people to support local businesses and enjoy a variety of foods.

Despite the weather, the festival provided a great opportunity for people to come together and enjoy a variety of foods and music. The festival also featured a variety of vendors, including a booth selling vegan food. The festival provided a great opportunity for people to support local businesses and enjoy a variety of foods.
**Police Blotter**


Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Improvement**

In October, the committee called for improving existing signage to make it more visible. They also discussed whether the sign at the police station sits too low to be seen easily and is not clearly illuminated. The committee also supported the requested Art Deco-type signage on the east and south sides of the building itself.

Finally, they recommended that a schedule be established to regularly clear vegetation and to remove cars parked on either side of the firehouse driveway so it is visible to drivers approaching from either direction and that the sign be illuminated after dark.

**Advisory Planning Board (APB) Report**

APB Report 2013-5 addresses the sign plan for Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station. The report notes that the current request calls for fewer signs and suggests revisions with city planning staff.

The board recommended that council support the sign plan with four conditions. These reports will be considered at future council meetings.

**Legislation**

Council considered final approval to a resolution increasing the pay for election judges to $225 and for election clerks to $175. One council member noted that it complies with section 5-70 of the Maryland Election Law. Council suggested various modifications to the survey and gave its approval.

Michael Hartman, while appreciating the city’s plans to post the election questionnaire on the web, urged council to have it tested to ensure that it works with assistive technology for the visually impaired and that it complies with section 508 of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mayor Judith Davis thanked him for the council’s support and continued with the meeting.

While “we may not get this year,” she said, “the city has staff available to help those citizens complete the questionnaire.”

**Other Actions**

Davie presented a proclamation recognizing October as Cooperative Month to representatives from the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative, the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, Greenbelt Homes, Inc., the Greenbelt Nursery School, the New Deal Cafe, Rapidan Camps and the Greenbelt News Review.

She also presented a proclamation recognizing October 6 through 12 as Nonprofit Awareness Week to representatives of the Greenbelt Community Fund and the Human Services Coalition of Prince George’s County, which sponsors the Nonprofit Awareness Week.

Council authorized staff to submit two Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications to the county for consideration. One seeks $118,000 for resurfacing Springhill Drive from Springhill Lane to Edmonston Road; the other $50,000 is planned for a youth mentoring program for low income youth city.

City Manager David Moran told council that the amount of funds available for county CDBG grants is largely dependent upon the amount of federal CDBG funding.

**Petitions**

Bob Snyder, chair of the Forest Preservation Advisory Board, in response to a letter presented to council by the Executive Committee of the Greenbelt Community Gardens Club during a recent worksession, said he would like to have the council consider the character of existing signs on a case-by-case basis and to consider the changing characteristics of the community and its visitors. Snyder also recommended that the council consider adopting a resolution requiring that signs be placed in areas used by the public.

**National Gallery Holds Free Concert Sunday**

On Sunday, October 12, in response to a letter presented to council by the Executive Committee of the Greenbelt Community Gardens Club during a recent worksession, the council approved a resolution increasing the pay for election judges to $225 and for election clerks to $175. One council member noted that it complies with section 5-70 of the Maryland Election Law. Council suggested various modifications to the survey and gave its approval.

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THANKS!
A special thank you to Sue Krofchik for her great article about the replacement of electric poles in our town. A huge thank you to all who planned and participated in this important project.

I was personally involved as the pole in front of my house was replaced, which involved moving plants and waiting for a time when the nearby baby birds were no longer in harm's way. Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) staff were wonderful in making sure that communication was clear and that the plants were moved. The C.W. Wright supervisors made sure that my concerns were addressed.

I grew up in the country and remember how difficult it was to dig post holes for fences, plus I know how nearly impossible it is to dig in GHI yards. I was mesmerized by the work—watching the men as they skillfully worked together to replace the poles. To see at least eight men patiently digging the seven-foot holes and installing and re-wiring the poles was amazing. Then, when they were gone, to see they barely left a footprint in the area. They were without a doubt very hardworking men, with so many of them far away from their homes and families for significant periods of time.

It is a blessing to live in a country where we have such a good infrastructure and to have the luxury of making improvements before more serious “inconveniences” arise. There had been a lot of trepidation regarding Pepco’s arrival to trim back trees and replace poles and many were involved to ensure a smooth, sensible project.

Thank you to the city council, city staff, GHI staff, folks who showed up at the meetings to discuss the project, Pepco and to the C.W. Wright Company.

Gail Phillips

Letters to the Editor

Toastmasters to Hold Spook-a-thon Oct. 30
The government Toastmasters Club at Beltville Agricultural Center, which missed two meetings during the furlough, will resume with a special meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30—the fifth Wednesday of the month that will be a special Spook-a-thon, with a nod to Hallween for this traditional fifth Wednesday event.

The October 30 meeting will be solely of musical speeches, which are usually called a speak-a-thon. All are invited to attend the free meeting to hear the speeches and see how a spook-a-thon is organized.

More information is available at http://arc.toastmastersclubs.org/2013_Spook-a-thon.html

Patuxent Kids Program To Feature Wolves
On Saturday, November 2 from 10 to 11 a.m. there will be a program on wolves for kids ages 8 to 10 at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitors Center. Participants will learn where these powerful predators call home and how wolves survive in a pack.

Public programs at Patuxent Research Refuge are free although advance registration is required: call 301-495-5887.

For details visit www.paxtown.us.

The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the B-W Parkway and Rte. 197.

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economic development, to make city government more open and transparent and to strengthen programs.

Konrad Herling, seeking reelection, has lived here all but 10 years of his life, he said. He has found the one steadfast thing about Greenbelt is its community spirit. "There is all forms, he said, is one of his key issues. He would like to see said, to grow Greenbelt East and West. He also seeks more sustainable economic development, preferring greater utilization of existing facilities over building new ones.

Now seeking a third council term, Pope said she got involved in fighting crime and crime watch while a resident of Springhill Lake. She said she even got involved in chasing after criminals there. She came to realize that decisions that local governments make can help you and your neighbors.

Patens, longest serving member of council, apologized for leaving the audience deep in the forum. He spent his allotted time telling about his donation the North Baltimore Museum, as co-executor of the late Sheldon Goldberg’s estate, of the NBM. This is, he said, one of the Normandy invasion during World War II. He said this was one of July 6.

Leta Mach promised to listen and work hard if reelected, she said. Her goals are to restore the Greenbelt theater, to improve public safety (thinking that getting the FBI headquarters sit here will help with that issue), to continue to work toward cleaning and dredging the lake and repairing its dam, to implement the walking and bicycle trails plan and to work to bring all of the city into one community.

Repeat challenger Bill Orleans said that upon returning to Greenbelt 10 years ago he decided to attend a council meeting and has regularly done so ever since. After watching council, he said, he finds that he cannot support any of its members for election except one. His interest is in making a change to the council.

Rodney Roberts, also seeking reelection, confessed that he once thought of moving to Delaware at age 18 to set up a business. He didn’t, however, and hasn’t thought about leaving since that time. He asked those in attendance to look at his flyer to see what his goals for the city are.

Current mayor, Judith Davis, appeared in running shoes but not said, because she was running for reelection. Herling said the result of doctor’s orders and she hoped to be able to go. Knocking on doors in another week, she said. In her first election campaign she said she had to fight the older voters and that people will come. She added that she has found the community meetings and functions ever since.

Herling noted that capital projects are uncompleted for many years and that it took time for staff to work their way through resolving them. “I want to make sure that every project we do is a quality project and done at reasonable cost,” he said.

Pope said that reducing property assessments has slowed the city’s ability to do projects. There are all kinds of things that need to be done, she contended, and they are very expensive.

Jordan noted that capital projects are budgeted differently from operating expenses and that the projects to be undertaken are prioritized with available funds, financing those projects with the highest priority.

Stewart advocated improved walkability and bikeability as a means to make the commercial centers more viable. She proposes a greenway to connect the various parts of the city.

This question dealt with the fact that many capital projects remain uncompleted. Many projects cost. She criticized the theater project with receiving only one bid and urged greater competition.

Pope said that reduced property assessments had slowed the city’s ability to do projects. There are all kinds of things that need to be done, she contended, and they are very expensive.

Jordan noted that capital projects are budgeted differently from operating expenses and that the projects to be undertaken are prioritized with available funds, financing those projects with the highest priority.

Herling agreed that the planning staff was overworked. He reiterated the need for economic development. However, he expressed concern that the Greenbelt Arts Center bathrooms had been renovated for $56,000 and that it was too many times more than that, he said, to do the Greenbelt Theater.

Putens said that city capital projects are prioritized by council and that none are mandated, with the possible exception of repairs to Greenbelt Lake and its dam.

Greenbelt West Question 3 was “What positive steps can the council take to improve the quality of life for residents and businesses in Greenbelt West?”

My PRIORITIES:

Continue our strong efforts to bring the FBI to Greenbelt. The FBI needs to move. Greenbelt would be an ideal and welcoming city.

Having the FBI in Greenbelt would have a huge economic impact, including new housing, new businesses and customers, and higher tax revenues. All of Greenbelt would benefit.

I have pushed hard for revitalization in Greenbelt West. We have made some progress, but that promised high-class commercial development near Metro has not happened. Plan B is a federal agency headquarters in that location.
and negative impacts do you anticipate from new development in Greenbelt West? She said they are very good, if we are successful in getting the FBI built by a private developer, and if the Beltway is actually going through Greenbelt Road and other area roads.

Jordon supported the other two and thought it would help to upgrade parts of the city but noted that the city had no control in the making of the site decision.

Davis noted that he thought the FBI relocation to Greenbelt would have more positive than negative results. He followed that the Beltway would upgrade and Franklin Park would like to have a development taking place than is already being done.

Putens said it was a positive, as an environmentalist, to turn the positive aspects of such changes and her belief that there will be growth in urban sprawl. The city needs to look at the trade-offs in resident from such development, she said.

Davis noted that the new FBI facility could lead to the new development that the government is only now in the site selection process. The developer for the Metro Greenbelt Station is necessary, she said, in order to make the development work. She hopes there will be a community outreach to new residents of this planned development underway.

Mach said that the FBI facility coming to Greenbelt would be a positive thing but he said he doesn’t know if that will happen. He reiterated his concern about apartments being built to the rear of the Beltway Plaza.

Orleans was ambivalent about the coming to Greenbelt. He felt the North Core was the wrong site for it; it should be located on the South Core, he said. He opposed being located on Beltville Agricultural Research Center property.

Mach asked whether or not new development is positive or negative depends on the people. She said that the city needs to put out and let newcomers know what Greenbelt is about.

Jordon felt that there was a need for more programs like the Butterfly Garden where you can gain hands-on experiences teens should be encouraged to go to trade schools, she said. She likes the Capital One program offered at Parkdale High School.

Jordon felt it was important for young people to have more places to go and that there should be more after-school programs. He is impressed with Club 125 recently opened in Roseland Center and felt that homeowner associations could offer more collaboration.

Herling would like to see a youth club come to Greenbelt and would urge trade unions to offer more training opportunities. Working for Greenbelt Public Works had been a great opportunity for him, he said. There is a problem, however, in trying to dictate what kids should be, Putens said. He didn’t think he would amount to anything, he said, when he was a youth.

All youths are different, Mach said. Therefore you need multiple programs. She noted that the Youth Advisory Committee had recently recommended numerous changes.

Orleans admitted he didn’t know how to engage youth or work with teens but has more programs offered but noted there were not enough grants available.

Herling felt it important for kids to have an opportunity to work (and be able to have summer jobs). He said he had learned a work ethic when he was young. Jordon noted that the city has interns and has utilized specialized programs as to work with teens to provide more opportunities, he said.

Community-run management of the Greenbelt movie theater

• A local co-op nursery

• Aid the creation of 3 new co-operatives

• Aid the creation of 3 new co-operatives

• Attractive signage for Roosevelt Center

• Better way-finding signage all around the city

• Community-run management of the Greenbelt movie theater

• New resident of this planned community would be growth in urban sprawl.

The city needs to look at the positive aspects of such environmental benefits?” he asked.

Jordon would like to see better accommodation for bicycles on Kenilworth Avenue, not just to Berwyn Heights, but to the proposed Purple Line station in Riverdale Park. Orleans expressed support for green streets, while Herling felt council had to be more proactive.

Jordon said that another pool known to her sold ice cream to kids during adult swim breaks.

Putens felt that paying more money for instructors would help bring in more people. Putens felt that the current fees drew people to the pool from other communities.

Shirley Middleton noted that a lot of people can’t drive because they are not driving anymore. How should the city deal with handicap persons during times of emergency? She asked.

Herling noted that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transportation Agency could provide transportation by appointment for persons with handicaps.

Mach said that everyone needed to be prepared to remain in shelter during emergencies and they should get to know their neighbors. Jordon said that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) had been dealing with emergency situations. She noted that they had first dealt with mobile populations, then with pets and were only now dealing with persons having special needs.

Pope thought the matter should be referred to the city’s Public Safety Advisory Committee. She feels there should be stickers on doors there (and be carpool persons reside. Orleans felt that city personnel should have a sense of where people with special needs lived.

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Voting

Susan Stewart

for Greenbelt City Council

Green practices, Green spaces
• Preserve our historic Community gardens
• Robust stewardship of the forest, watersheds & wildlife
• Preserve our historic Community gardens
• Robust stewardship of the forest, watersheds & wildlife
• Explore solar power and EV charging opportunities within the city

Vibrant commercial centers
• Transit stations for better access
• Local bike lanes and bike trail access
• Transit stations for better access
• Local bike lanes and bike trail access
• Support for green streets
• Support for green streets

Better walking and biking in Greenbelt
• Better way-finding signage all around the city
• Better bike lanes and bike trail access
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• Better bike lanes and bike trail access
• Support for green streets
• Support for green streets

Culture and recreation in Greenbelt
• Support and promote arts, crafts, & music in Greenbelt
• Create a promotion webpage for annual city festivals
• Support and promote arts, crafts, & music in Greenbelt
• Create a promotion webpage for annual city festivals
• Aid the creation of 3 new co-operatives
• Aid the creation of 3 new co-operatives
• Community-run management of the Greenbelt movie theater

Aid the creation of 3 new co-operatives

• Co-op run nursery school near Franklin Park
• A local co-op compost facility
• Community-run management of the Greenbelt movie theater

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Susan Stewart for Greenbelt City Council

Susan Stewart for Greenbelt City Council, Barbara Stevens, Treasurer

Photo by Eric Zhang
Election 2013
Citizens Take Advantage Of Early Voting Option

by Cierra McDonald

Election signs lined the entrance toward Schrom Hills Park in Greenbelt East as early-birds slowly arrived to cast their votes for city council.

Saturday morning was fairly brisk for walkers on the park’s trail, for election workers preparing for the day ahead, for officials running to fix their signs at a fair distance and for residents who came to vote early.

Many early voters were pleased with the time, day and location for early voting this year.

“I’m glad to see early voting and to see it so close to home, said Carol Brown.

Brown, who has two daughters, has been living in the Greenbelt area for over 15 years. Her main concerns have involved her own wellbeing and that of her daughters.

“I want our elected officials to continue working to keep crime down so that you feel safe,” she said. “Education is very important to me and that’s backed by our elected officials. So I want to see that continued also,” Brown said.

Many of the early voters did not disclose whom they had voted for.

A handful, however, named whom they had voted for but many shared the general thought that the incumbents more than likely will win re-election.

“I love Emmett. I voted for him and I voted for Rodney Roberts . . . I think Judy, Emmett, and Rodney are sure to win,” said Suzie Marley.

City Manager Michael McLaughlin assists in setting up for early voting at Schrom Hills Park.

One resident, Deborah Bustin, voiced her concerns about the lack of businesses in the area.

Bustin also noted the lack of sidewalks within Greenbelt and how it has hindered her and her son’s way of traveling.

The roads divide the city and people are trying to get to the shopping centers. Then suddenly there is no sidewalk and they’re in the streets, which freaks me out as a driver and as a walker,” she said.

Bustin, whose son bikes, expressed fears for his safety when he is riding and is forced to merge into traffic because the sidewalk ends.

As they prepared to cast their votes, these early voters did not hesitate to voice their civic concerns.

“City Manager Michael McLaughlin assists in setting up for early voting at Schrom Hills Park.”
People gathered to celebrate the season at the annual Greenbelt Fall Fest October 19.

Fall Festival Features Music, Food and Fun

by Stephen Waldron

Schrom Hills Park was overcast and ready for a change on Saturday afternoon, October 19, but Greenbelt residents still came out to celebrate at the city’s annual Fall Fest. It was a chance for people to enjoy live music and food. A tractor-trailer also offered hay rides around the perimeter of the festival and deeper into the woods behind the park.

The festival seemed popular with the families of Greenbelt, who let their children run around the pumpkin patch or play in the elaborate corn maze. The event was also used as a campaign opportunity. Promotional signs for city council candidates lined the entrance to the festival and tables were set up inside the festival with information on early voting and how to register to vote in upcoming elections.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan was talking to area residents and organizations provided information at booths around the park. Jordan said that with the relaxed weather, even annual events scheduled at Roosevelt Center, he appreciates the decision to hold the festival at Schrom Hills Park.

“It’s a chance for people from all over to come to Greenbelt East and celebrate Fall,” Jordan said.

This wasn’t always the case. According to festival coordinator Andrew Phelan, the festival was moved to Schrom Hills Park when it grew too big to stay at its original location on the Community Center Lawn.

This is Phelan’s second year as Fall Fest coordinator and he said the turnout was lower than normal because of the weather. Still, he was happy with how the event went and its impact in the Greenbelt community.

“We want to provide a day of fun activities, free of charge,” Phelan said.

The only cost to visitors was for hot dogs and hamburgers at the concession stand, cooked by members of the Babe Ruth baseball leagues and the Girl Scouts.

The festival was also an opportunity for local groups to engage with the community. Stephanie Powell was attending the event for the first time to represent Greenbelt CARES and handed out flyers and talked with festival goers.

“I love it,” Powell said. “I love the atmosphere and everybody is friendly.”

It did start to rain a half-way through the festival but it did not seem to affect the crowd. People milled around to decorate pumpkins and enter raffles that happened throughout the day.

Live music was provided by country band “The Knuckle Dusters.” Equipped with a stand-up bass, violin and a banjo among other instruments, the group played at the festival entrance.

Scott Speary is the lead singer and he also plays acoustic guitar and harmonica. He and his son, who plays bass in the band, are originally from Mercersburg, Pa. and made their first trip to Greenbelt for the Fall Fest.

Speary said he enjoyed the low-key festival with so many families around. He said that with the relaxed atmosphere, he couldn’t think of a better way to celebrate fall.

“What else would you rather be doing on a Saturday afternoon?” he said.

Phelan said that in the future, he would like to introduce some new elements to the festival—more games for the kids, but also some bigger attractions.

“We’ve been thinking about a mechanical bull,” Phelan said.

Upcoming Events

At New Deal Café

Thursday, October 24 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays midday melodies from noon to 2 p.m.

The Songwriter’s Association of Washington Open Microphone Session is from 7 to 9 p.m. On Friday, October 25 pianist John Guernsey will play classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, October 26 Greg Meyer’s Community Jazz Jam is from 1 to 5 p.m. Guernsey plays up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by the C-monarch harmonizing on astronomically-correct a capella songs from 8 to 11 p.m. Sunday, October 27 the weekly denim brunch discussion is from 10:30 to noon; the Not 2 Cool Jazz Trio from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 5 to 8 p.m. there will be a celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Forest Preserve. It’s a celebration of how Greenbelt saved its Green Belt and created the Forest Preserve, and as an opportunity to honor those who worked so hard to save Greenbelt’s woods. All are invited.

ACE Grant Proposal Deadline Is Nov. 1

The City of Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) solicits applications for the ACE Grants Program from Greenbelt schools and their parent-teacher organizations.

The grants are intended to encourage school-based activities. Proposals can be up to $500 each for projects or purchases by February 15, 2014, and the end of the 2014–2015 school year.

The six ACE core schools and their parent-teacher organizations are eligible. Proposals must be received by Friday, November 1 by 5 p.m. at the Greenbelt CARES office.

Late proposals are not accepted.

Additional information is available at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov, click on “Government,” then “Boards and Committees,” then “Advisory Committee on Education” and scroll to the bottom of the page.

Election 2013

Nine Candidates for Seven Slots in Greenbelt Election

by Mary Moisen

Four years have now passed since Greenbelt increased the size of its city council from five to seven members. The same seven councilmembers have served for the two 2-year terms and all will be running again. They are Judith F. Davis, Rodney M. Roberts, Edward C.L. Putens, Leta M. Mach, Konrad E. Harling, Emmett Jordan and Silke Pope. Former candidate William Orleans and newcomers Susan Stewart will join the incumbents on the ballot.

Voter Statistics

At the close of voter registration this year, 1,214 city residents are eligible to vote in the election, a number very similar to those registered in 2011 and 2009.

For a number of years the old Greenbelt East precinct 13 had the largest number of eligible voters. Several elections ago, that precinct was divided in two – precinct 13 (Greenbriar) and precinct 18 (Turning Point). Now all five precincts have a relatively large number of registered voters.

For 2013 Greenbelt Center, precinct 3, has the largest number of eligible voters at 2,837, followed by precinct 18 with 2,543. Precinct 18 (Turning Point) posted a 21 percent increase in registered voters over 2011 while precincts 8 (Franklin Park, formerly Springhill Lake) and 6 (North End) have relatively large decreases in registered voters.

All precinct statistics are shown in the table below.

City Registration Figures

(As of October 21, 2013)

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<th>Precinct</th>
<th>October 2013</th>
<th>October 2011</th>
<th>Change 2011-13</th>
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<tr>
<td>1-Center</td>
<td>2,837</td>
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<td>2-East</td>
<td>2,791</td>
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<td>3-Center</td>
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<td>4-West</td>
<td>2,351</td>
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<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-Franklin Park</td>
<td>2,413</td>
<td>2,188</td>
<td>+10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13-Greenbriar</td>
<td>2,541</td>
<td>2,548</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-Turning Point</td>
<td>2,091</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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</tbody>
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Faculty Musicians to Perform as Trio

University of Maryland faculty artists David Salness, violin; Evelyn Elsing, cello; and Mayron Tsang, piano; will join forces to perform Rachmaninoff’s “Glen Trio” (in D major, Op. 70, No. 1) and Dvořák’s Dumky Trio in B minor, Op. 90 in a free concert in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 2. In honor of the centennial of British composer Benjamin Britten’s birth, the program also includes his Sonata Op. 13 (in C, Op. 65 for cello and piano).

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit claricesmithcenter.umd.edu or call 301-405-2787.