SafeTrack Surge #14 Closes Greenbelt Station for a Month

Metro announced that it has altered its plan for the next SafeTrack surge at the northern end of the Green Line, including the Greenbelt station. Originally planned as a longer period of continuous single-tracking, Metro will instead conduct Surge #14 as a shutdown to reduce the duration of the project and mitigate the impact to customers elsewhere along the Green Line. Surge #14 will be conducted in two phases, with the overall surge running from Saturday, April 15 through Sunday, May 14.

During Phase 1, from April 15 through April 29, the Greenbelt and College Park stations will be closed. Free shuttle buses will run between Greenbelt and Prince George’s Plaza with an intermediate stop at College Park. Green Line trains will run close to regular service elsewhere on the line, between Prince George’s Plaza and Branch Ave, every 6 to 8 minutes during rush hours. Yellow Rush+ trains will not operate during this time.

During Phase 2, from April 30 through May 14, only the Greenbelt station will be closed. Free shuttle buses will run between Greenbelt and College Park. Green Line trains will run close to regular service between College Park and Branch Avenue every 6 to 8 minutes during rush hours. Yellow Rush+ trains will not operate.

Riders who normally use the Greenbelt and College Park stations may wish to consider using New Carrollton (Carrollton Line), Prince George’s Plaza (Green Line) or Forest Glen (Red Line) instead. For more information about alternate service options, visit wmata.com/safetrack.

SafeTrack is Metro’s one-year program of aggressive maintenance and reconstruction to replace worn rail ties, rail and other infrastructure required for safe and reliable train operations. The program will conclude in June.

State Compliance Board Finds Errors In City’s Handling of Open Meetings

by Diane Oberg

Could a food truck hub be coming to Greenbelt? At its March 27 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council agreed to add a schedule of demonstrations to the Capital Office Park. Council also received another bushel basket full of petitions from citizens regarding topics such as the location of a possible second dog park, cell phone antennas and mortgage fraud.

Food Trucks

Prince George’s County has implemented a Food Truck Hub program to increase access to food options, encourage economic development and promote entrepreneurship. Both the hub and the food truck operators would have to obtain approval from the county, which is also charged with overseeing the program.

Under current legislation, up to 12 hubs could operate in the county in locations that are either within a quarter-mile of a Metro or MARC station or park and recreation facilities operated by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. Currently hubs are operating in Watkins Park in Largo, the Town Center Market in Riverdale Park, on Baltimore Boulevard in College Park and near the University Research Park in Riverdale. The legislation does not place an upper limit on the number of trucks at a location.

Morning Calm Management, the new owner of Capital Office Park, is seeking approval to create a food truck hub in an underused parking lot at 6040 Ivy Lane. The company would choose the trucks to host, they must select from a county-approved list.

The city has received three letters regarding this proposal. Two were supportive: The Bozuto Group, located in Capital Office Park, said that the hub would assist them in achieving their goal of creating community; while the Prince George’s County Economic Development Corporation viewed the hub as allowing Capital Office Park to better serve its tenants and providing innovative resources to help Morning Calm attract new tenants.

The final letter, from Quantum Companies representing the owner of Beltway Plaza Mall and its merchants association, opposed the food truck hub. Marc

Council Receives Food Truck Hub Request; Plus Many Petitions

by Diane Oberg

FOOD TRUCKS, page 6

What Goes On

Saturday, April 8
10 a.m. to Noon, Arbor Day Tree Planting, Buddy Attick Park

by Diane Oberg

See FOOD TRUCKS, page 6
How Greenbelters Talk Online These Days

by Susan Harris

Back in 2014 I wrote a blog post about “How Greenbelters Talk Online” and boy, is it ever out of date! So here’s the latest on how we communicate among ourselves.

The Move to Facebook

The big change is how quickly people are abandoning small groups and joining Facebook groups instead. Here’s a survey of 55 Facebook groups set up to be found among our residents by simply putting “greenbelter” in Facebook search box. “Greenbelters” is the largest group in town with 3,467 members currently, having tripled its size since 2014. It’s lively and informative and surprisingly civilized, with excellent moderation by Julie Winters and James Riordon. They keep the posts on-topic and the spammers out — or remove them as soon as they’ve revealed their spammy intentions. I recommend a trick used by Amy Knesel, GES PTA Vice President, for those who regularly start arguments.

The next largest group is “Old Greenbelt Days,” a public (open to anyone) group of 1,529.

“Greenbelt Neighbors” with 691 members is the “Greenbelt Community” with 401 members are both closed groups that, as I understand them, were started back when the original “Greenbelters” group was less moderated.

The Greenbelt 55ers group, the Greenbelt Group of Greenbelt, with 585 members, has a narrow focus and a strict moderator (you truly) keeping the conversation on one of these topics: GH homes and yards, and GH itself. Topics include the HIP program, mini-splits, room colors and more and there are albums of home and garden photos to inspire us all.

“Gardening in Greenbelt Maryland” is a mixed group with 118 members and “Greenbelt Biota” a public group of 202, started in 2016. There are Greenbelt Facebook groups for: Homeschoolers, Indivisible, Community Connections, Youth Baseball, Timebank, Pottery Group, Friends of the Animal Shelter, vegetarian recipes, local groups. Topics include the HIP program, mini-splits, room colors and more and there are albums of home and garden photos to inspire us all.

Correction

In last week’s Greenbelt History Brief, “Con- struction Begins,” an explanation was put forth for construction work beginning at the D block because an existing road was adjacent to it. However, further examination of Library of Congress photos of Greenbelt’s construction clearly shows no crossover connection between this road and the construction site, although the road was very close to the construction and future Ridge Road. Also, photos indicate that access for construction equipment was most probably made from an extension of the new road built west of the construction, with much of that access becoming Ridge Road. That leaves open the question as to why D block was chosen for first construction, although E block, between Hillside and Eastway, was closer to the new road that would become Crescent.

In the text, the reference to construction of the first houses should have read “35 Court Ridge, A to G.”

City Notes

Public Works staff updated the commercial trash pick-up list to evaluate the amount of trash being put out by local businesses.

Recycling/Sustainability Coordinator Amy Knesel received 29.0 tons of recy- fuse and 12.58 tons of recyclable material.

Letters to the Editor

Spring Fair Success

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, teachers, students and community members — including virtually every child — to make Spring Fair at Greenbelt Elementary School a success!

The Facebook page “Greenbelt History Brief” at Facebook.com/ GreenbeltHistoryBrief is a community calendar dedicated to preserving Greenbelt history. It’s only when you comment on how we communicate among ourselves.

Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published. All letters must include the writer’s letter, your physical address, telephone number and only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.

Greenbelt News Review

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos) ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662

STAFF


CIRCULATION

Circulation Coordinator: Karen Yoho circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com

COMING TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Showtimes:

3:00 PM

5:30 PM

7:45 PM

Greenbelt Theatre 129 Centerway 301-229-4299 www.greenbelttheatre.org

Members always $6.50

Adults $9, Senior/Student $8, Members $6.50, Kids $5

Adults $7, Members $6.50, Kids $5

OC = Open Captions

CC = Closed Captions

April 18 Tax Deadline

The deadline to submit 2016 tax returns is Tuesday, April 18, rather than the traditional April 15. The Special Appreciation 2016 Tax Center and the Great and it Rocks, New Deal Cafe, Runners, Arts Center, Friends with Benefits, Yoga and more.

Circulation Director: Karen Yoho-circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com

CORRECTION TO A THEATRE NEAR YOU

THE ZOOKEEPER’S WIFE
PG-13 (124 mins)
Fri. 5/15, 7:45-PM
Sat. 5/16, 5:15, 8:15 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:15 PM
Mon. 5/15, 7:45, 7:55 PM
Tues. 5/16, 7:45, 7:55 PM
Wed. 2/29, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45 PM
Thurs. 5/15, 7:45, 7:55 PM

Family Series: THE LION TAMER (1924) (107 mins)
Sat. 1:00 PM
Silent film, starring Buster Keaton

Stage on Screen Series: THE ARTISTS GARDEN (90 mins)
Sun. 4/16, 2:00 PM
Mon. 1:00 PM
Storytime on Screen – FREE
Mon. 10:30 AM

CORRECTION

In last week’s Greenbelt History Brief, “Con- struction Begins,” an explanation was put forth for construction work beginning at the D block because an existing road was adjacent to it. However, further examination of Library of Congress photos of Greenbelt’s construction clearly shows no crossover connection between this road and the construction site, although the road was very close to the construction and future Ridge Road. Also, photos indicate that access for construction equipment was most probably made from an extension of the new road built west of the construction, with much of that access becoming Ridge Road. That leaves open the question as to why D block was chosen for first construction, although E block, between Hillside and Eastway, was closer to the new road that would become Crescent.

In the text, the reference to construction of the first houses should have read “35 Court Ridge, A to G.”

Dear Son: The cherry blossoms are out, the baseball season opened and your mother was arrested again at a peace demonstration.

Originally published on April 3, 2003

Greenbelt News Review

An Independent Newspaper
At the Library

All Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCLMS) branches will be closed on Thursday, April 6, for Staff Development Day. The Greenbelt Library will reopen on Friday, April 7.

All branches will be closed on Sunday, April 16, for the Easter holiday. The Greenbelt Library will reopen on Monday, April 17, at 1 p.m.

Storytimes

Monday, April 10, Ready 2 Read Storytime: ages 3 to 5, 7 p.m., limit 20 people.
Tuesday, April 11, Ready 2 Read Storytime: ages 3 to 5, 7:30 p.m., limit 20 people.
Wednesday, April 12, Ready 2 Read Storytime: ages 3 to 5, 10:15 a.m., limit 20 people.

Encourage children to make reading a positive experience by bringing them to the library’s storytimes. Each program contains a mixture of engaging activities and opportunities to support early literacy. Stop by the information desk immediately prior to the storytime to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Arbor Day Tree Planting

The City of Greenbelt is celebrating Arbor Day, Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon with a native tree and shrub restoration planting. Show your support by planting native trees and plants at Buddy Attick Park. Participants should wear gloves, weather-appropriate clothing and shoes that can get dirty. Bring a reusable water bottle. Shuttle buses should bring their service-learning forms. Individuals and groups are welcome. Meet at Buddy Attick Park.

For more information call Bri-An Townsend at 240-417-2155 or bawsonend@greenbeltmd.gov. RSVP to signnugenius.com: go/409084f6a2d2b1258c5ty1.

MakerSpace Events

Join us every day during Membership Week to explore the fun you can experience by participating in the MakerSpace. Membership in the MakerSpace Cooperative is not required to participate, but it does make you a community owner of the facility, gives you a direct voice to direct our policies and structure our programs, and most importantly shows you support our mission.

Thursday, April 6: Coding Club from 7 to 8 p.m.
Friday, April 7: Chainmail Workshop from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 8: Minecraft Challenges from 10 a.m. to noon.
Natural Egg Dying from noon to 4 p.m.
Sunday, April 9: Quitting 101 from 10 a.m. to noon. Animation Meetup from 2 to 4 p.m. Game-Making Discussion from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Monday, April 10: Yoga from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 15, 2017 edition

Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m. “Black (Super) Power! The Porcelain African American" by Nadine Wobus, MT-BC, presented during the spring on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Golden Age Club meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. Visitors are always welcome. We have been active for 60 years, so we must be doing something right.

Remember to smile. Happiness is measured by smiles not frowns.

St. Mary’s Church...We Are One!
A Church home for all ages.

Greenbelt Computer Club

Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee, Board Room.
Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Legislative and Government Affairs Committee, Board Room.
Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room.
Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee, Social, New Deal Café.

For more information call Bri-An Townsend at 240-417-2155 or bawsonend@greenbeltmd.gov. RSVP to signnugenius.com: go/409084f6a2d2b1258c5ty1.
Howard S. Chasanow

Former Maryland Court of Ap- peals Judge Howard S. Chasanow died Sunday, April 2, 2017, fol- lowing an automobile accident. He would have celebrated his 80th birthday Monday.

Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera began Mon- day’s high-court session by an- nouncing Judge Chasanow’s death with “deep sadness.” She called his death “a great loss to Mary- land and the Maryland legal pro- fession.”

“He was a great attorney,” Barbera said. “He was a stellar member of this court.”

Judge Chasanow served on the Court of Appeals from January 1990 to August 1999. Prior to his elevation to the high court, he was a Prince George’s County Circuit Court judge for 13 years and a district court judge for six years before that.

Retired Court of Appeals Judge Alan M. Wilner called Judge Chasanow, with whom he served on the high court for three years, a “highly intelligent” jurist. “He had a very fertile mind and was a good writer and a credit to the judiciary,” Wilner said.

Attorney Timothy F. Maloney said he knew Judge Cha- sanow since serving as the then- circuit court judge’s law clerk in 1965.

Judge Chasanow was “a giant in the law in Maryland” and “a great friend and mentor to anyone who asked for his help,” said Maloney, of Joseph, Greenwald & Maloney, P.A. in Greenbelt. Maloney added he will also remember Judge Chasanow for the career and reputation he built as a mediator after leaving the bench.

Judge Chasanow “invented” modern Maryland mediation and spawned a “cottage industry” of retired judges serving as private mediators, Maloney said. “I think he revolutionized me- diation as a truly integral part of the Maryland judiciary system, especially the highly-complicated cases,” Maloney added. Howard shuttered the cases (through media- tion) that no one else could.

Judge Chasanow was affiliated with JAMS, an Irvine, a based provider of alternative-dis- pute-resolution neutrals, including mediators.

Judge Chasanow [who grew up in Greenbelt] received his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1961 and a master of laws from Harvard Law School in 1962. He served as assistant and deputy Prince George’s County’s state’s at- torney from 1963 to 1969 before joining the bench.

He is survived by his wife, Deborah K. Chasanow, a senior U.S. District Court judge in Greenbelt; a daughter, Andrea Gent of London, England; two grandchildren and three sisters, former Washington Post food critic Phyllis Richard of Wash- ington, D.C., Myrna Chasanow of ChevyChery and Ruth Heitin of Alexandria.

Funeral services took place at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Mishkan Torah synagogue in Greenbelt.

- Danny Jacobs

Danny Jacobs is legal editor of The Daily Record.

Quran Class
For Non-Muslims

One of the most influential books in human history is today also one of the most controversial. This Quran class for non-Muslims will cover its greatest chapter. At- tendees will receive a free copy of a new, clear translation. The class will be held Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the College Park Community Center’s Lakeland Room, 5051 Pierce Avenue. There is no charge for this one-day class but advance regis- tration is required. Send an email to ariff@darussalaam.org

Catholic Community of Greenbelt

HOLY THURSDAY LITURGY AND POTLUCK
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, APRIL 13, 6:30 P.M.

SUNDAY MASS AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 10:00 A.M.
ALL ARE WELCOME.

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalari-
tarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children.


Open hearts, open minds, open doors. We welcome people from all walks of life. All are welcome.

For more information visit Holy Cross Lutheran Greenbelt

www.greenbeltbahais.org

www.greenbeltbahais.org
MEETINGS FOR WEEK OF APRIL 10-14

Monday, April 10 at 5:30pm, YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE at GAFC, 101 Centerway. On the agenda: New Business: Shirts, NLC 2017 reports, Upcoming Event- Skate Park Celebration 6/3 11a-1p

Monday, April 10 at 8:00pm, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipal.

Tuesday, April 11 at 7:30pm, COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB) in the Council Room at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Lower voting age referral, Plan next police/community relations forum. This agenda is subject to change.

Wednesday, April 12 at 8:00pm, COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/P&G Economic Development Corp at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Saturday, April 15 from 10am-12pm Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Show your support for Arbor Day by planting native trees and plants at Buddy Attick Park. Participants should wear gloves, weather-appropriate clothes and shoes that can get dirty. Bring a reusable water bottle. Individuals and groups are welcome. Students — bring your service-learning forms!

For more information call Brian Townsend, 240-417-2158 or btownsend@greenbeltmd.gov

SPRING CAMP Ages 5-12 Activity #236501-1

Monday, April 17 - Friday April 21 8:45am-3:30pm, Fees: R: $194, NR: $232 Greenbelt Youth Center, 99 Centerway Your kids will enjoy their Spring Break with action-packed events at the Youth Center and Field Trips! Please call 301-397-2200 or visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation for more information.

Before care and after care options are available.

SPRING BREAK FAST BREAK BASKETBALL CLINIC Ages 10-14 Activity #36431-3

Monday, April 17 - Friday April 21 9:00am-12:00pm Fees: R: $55, NR: $60 Springhill Lake Recreation Ctr. 6101 Cherrywood Ln.

Contact Brian Butler or Frank Jones at 301-397-2212 for more information.

Aftercare is not available for this program

For more information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov or call 301-474-8000.

Bike to Work Day Friday, May 19, 2017 Greenbelt Pit Stop, Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center from 6:30am-8:30am

Please register at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org remember the first 16,000 registrants are eligible for a free t-shirt.

Artist’s Studio Space Available Apply now to the Greenbelt Recreation Department’s Artist in Residence Program

Greenbelt Community Ctr., 15 Crescent Road 24-hour access. Approximately 10’ X 17’ plus common areas and sink in a room shared with other artists. Current rate: $180.00/ month (annual increases apply).

Application available at www.greenbelt.md.gov/artists Due April 16 (after scheduling a tour) for residencies beginning on June 1 and July 1.
FOOD TRUCKS continued from page 1

“Kap” Kapasitan, general counsel for Quantum, spoke at the meet-
ing, calling the food trucks un-
fair competition to “rent and tax
distributors’ lease space in commercial
buildings.” He included a long list of Greenbelt restaurants as poten-
tially being harmed by this proposal. Kapas-
tan called upon Morning Calm to build out true, quality restaurants instead of pushing for a food truck hub.

Councilmember Konrad Her-
ling expressed concern as to the
impact of the food truck hub on
restaurants in Beltway Plaza. However, Councilmember Judith Davis
d noted that restaurants die even without other restaurants
nearby. Mayor Emmett Jordan
doubted that the food trucks would take away from quality
restaurants at Beltway Plaza.

In the end, Davis’s motion to
support the hub without the pro-
tested tent unanimously.

Petitions
Council received a number of
petitions from residents, which
were accepted but in accordance
with its standing rules not acted
upon at this meeting.

Brian Almquist asked council
to oppose locating a dog park on
Parcel 7, which includes the
Boxwood Preserve. He said the
park would be placed in an open
play area and would be only 50
feet from the nearest home. He
drew a list of city criteria for a
dog park that the site did not meet and
depicted that the dog park proposal
calls for removing the basketball
court, which he said gets regular
use.

Theodora Scarato called upon
council to work to oppose federal
legislation that would remove the
ability of local governments to
regulate the installation of micro
cell towers, needed for 5G ser-
vices and the “Internet of Things.”
She said the installation of such
towers needs an environmental
assessment and cited scientists
who have identified potential im-
pacts on human bodies that need
to be researched. Jordan assured
Scarato that council is already
aware of this legislation and very
concerned about how it would
bypass municipal authority.

Edith Beauchamp called
called upon council to pay attention
to fraudulent foreclosures. She
turned them to the Federal Bu-
reau of Investigation’s website
that has information on “Steal-
ing Homes.” This is a form of
identity theft where a fraudulent transfer of property form is ap-
proved without the knowledge of the
ture owners. In other cases, the
scammers can cut the locks
off a house and install squatters.
Beauchamp did not seek anything
specific, just wanted to raise
awareness. She said that local,
county and state officials must
act together to combat this fraud.

Colin Byrd asked council to
call upon the Trump administra-
tion to acknowledge that climate
change is not a hoax and to co-
mit to support the environment.
He also asked the city to provide
information on how much the
city pays on conference atten-
dance, hotel stays and similar
costs.

Bob Snyder expressed con-
cern that many city boards and
councils do not have current
minutes of many of the meetings
advertised in this paper. City
Clerk Cindy Murray reported
that whereas a committee does not have a quorum there is no
meeting and thus no minutes. She
d said that this happens a lot in
2016. Another explanation, raised by Davis, is that not all
boards meet regularly. For ex-
ample, the Community Relations
Advisory Board did not meet at
all in 2014.

Rick Gordon of Franklin Park
informed council of efforts by
Recreation Coordinator Brian
Butler and himself to encourage
residents of that community to
register to vote.

Committees
As part of the consent agenda,
council accepted the resigna-
tion of Alejandra Berumen from
the Community Relations Advi-
sory Board and reappointed Elsie
Waynes to the Advisory Com-
mittee on Education and Donald
Martin to the Board of Appeals.

Goldsmith and his colleagues
have presented the proposal to
the school board and met with
the ERHS PTSA president who
reported the information to the
PTSA. The proposal has created
a great deal of discussion on the
Greenbelters Facebook page as
well as discussion at the school
board meeting.

A community meeting is set
for Tuesday, April 25 at the
Seabrook Seventh-Day Adventist
Church, 8900 Good Luck Road,
Seabrook, at 7 p.m. The website
with information about this proj-
et is RooseveltSwireless.com.

The yellow pin on this aerial-image shows the proposed location of
the cell tower.

The Capital Office Park is a possible location for a food truck hub.

One of the proposed areas for the dog park, pictured above, is on
Ivy Lane in Boxwood Village.

T-Mobile Cell Tower Proposed for ERHS on County Property

T-Mobile and Milestone Com-
munication are working toward
installing a cell tower at Eleanor
Roosevelt High School (ERHS),
according to David Goldsmith,
company spokesperson for Mile-
stone Communication.

The proposal is for a 105-foot
marquee style tower and will
include ground equipment re-
quired to operate the facility.
This equipment will be located at
the base of the structure in a
secure fenced area. The land is
owned by the Prince George’s
County Public School system.

The proposal calls for removing the
fenced area. The land is owned
by visiting walktocurearthritis.

Petitions
Before and/or after camp care is available on
April 17-21

Tech Camps
T-Mobile Cell Tower Proposed for ERHS on County Property

ERHS Hosts Walk To Cure Arthritis

On Saturday, May 6, volun-
teers and participants will get
out, get moving and raise funds
to find a cure for arthritis. Lo-
cated at Eleanor Roosevelt High
School, the Walk to Cure Arthri-
tis is the Arthritis Foundation’s
annual signature event that raises
funds to fight arthritis and help
people affected by the disease
achieve everyday victories.

Learn how local people have
conquered the everyday battles
of living with arthritis. The event
will honor one adult honoree, N.K.
Snow, who was diagnosed with
gout rheumatoid arthritis at the
age of 36. Snow is known by family
and friends as being a natural leader with a positive outlook and drive.

The time to act is now. The worst
thing that can happen is that we
will start another day.

The proposal has created
great deal of discussion on the
Greenbelters Facebook page as
well as discussion at the school
board meeting.

A community meeting is set
for Tuesday, April 25 at the
Seabrook Seventh-Day Adventist
Church, 8900 Good Luck Road,
Seabrook, at 7 p.m. The website
with information about this proj-
et is RooseveltSwireless.com.

The yellow pin on this aerial-image shows the proposed location of
the cell tower.
April is Earth Month
by Erin Josephitis

April is Earth Month and it’s time to work together to clean up and green up our community. Don’t forget to pick up litter. Whether it’s recyclable, compostable or landfill waste, picking it up and taking it to the right bin will help keep our planet clean and safe. Consider participating in Greenbelt’s upcoming Earth Month volunteer events to help improve local watersheds.

First, celebrate Arbor Day and restore habitat for wildlife by planting and protecting trees on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at Buddy Attick Park. To volunteer for Arbor Day, RSVP at signmeup.greenbeltmd.gov/409084fa4ad2ba3f58-city1. Second, be a hero of the Anacostia and volunteer for the annual Earth Day Indian Creek Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, April 22 from 9 a.m. to noon at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. To volunteer for Earth Day, RSVP at signmeup.greenbeltmd.gov/409084fa4ad2ba3f58-city2.

Bringing a reusable mug for free coffee provided by Starbucks of Greenway Shopping Center. Volunteers will also enjoy free bagels thanks to Bagel Place Bagels of College Park. Reduce your carbon footprint by walking, biking or carpooling with family, friends and neighbors to Greenbelt’s fun and educational Earth Month activities. Bring a reusable water bottle and wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes. All training, tools and supplies will be provided by the City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works, Alice Ferguson Foundation and Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS). For additional green volunteer opportunities, check the City of Greenbelt website at greenbeltmd.gov/index.aspx?nid=638.

Finally, follow simple and easy zero waste steps to reduce, reuse and recycle so that materials don’t end up trapped in a landfill. Bring reusable shopping bags to the grocery store instead of using plastic or paper bags. Give materials a second chance by donating to thrift stores and shopping at them, too. Donate and shop for pre-loved treasures like apparel, accessories, books, electronics and more at Value Village in Hyattsville. If making home improvements, save money and protect the planet by shopping for building materials and architectural salvages at Community Forklift in Edmonston. Want to start backyard composting to help improve a garden? Purchase a discounted compost bin (while supplies last) thanks to a limited a discounted compost bin (while supplies last) thanks to a limited supply event. Reusable dishware and cutlery working for Public Works.

Learn even more about eco-conscious products and practices online at earth911.com. Keep on celebrating Earth Month each and every month throughout the year!

Erie Josephitis is the environmental coordinator in Greenbelt’s Department of Public Works.

Attachment to Place Guides Climate Change Educators
by Connor Roessler

On Monday, March 27, three staff from Greenbelt Public Works hosted a group of almost 30 informal climate change educators from across Maryland and Delaware at the Greenbelt Community Center.

The Maryland and Delaware Climate Change Education, Assessment and Research (MADE CLEAR) partnership brings together a group of experts in the fields of climate science and education. The Informal Climate Change Educators (ICCE) community, a part of MADE CLEAR, is a group of informal educators from a diverse set of organizations including municipalities like Greenbelt, natural resources departments, aquariums, zoos, maritime museums and county parks. Coming from as far as Delaware, Frostburg and Assateague, the ICCE community gathered for a day of learning and discussion on climate change.

The theme for this meeting was sense of place. Members learned and discussed how people’s attachment to a place affects their local environmental beliefs and global climate-related actions. As the host, Greenbelt shared its history as a planned community during the New Deal era. The group experienced firsthand how their history continues to influence Greenbelt’s sustainable culture today. A tour by Susan Barnett, the Green Team’s Pathways of Sustainability member, pointed out the walkable and bikeable paths, underpasses and the history of the Forest Preserve as evidence of Greenbelt’s environmental protection being grounded in a strong sense of place.

The connection between climate change and composting was presented by Brenda Pratt from the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Composting promotes local green economies while reducing the amount of climate-warming methane produced from organic waste trapped in landfills.

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Photo by Connor Roessler

PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

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Annual GHI Plant Swap

Plants were up for grabs at the annual plant swap, sponsored by the GHI Woodlands Committee on April 2.

Photos by Susan Harris
Council Talks Money, Money, Money at March 27 Meeting

by Diane Oberg

City Manager Nicole Ard presented her first budget to the Greenbelt City Council at its March 27 meeting. In addition, council modified the financial disclosure requirements for certain city staff and extended the contract for the city’s auditor.

Budget

Ard presented an overview of her proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget to council, which will begin a series of work sessions to review and approve department budgets by department starting with the budget overview and revenue worksession on April 3. The budget proposes expenditures of $28.4 million, a 4 percent increase over the current fiscal year. No change is proposed for either property taxes or waste collection/recycling fees. Ard is proposing to add one half-time public information specialist position to support community outreach and marketing but otherwise leave staffing unchanged.

If council approves the budget proposal, city workers would receive a two percent cost of living adjustment and be eligible for merit increases for just the third time since Fiscal Year 2010. Non-unionized employees will see their compensation increase due to increases in the minimum wage, an anticipated cost of $97,000. Health insurance costs are projected to increase by $90,000, or roughly 4 percent.

One unknown is the outcome of collective bargaining talks between the City of Greenbelt, the Fraternal Order of Police, which could result in increased personnel expenditures.

The budget will again fund recruitment of a senior employee, this time the police chief. Former City Manager Michael McLaughlin delayed filling this position so that a replacement could select the new chief.

The budget will now be discussed in great detail in a series of six public worksessions, with most meetings covering more than one budget category. There will be public hearings on the budget as part of the April 24 and May 22 regular council meetings. The final budget worksession, where council modifies the city staff and budget to be approved, will be held on May 15. The budget will be adopted at council’s June 5 meeting.

For the first time, two of the worksessions will be held outside the city’s core: the Miscellaneous and Public Safety budgets will be discussed April 5 starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and the Public Works/Capital Projects budgets will be discussed on April 19 starting at 8 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Building.

For details of which budget will be discussed when and where, see the city’s website, greenbeltmd.gov.

Financial Reporting

On a 5 to 2 vote with Councilmember Rodney Roberts and Mayor Emmett Orn Vitlapped his listens during collective bargaining, the city’s auditor presented final approval to an ordinance modifying the financial reporting requirements for the assistant city manager, city clerk, assistant directors of city departments and police captains. These officials no longer have to report their home addresses; instead, they merely need to state whether they rent or own their residence. The city’s chief lawyer, Attorney Karen Ruff, clarified that this change relates only to their primary residence. If these employees own other property they must still report the address(es). In addition, the ordinance requires that the city must report any family members employed by the city. The reporting requirements for elected officials, city manager and all directors of city departments, including the police chief, remain unchanged.

Audit

On a 6 to 1 vote with Roberts opposed, council agreed to extend the city’s current contract with Cohn Reznick, LLC for two more years. Currently, the city has a policy of hiring auditors on a one-year-on-contract with two optional years. City Treasurer Jeffery Williams asked council for direction as to how to proceed. Cohn Reznick has completed the full three years of their contract. Williams said that any auditing firm is on a learning curve the first two years and only has the knowledge for a full review of city policies and procedures by the third year of their work with the city. Roberts moved that the city go to bid for a new auditor but that motion died for lack of a second. Councilmember Rodney Roberts then moved that the city contract with Cohn Reznick be extended for two more years.
High Scores for Eleanor Roosevelt Orchestras

by David Yarborough

This past Saturday, April 1, the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) advanced string ensembles – the Symphony Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra – participated in the inaugural Festival of String Ensembles. These two ensembles were featured in the Spring Concert at ERHS in the Boarman Auditorium, on Thursday, April 27 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public and will feature the last movement of Dvorák’s New World Symphony.

Upcoming Events at the New Deal Café

Sunday, April 9, Daffy Brunch, 10:30 a.m. to noon. No1Coul Jazz Trio, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Georgie Jessup & The Philosopher Dogs, a roots rock Americana band with multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter, soul-shaker, norm-breaker, and longtime social justice advocate Georgie Jessup, 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11, Green Eggs and Ham, acoustic rockin’ country blues jam duo featuring Georgia West and Big Daddy Stalling’s band member, Steve Levine (harmonica), 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12, The Loose Ends, roots rock with a mix of all-country, rockably

Exploring Reiki

Exploring Reiki, visualization and energy work, and performed Reiki and energy healing on both the East and West Coasts of the United States, Mexico, Ireland, Portugal, England, Wales, both the British and U.S. Virgin Islands, and in Morocco. She taught intuitive healing techniques in prison systems in both Oregon and Washington State for 13 years.

All participants coming to this presentation are encouraged to wear loose, comfortable clothing. Please bring a yoga mat, blanket, or large towel to sit and lay on.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday beginning at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. This presentation will be held this Friday, April 7 in Room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

Spring Grant Application Deadline

April 15, 2017

Nonprofit organizations and cooperatives serving citizens of Greenbelt may apply for a grant up to $5,000.

The application is on our website www.greenbeltfoundation.net
Join Outdoor Stewardship Activities at Greenbelt Park

Saturday, April 8, Potomac Watershed Cleanup. Join in the Alice Ferguson Foundation’s annual stewardship event as park volunteers help clean our portion of the Potomac watershed. Wear sturdy boots and clothes that can get dirty. Gloves and bags are supplied. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area at 8 a.m. Rain date is Saturday, April 15.

Saturday, April 8, Learn about the birds of spring nesting inside Greenbelt Park with a presentation on the natural chemistry that causes the leaves to return to Greenbelt’s forest. Look at leaves under the magnification of a microscope to see sap flowing and the green of chlorophyll. Meet at Ranger Station at 1 p.m.

April 15 to 23, National Park Week. Junior Ranger Weekend is Saturday, April 15 and Sunday, April 16. Come to the Ranger Station for a new free Greenbelt Park Junior Ranger booklet and earn a Junior Ranger badge.

Saturday, April 15, Volunteer Trail Crew. Join Greenbelt volunteer corps to improve the park through stewardship projects. This is a great opportunity to outdoors and pay it forward while working on a trail maintenance project. Meet at the Ranger Station at 8:45 a.m. (3 hours)

Saturday, April 15, “Who’s That Star” presentation. Ranger will host a discussion about the red foxes that live in Greenbelt Park. Learn about a fox’s ecology, demography and habitat. Presentation appropriate for children ages 6 to 12. Meet at the Ranger Station at 10 a.m.

De-Mar-VA Depression Glass Show April 22
The De-Mar-VA Depression Glass Club’s 82nd Show and Sale will be held Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 23, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at DuVal High School, 9880 Good Dr. Virginia Woscket will present a specialty in Early American, Pattern, Elegant, Art Deco, and Depression glass.

Virginia Beachamp Scholarship Fund
The University of Maryland’s network for women, the Campus Club, has begun a funding appeal to endow a graduate scholarship at the University of Maryland in honor of D. Alice Scott Beachamp.

A resident of Greenbelt, Beachamp served as editor, copy editor and archivist for the Greenbelt News Review from 1957 to 2016. Friends and admirers of Beachamp have contributed to the scholarship named for her by writing a check to the Virginia W. Beachamp Scholarship in the memo line. The mailing address is 4603 Calvert Road, College Park, MD 20740. Online payment may be made at go.umd.edu/wb/vfund. Contact Chris Garcia at Garcia@umd.edu for more information.

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Greenbelt Elementary Spring Fair

The annual Greenbelt Elementary School Spring Fair took place on Saturday, April 1. Activities included a yard sale, art and crafts run by the Greenbelt Museum and Recreation Department, and musical entertainment by the Chordial Winds Quintet, including Greenbelt Elementary parent Andrea Waters on bassoon.

Photos by Amy Knesel

Women in Science Article Features Courtney Ritz

Greenbelter Courtney Ritz, an information technology specialist at Goddard Space Flight Center, was recently featured in an article profiling women in science on the International Business Times website. In her role as a web accessibility coordinator, Ritz applies her technical skills and experience as an individual who is blind and uses assistive technology.

“Ever since I was a child I was very interested in the Space Program, and the thought of working at NASA indeed struck a chord with me,” said Ritz.

In the summer of 2001, while studying at Mississippi State University, Ritz got the opportunity to intern at NASA headquarters in the Office of Space Flight. She was offered a job as an IT specialist at Goddard in 2002.

“I’ve always been a space enthusiast,” she says. “Although my day-to-day job isn’t directly connected to the Space Program, working at Goddard gives me the chance to support NASA’s overall mission through the IT services.”

“Never be afraid to follow your dreams, even if they take you in directions that others around you haven’t gone,” Ritz advises. “And no matter what career you choose to pursue, always stay alert to opportunities to incorporate your dreams.”

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JOIN US FOR EASTER

Sunday, April 16, 2017

The Greenbelt Marriott invites you for brunch on Easter Sunday. With items from omelets to Marsala Rubbed Leg of Lamb, blackened Cod Fillet to mouth-watering desserts, there is something for everyone.

Adults $39, Children (5-12) $18.50

Children 4 and under free.

BRUNCH IS SERVED FROM 11 AM – 1 PM

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Photos by Amy Knesel