Refinancing of Two Bonds Saves $700,000; GSFC Environmental Plan Raises Concerns

At its August 10 regular meeting, the Greenbelt City Council gave final approval to a proposed refinancing of two prior bond issues. In addition, it received a briefing on the environmental assessment of the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC).

Refinancing

As reported in Matt Arbach’s story in the August 13 News Review, the current extremely low interest rates provide an opportunity to refinance the city’s financial advisor. Senior Vice President Joe Mason gave final approval to a proposed refinancing of two prior bond issues: the 2011 bonds used to cover the shortfall in the 2001 bond fund ($1.8 million) and the 2013 bonds ($2.3 million) covering the city’s unfunded liability to the state retirement system. The maturity date of the new bonds will be identical to the existing maturities, according to Bonnie Schrack, far right, organizer of Greenbelt’s day of action to save the post office, and Vi Ward-Diamond-Senio, staff, American Postal Union, center, standing by the Post Office sign.

The two best offers came from Freedom Bank and JP Morgan Chase. Freedom Bank had the lowest rate for refinancing the 2011 bonds. For the 2013 bonds, Chase had a slightly lower rate (1.313 percent vs. Freedom’s 1.4 percent) but did not offer a uniform savings option. Council had two decisions to make. First, which bank(s) to award the refinancing and second, whether to take all the savings up front or to spread the savings over the period covered by the loans (uniform savings). Council accepted the staff recommendation that the city should select the uniform savings option.

Meeting Will Address Forest Preserve Trails Stewardship

The regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council on August 13 ran for nearly six hours, with many items on the agenda. The longest of these, which lasted more than an hour, was a presentation by Mayor Colin Byrd of a proposal of his own to potentially be developed into an ordinance titled Greenbelt Fair and Just Policing Act of 2020.

No draft document was presented, and the motion Byrd would eventually make was for council to direct the city selector to consider the content he was presenting into a draft ordinance, which could then be reviewed and considered for action. It was made clear that no vote was being taken on the proposal itself that night, since only a framework had been presented.

Residents who wish to view the presentation or the slides can find them on the city website by going to Greenbelt Municipal Access (greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-administration/public-communications/greenbelt-municipal-access) and selecting the August 10 meeting.

Background

Byrd first presented the history and need for evaluating and reforming policing in Greenbelt and then made suggestions for policy. He started with an account of the origin of slave patrols, which started in South Carolina and had such duties as pursuing and returning escaped slaves and maintaining discipline among enslaved populations. After the Civil War, local sheriffs took on this work, and from that, early police departments eventually evolved. Byrd said that African Americans, other minorities and immigrants were the populations with whom the police were most frequently in contact.

Byrd asked for a draft ordinance that presented the core policing proposal of his own to potentially be considered for action. Byrd made clear that no vote was being taken on this work, and from that, early police departments eventually evolved. Byrd said that African Americans, other minorities and immigrants were the populations with whom the police were most frequently in contact.

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Byrd Presents Policing Act, Asks for Draft Ordinance

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Letters to the Editor

Baltimore Support
As a Greenbelter that works in Baltimore I was truly disappointed to see last week’s cartoon in the Greenbelt News Review with a derogatory tone toward the city of Baltimore. Baltimore is a great city and it deserves our respect and our support. Balti- more may be in need of a bit of a facelift but that is not due to poor taste jokes about its situ- ation, particularly after being the target of national media scrutiny by the current president of the USA and after having lost fund- ing for its transit and city services due to a line of political pressure by a rather arbitrary decision of the current governor of Maryland. I am proud of Greenbelt’s sup- port for the Black Lives Matter movement because I really want a more just society, we have to change our mentality regarding how we depict communities of color. We need to stop and think about how we use our resources for the benefit of our larger community in Mary- land and beyond. Mariana Guerrero

Cartoon Not Funny
I am writing to express my disgust with the cartoon you printed on August 20, 2020, issue of the Greenbelt News Review. The cartoon by Pete Reppert was taking a disparaging and cheap shot at Baltimore City. I was born and raised in Baltimore and I have family there. Yes, Baltimore has its share of problems but there are also a lot of good people there and good things that happen in the city. I would hope in the future the editors will take more care to review what goes into the newspaper. This cartoon is yet another example of bad writing and has no place in the paper. Patricia Novinski

Hats Off to GACF
Kudos to Stephen Parks and the staff of the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center. Though we were all impatient waiting for them to reopen, it was well worth the wait. They have done a terrific job. The lifeguards and staff are very patient and professional dealing with our complaints about scheduling and times allotted. I am so thrilled to be able to swim laps again. I have the utmost re- spect for all their employees for the courage and determination of keeping and keeping us safe. They have allowed us some semblance of normalcy, even if it is for only 45 minutes twice a week. Thank you so much. Robin Olson

Don’t Bash Baltimore
I was taken aback by the cartoon in last week’s issue of the News Review. Baltimore is not a cow- pond to bash another Maryland city to support anti-maglev. Balti- more may have its problems but it also has many assets: great symphony orchestra, art collect- ives, a world-class aquarium, plus others. Oh, I forgot, great sports teams with Mary- land names we can be proud of. Judith Ott

Feels Normal Again
Kudos to GGN for having Rachel Hayford on the front page. His hard work and kindness at the Co-op exemplify the effort of its entire staff. Starting at 7 a.m., shelves are full and employees are available to provide assistance as stock is rearranged to increase access. The availability of meat, fruit and vegetables at this hour is amazing. My visits allow me to feel as if things are normal again.

Se Habla Español
Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.

Correction
In the article The Greenbelt Forum Preserve: How to Manage the Trails? published in the August 20 News Review, the name of the Greenbelt sub- division Belle Point was misspelled.

Election 2020
Email Ballot Option Not Recommended
Anyone who has not re- ceived the mail-in ballot request form by early Sep- tember, or does not want to wait, may go to the Maryland State Board of Elections website (elections.maryland.gov) and use the email ballot re- quest form directly to a home computer. The request form should then be mailed to the Prince George’s County Board of Elections, 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, Largo, MD 20774. This option requires an envelope and postage.

The State Board does not recommend requesting an elec- tronic ballot instead of the standard mail-in ballot that will be mailed to the voter’s address through the U.S. Post- al Service. The electronic ballot was designed for limited use as it cannot be scanned to be counted. An electronic ballot available on the State Board website is the al- ternative for someone with spe- cial needs is voting absentee. As of Tuesday, August 25, the State Board reported that 64,887 Marylanders had already re- quested this electronic ballot option from the website, thinking it would be bet- ter than mail-in ballots.

Edith J. Beauchamp

New Submission Deadlines
The Greenbelt News Review has revised its deadlines in the view of CO- VID-19 on our operations. The new deadlines are:

- Display ads: Copy that is camera-ready by 2 p.m. Monday.
- Classified ads: Camera-ready copy by 6 p.m. Wednesday.

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 letter writer’s name, physical address and telephone number. 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.
At the Library

While PGMLS branches remain closed, the Library continues to offer virtual events for the public. A full schedule of upcoming programs may be accessed at pgmls.info/virtual-events.

The primary event this week will be the Holiday Market, which begins on Tuesday, December 8, at 7 p.m. This year's event will include a variety of vendors and board members participating in the market.

The library will hold a virtual book drive from December 10-18. Participants are encouraged to donate books to support the library's collection.

Maryland Wildlife Art Class

This Saturday, December 12, the Maryland Wildlife Art Class will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library. The class is open to all ages and is free to attend.

Improv by Zoom

On Friday, December 18, at 7 p.m., the Improv by Zoom program will be held. This virtual event is open to all ages and is free to attend.

Astronomical Society Meets August 27

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will hold their monthly meeting online via Zoom this Thursday, August 27, at 7:30 p.m. The speaker will be Anwar Al-Mallah, ASG vice president, who will present on the topic of astronomy simulation software. He will discuss the use of Stellarium: Universe Sandbox, Space Engine and Stellarium. All are welcome to attend.

Virtual Recreation

Greenbelt Recreation's virtual programs are online via the Virtual Recreation Center. To enter the 2020 Retro Town Fair, take a photo of your favorite vintage souvenir for a chance to win a prize. Contact the library at 240-455-5451 or askalibrarian@pgcmls.info for more information.

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Arnold Glick

Forty-five-year Greenbelt resident and University of Maryland professor emeritus of physics Arnold “Avi” Glick died on August 16, 2020. He was known in Greenbelt and beyond for his six decades of international folk dancing, welcoming every new participant and never stopping until the last dance.

Born in Brooklyn in 1931, Avi became interested in science and math at a young age. With his insatiable curiosity and love of learning, he was accepted into and attended New York’s presti- gious Stuyvesant High School, a specialized public high school for math and science. It was here that he developed a keen interest in physics.

Also during this time, he became involved in the Zionist youth movement. After high school and soon after the new state of Israel was founded, he went to central Israel to work on Kibbutz Gal On to help build the new country from the ground up. However, with the lack of food in the country, he subsisted mainly on grapefruit and soon became emaciated. With simple food in the country, he subsisted until the last dance.

Eventually he was invited to join the physics faculty at the University of Maryland by Professor and future University President John Toll. Toll was growing the size and quality of the Department of Physics and Astronomy and exciting research was underway. Avi devoted his career to solid state physics research and teaching. His work in theoretical physics took him to Israel, France and summers at the Aspen Center for Physics in Colorado. In addition to his academic contributions, he was especially concerned about the well-being of graduate students and devoted much effort to coun- seling and supporting them. He retired in 1999.

With his many varied inter- ests Avi took advantage of the opportunities available at the University of Maryland and stud- ied modern dance, ballet, scuba diving, squash, running, movies, sculpture and more. He created an extensive collection of sculp- tures made of metal, wood and scrap; of moss anything he could find. He hiked with his physics friends, Greenbelt friends, family and others on most of the trails at Great Falls Park, the Virginia Shenandoah Mountains and the Rocky Mountains around Aspen, Colo.

A member of Mishkan Torah Synagogue in recent years, Avi was known for his kindness, warmth, sincerity and humor.

Avi is survived by his wife of 41 years, Rachel Glick; as well as his first wife, Nevet Montem- orgy; three children Jody Glick, Jeri Glick (Charles Anderson) and Ora DeMorrow (Shannon Lynch); and four grandchildren. Donations in Avi’s memory may be made to Mishkan Torah, the Southern Poverty Law Center, the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous (JFR.org), or to a charity of the donor’s choice. Funeral services have been held.

Mishkan Torah Congregation

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkanborah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Rev. Deb Vaughn, Guest Minister
Check us out on Facebook Live this Sunday at 10:15 AM
https://www.facebook.com/GCUCCCMD
1 Hillside Road
301-474-6171

“Family Ministry: Teaching UU Values to Encourage Social Activism”
Guest Speaker Tricia Most with PBUUC Youth
To encourage our children and youth to carry on our faith tradition of working for justice, we must invite them into discernment, action, and reflection with us. How is Paint Branch doing on this goal? ONLINE ONLY. Streaming information at http://bit.ly/PBAug2020

Greenbelt Baha’i Community

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
August 30 10 a.m.
“Family Ministry: Teaching UU Values to Encourage Social Activism”
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3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-673-7066
www.pbucc.org

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City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. Greenbelt Recreation has provided a licensed preschool program for over thirty years. The fall program will offer a combination of virtual learning and outdoor experiences. Children will have the option to meet for outdoor learning opportunities (COVID-19 waiver required). Outdoor classroom meeting dates/times will be set in advance and shared on a weekly basis. Parent input is welcome! Weekly learning packets will be provided and virtual group lessons will be scheduled daily. The hybrid model will offer a traditional preschool program that provides activities that encourage social development, offer beginning reading, math, science, and fine motor skills, and encourage lots of fun with peers.

Please call 301-397-2200 to receive an email or phone call from our Preschool Director for more details. Registration is ongoing, so sign up soon to reserve your spot.

Student registration packet due before the first day of class.

City Notes

Street Maintenance/Special Details

Street Division Special Details

Street Division staff are currently working on various projects throughout the City of Greenbelt. The Citywide Strategic Plan is currently being implemented to address Citywide needs and prioritize long-term goals. The Citywide Strategic Plan is currently being implemented to address Citywide needs and prioritize long-term goals.

Artistic staff presented their week-long Crankie Camp.

Youth Recreation Programs

Youth Recreation Programs

- Therapeutic Recreation staff were working on-site intermitently. Facilities and outdoor programs are available for children and families.
- Greenbelt’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) met to discuss upcoming events and programs.
- Youth Recreation Programs

Youth Recreation Programs

- In various parks, park rangers encountered unleashed dogs. Refuse/recycling collected: 30.46 tons of refuse and 13.59 tons of recyclables.
- Food Scraps Program staff weighed scraps and assembled equipment for the program.
- Facilities and outdoor programs are available for children and families.
- In various parks, park rangers encountered unleashed dogs.
- Utopia Film Festival Cancellation

Utopia Film Festival Cancellation

- Utopia Film Festival canceled due to COVID-19 (September 8 – December 14)
- Greenbelt’s Utopia Film Festival plans to return in Fall 2021
- The Utopia Festival is launching a new program, the Utopia Film Grants, to support local filmmakers.
- The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations.

TO PARTICIPATE
1. Take a photo of your item.
2. Send the photo to Retromaine@Greenbelt.gov by the subject line in the email as text only. Your photo will be removed after the final submission.
3. Submit the photo online by filling out the form and selecting an option. Check the box if you have questions or concerns.

CATEGORIES
- Knitting and weaving
- Crochet and knitting
- Embroidery and sewing
- Other school work?
- Greenbelt Museum Virtual Retro Town Fair

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- Now you can be a member of the Retro Town Fair! To participate, share your best COVID-fighting creation!
- Submit all entries to education@greenbeltmuseum.org by Friday, August 28.
- Winners will be announced on the Museum’s website.

SCHEDULE
- Friday, August 21 – Friday, August 28
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GREENBELT CARES

GREENBELT CARES

- Do you want to earn your GED?
- FREE GED Preparation
- Classes for Ages 16+
- Online Lessons and Supportive Tutoring
- Tutoring

Where: Online Lessons and Supportive Tutoring
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- Ages 6 – 18
- Must be Prince George’s County Resident

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Virtual Tutoring
Free Tutoring
For disabled or homebound seniors 60+
- living in incorporated Greenbelt

Delivered! 5 days a week

Delivered! 5 days a week

- Free from 9/6/20
- 12/31/20
- Please contact Theresa Biggins, DAIL Program Intern at 240-822-2033 to register or for more information:
- 240-822-2033 from 10-12
- Space is limited
- This program was made possible by funding from the CARES Act funded by the Federal Government.

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Federal Colony Next Door: A Critique of Greenbelt

by James Giese

This is the first of two stories about articles written in Nation’s Business magazine at the time Greenbelt was being constructed. Thanks to Aaron Marcavitch for referring these articles to us.

In 1936, Nation’s Business published A Yardstick for Housing, a critical article about Greenbelt and the Green Towns by Warren Bishop. First attacking Rexford Guy Tugwell, the head of the Resettlement Administration (RA), the agency responsible for developing new towns and other programs to provide decent housing for farmers and other low-income people, Bishop credited him with a desire to “make over America.” He said that Tugwell received a “tremendous grant of power for a man who has shown little knowledge or confidence in business.”

Referring to the Green Belt Towns such as “Letchwood” (Letchworth), England, and Radburn, N.J., Bishop reported that “on paper, the idea is charming.” However, unlike those earlier developments for modest income families, the RA projects were for low-income families.

The article reported on the five communities Tugwell wanted to build near the cities of Milwaukee, Washington, St. Louis, Cincinnati and in Jefferson County, N.J. It noted, however, that the RA quit the St. Louis project that was in dispute with local planners. The RA wanted 4,000 acres in northern St. Louis County which was “pleasant country but not near industry.” The planners, on the other hand, wanted the town located where there were “a great number of poorly paid, poorly housed workers.” The RA rejected that site as a swamp and subject to smoke pollution, Bishop wrote.

Budgets

Bishop stated the budgets being acquired and houses “really being built.” Determination of who was to pay what was to be paid. No consensus on what the rents and costs were still undecided, the article stated. Also, there were unresolved political problems such as payment of taxes and costs for police, fire, schools, sewerage and water. Negotiations were also in process to incorporate the community.

“There are dozens of

See GREENBELT, page 11

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Additional funding for the PGCC’s Pre-K program is made possible by the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services under the authority of Sections 14005 and 14006 of the ARRA and the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 2010, Title VII grant provider.
Pioneer Memories of Greenbelt From a Member of the Gang

by Marshall Gerstel

As I reminisce about my years in Greenbelt from 1938 to 1965, I must say they were wonderful times spent in a utopian sphere. They were highlighted by my lasting friendships garnered from so many wonderful and well-organized activities, administered by the many citizen-volunteers of Greenbelt.

I remember Sam Fox and Ben Goldfaden, our recreation directors; Cliff Cockill and Richie Stevenson, my basketball and football coaches; Mr. White and Mr. Townsend, my scout leaders. I recall fondly Rabbi Morris Sandhiaus and Father Duvgallo for their spiritual leadership, and Mrs. Fugitt, our principal at Center School, and Mrs. Grimm and Ms. Battry, our teachers. As a teenager, I spent many hours at the social club, The Drop-In, with the club hosts, Mrs. Findy and Mrs. Birdseye. Ora Donahue, Eileen Madd and Domnie Wolf were stand-out leaders for boys and girls recreation. And, who could forget our mayor, Allen Morrison, who also doubled as Santa Claus for all the children of Greenbelt?

But most important, I think of my lifelong friends with whom I reconnected at the Greenbelt celebration in 1987 and again in 2017. As teenagers, we named ourselves the One-Eyed Connelly Gang.

Over the last 33 years our gang has gathered every two years for a reunion. As many as 15 pioneers and their spouses participated: John Schaffer, Donald Walker, Harvey Goldstein and I are still actively engaged in social discourse through email, phone or Zoom. Unfortunately, several of the original gang have passed – Mike Cockill, Bruce MacEwan, Larry Holien, Joe Carrins, Charlie Howey, Teddy Havens and John Bonner.

Yes, we lived in a government project with subsidized housing for low-middle-class families, some living off food stamps and others without full-time employment. During WWII some families received rationing coupons and many grew Victory Gardens to supplement the scarcely available fresh produce.

We did not know that we were without yet we managed to make do with what we had.

We were all of the same economic level, enjoying life as we knew it without regrets. As you know, we all came through it and prospered, all getting a sound education, successful in our careers. And to this day, I look back and say, “What a wonderful time we had!” Thank you, Greenbelt!

(Residences: 16-A Ridge, 14-Z Ridge, Springhill Lake)

Don’t Get Caught in Scam

One of the Greenbelt News Review’s members writes to warn readers about a recent scam to which she almost fell victim:

“It is embarrassing to admit but I was the victim of an Apple scam. It starts with an email requesting you to contact them about a service problem. It is followed by numerous authentic looking emails and phone contact with a company representative. It produces a document indicating my account was pilfered by 92 hackers. Finally, you are instructed to buy a gift card to get money to stop the hacking. Luckily it did not get this far for me. It frightens me that they seemed so authentic. I hope this doesn’t happen to anybody else.”

The near-victim in this scheme also adds that the email address from which the purported Apple emails came ended in USA.com.

News Review notes that legitimate businesses do not require their customers to buy gift cards in order to pay for services. Scammers go to considerable lengths to seem like the real thing and are particularly likely to take advantage of individuals who are not fully conversant with technology.

Raider Roast Cancellation

by Douglas A. Mangum

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund (DCMSF) has canceled this year’s fundraiser, the Raider Roast, which is held annually at the Greenbelt American Legion during the Labor Day Festival. Saturday, September 5 was the scheduled date this year but with Prince George’s County still on a hot spot for the COVID-19 virus along with state restrictions on restaurants and the safeguards and recommendations on event/crowd sizes, the committee felt it was not wise to attempt to hold the celebration.

The Raider Roast is the DCMSF’s main source of revenue along with their solicitation letter drive. As a privately funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit it relies on its donors and contributors and the attendees of the annual gathering.

Besides raising funds, the Raider Roast serves as a homecoming for Eleanor Roosevelt High School alumni and past recipients of the scholarship and their family members. It also brings Greenbelt residents together, likely last year when it partnered with an all-class reunion for St. Hugh’s School. The DCMSF is saddened to announce this without having a future schedule date. It, along with the Legion, look forward to being a source for social interaction with the community. Thanks to all the supporters for the gifts and contributions given.

The event will return when it is safe to do so and will continue helping Greenbelt be great. Those who may wish to donate to the fund despite the cancellation can do so by check to DCMSF, P.O. Box 761, Greenbelt, MD 20768 or through Venmo at DouglasMangum@DCMSF.


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It's embarrassing to admit but I was the victim of an Apple scam. It starts with an email requesting you to contact them about a service problem. It is followed by numerous authentic looking emails and phone contact with a company representative. It produces a document indicating my account was pilfered by 92 hackers. Finally, you are instructed to buy a gift card to get money to stop the hacking. Luckily it did not get this far for me.
Bradley to Stock Smokes Every Hour, On the Hour

The January 26, 1945 Greenbelt Cooperator, precursor to the Greenbelt News Review, included the following article:

At last, Greenbelt smokers will know where their next pack is coming from and when. George Bradley, tobacco store manager, started a new system this week of offering cigarettes for sale every hour on the hour. Housewives especially welcomed this change as they found it particularly disconcerting to push baby down to the Center several times a day and return home empty-handed.

So, the next time you run out, plan your trek to the store by the clock. Last week Mr. Bradley was able to secure a larger supply of cigarettes than in many weeks—enough to put out three cartons every hour. He could give no assurance of being able to continue in this quantity but even so, the system, he feels, will be an improvement. So far there are no plans for rationing cigarettes here. Mr. Bradley said, but if this should prove necessary advance announcement will be made in the Cooperator.

Bradley to Stock Smokes Every Hour, On the Hour continued

COUNCIL continued from page 1

votes, council awarded both bond refinancing agreements to Freedom Bank.

Refinancing the bonds will save the city roughly $700,000. The refunding bonds will be retained by the bank and not offered to the public. Jennifer Diercksen, Davenport first vice president, described the legal requirements for refinancing through a public bond issue, which are numerous and time-consuming.

Goodard Assessment

Council unanimously directed the Department of Planning and Community Development to send a letter to GSFC requesting that the issues identified by staff be considered in the upcoming environmental and historic assessment of its 20-year master plan.

Implementation of the plan is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. In concurrence with these requirements, GSFC is now soliciting comments on the scope of the environmental assessment.

The solicitation letter notes that the master plan calls for the demolition, construction and renovation of numerous buildings, along with general infrastructure maintenance and improvement activities. Further, NASA would explore options for some excess buildings and land areas, including “divesting land, divesting buildings and potential future partnerships with non-NASA entities.” Full implementation of the master plan is expected to result in the demolition of excess or energy-inefficient buildings, reducing the site’s building footprint by approximately 645,000 square feet. Divestment of excess buildings would further reduce the footprint by 100,000 square feet. New construction of energy-efficient buildings would increase the footprint by 363,000 square feet. The draft environmental assessment is expected to be released in January 2021.

In a memorandum, Terri Hruby, director of the city’s Department of Planning and Community Development, stated that the scoping agreement should address impacts on the natural environment, water quality, transportation (impacts on local roads, transit, bicycle and pedestrian movement), electric vehicle charging stations, light, noise, air quality and socioeconomics. It must also, she wrote, address environmental mitigation efforts and sustainability.

The impact of the plan on the GSFC Historic District must also be studied, including historic resources and archeologically significant archeological sites, and identifying buildings that may be eligible for National Register designation.

Staff and council were concerned about the references to divesting of land and buildings. Councilmember Judith Davis pointed out that the wooded sections of the GSFC campus are part of a green belt that she feared would become a cash cow for the federal government. That also concerned Councilmember Rodney Roberts, who was also concerned about the divested property being given to other federal agencies.

Hruby and her staff will relay these concerns to GSFC and ask that the city be kept continuously updated.

School Textbook Pickup

Staying in their cars to preserve social distance, Eleanor Roosevelt High School students wait their turn to pick up textbooks and Chromebooks for the new school year which begins on Monday, August 31.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Tuesday, September 3, 2020

A. GHI Special Open Session – starts at 7:00 p.m. (open to members and guests)

• Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting held on September 3, 2020

B. GHI Executive Session – starts after the GHI Special Open Session Meeting adjourns (closed to members and guests)

• Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting held on August 6, 2020

• Request by a Prospective Member for an Exception to GHI’s Membership Selection Criteria

C. GHI Open Session (open to members and guests) – starts at 8:00 p.m.

• Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Meeting held on August 19, 2020

• Announcement of Regular Open Session Meeting held on September 3, 2020

• Approval of Regular Open Session Meeting held on August 6, 2020

• Nomination & Election Committee Proposed for the 2021 Annual Membership Meeting

• Site Visits/Field Trips

• Permit Request to Install an Electric Vehicle Charging Station subject to Strategic RFPs at PA Building

• Permit Request to Install a Section of Fencing to Enclose the East and West Boundaries of a GHI Unit

• Provisions Revisions to GSFC Rules of Minimum Use and Maintenance Standards – Home and Trees

• Establishment of a Coalition to Recommend Actions to Protect GSFC from the Effects of the Proposed SCMAGLEV Project

• Investment Committee’s Recommendation for a Vote on GSFC’s Investment Policy

Staff and council were open to Members

For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop

Hruby and her staff will relay these concerns to GSFC and ask that the city be kept continuously updated.
Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police

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

Sexual Assault
August 18, 6:45 p.m., 6600 George Street. A man approached a woman who was standing outside the Giant supermarket and asked her for a hug. He hugged and groped her before he fled the area in a vehicle described as a black four-door vehicle bearing Arizona tags. He is described as Hispanic, with greasy shoulder length curly hair, wearing a white shirt, khaki pants and a baseball cap.

Robbery
August 13, 10:50 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. Two men approached a man from behind as he walked down the street, threatened him, and took his credit card. They returned treatment for a cut to his lip.

Assault
August 13, 10:55 p.m., Cherrywood Lane near Breeze-wood Drive. A man allegedly drove through a stop sign and almost struck another vehicle. He then exited his vehicle and approached a handicapped person in the back seat of his car. He had almost hit them. He then reentered his vehicle, described as a black 4-door Cadillac, and fled. He is described as being White, 5 feet 6 inches tall, with blue eyes and a brown beard, wearing a red jersey and a black beanie-type hat.

Vandalism
August 13, 4:28 p.m., 8950 Edmonston Road. A mirror on a construction excavator was broken.

Vehicle Crime
A 17-year-old nonresident was arrested for motor vehicle theft and assault on August 15 at 6:22 Breezewood Drive after an officer stopped the vehicle because it appeared to be vacant. A computer check revealed that he also had open arrest warrants with the United States Marshals Service. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Burglary
August 13, 10:15 a.m., 8950 Edmonston Road. A mirror on a construction excavator was broken.

Process Concerns
Councilmember Edward Putens expressed some dissatisfaction with having only just received this material when at least he and Mach had asked to have it long ago. He added that this process was in itself making things inaccessible since council was bypassing the public, the police chief and the Fraternal Order of Police, as well as city boards and committees – such as the Community Relations Advisory Board and the Public Safety Advisory Committee – that should be part of the review and discussion prior to any decision making. He suggested sending the entire presentation to all of them.

Police General Orders
It had been mentioned several times that there was a good deal of overlap between materials in Byrd’s list and materials already covered in the Police General Orders, which are posted on the website of the Greenbelt Police Department (greenbelt-md.gov/government/departments-police). Councilmember John Roberts seconded the motion.

Hearing
Leta Mach asked for additional time to consider what the legal ramifications would be if items were converted from General Orders to legislation. Pound replied that he would definitely address this matter when he reviews the documents.

Thinking of selling? We need more listings in Greenbelt!

If you are thinking of selling and selling so far, this is a great time. Right now we have more buyers than sellers. We are working with several fully qualified buyers, and there is a serious shortage of inventory!

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The Department is offering a reward of up to $1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2415.

BYRD continued from page 1

likely to establish certain patterns of interaction.

Byrd next talked about a series of victims of police brutality where the incident put a spotlight on improper practices, which also served to inspire change or raise consciousness at the time. George Floyd is the most prominent recent example, though, unfortunately, others have already followed. Byrd named Michael Brown as another example, in which the need for body cameras became evident and was acted upon.

Controversial Practices
Specific areas and practices among police forces that have been targeted by the mayor for attention following feedback he has received from residents include the following: de-escalation, use of force, duty to intervene, civil liberties, transparency, militarization, hiring, immigration, profiling, citizen oversight, stop and frisk, and accountability. He discussed a considerable number of topics that fall under these areas.

Byrd said that where police reform has been tried before there has been pushback along racial lines on whether reform is in fact necessary. He suggested that accountability and transparency are two of the most difficult areas in which to make changes, along with the Law Enforcement Officer’s Bill of Rights (LEOBR) and the Public Information Act. He also made a point of saying that reform can be done in the presence of whites and others and not be thought of as necessarily being reactive to events that have already occurred.

Following this background, Byrd moved that the content from his presentation be drafted as legislation by the city solicitor. Councilmember Rodney Roberts seconded the motion.

Calling for a vote, the motion passed. Byrd’s motion added another layer to what the legal ramifications would be if items were converted from General Orders to legislation. Pound replied that he would definitely address this matter when he reviews the documents.

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difficulties in the way of setting a federal colony within an independent state,” Bishop wrote. He said a plan (that was never put in effect) called for a holding company of government officials, county and town residents. The county would take title from the federal government. There would be a 40- to 60-year mortgage. Business wouldn’t do such an undertaking, Bishop contended.

Noting that the housing was for low income families, he reported that a five-room home projected to rent for $30 a month should have a building cost of $3,600 based upon annual rents amounting to 10 percent of value. Although the government was projecting a cost of $4,000 for a home, Bishop noted that it didn’t account for amenities such as parks, athletic fields, a lake and open space. Nor did it include overhead costs, of which he felt there were excessive amounts. He also reported that an experienced project engineer for the RA told a reporter that $8,000 would not be too high a cost estimate for building a Berwyn house.

Bishop later claimed the per unit cost to have been $3,600 based upon annual rents amounting to 10 percent of value. “People with that kind of income don’t live in that kind of house,” the magazine commented. Also, those hoping to undertake operating little stores in the commercial center had been blocked by turning what should have been a business demonstration included that this project had little value as a business demonstration project.

1937 Update

A short, non-bylined article in the October 1937 issue of Nation’s Business reported that Tugwell’s Greenbelt project “seemed to be a headache.” The project cost was then something like $13,000,000 or $14,500 per family with average incomes of $1,700. “People with that kind of income don’t live in that kind of house,” the magazine commented. Also, those hoping to undertake operating little stores in the commercial center had been blocked by turning what should have been a business private over to cooperative organizations. According to the article, “Neither New Englanders or outside businesses which planned to compete seemed to be pleased.”
Recreation Summer Arts

Greenbelters were very creative this summer, thanks to a full slate of virtual arts classes run by Greenbelt Recreation.

A table full of finished and fired ceramic gnomes and other mythical creatures

Drawing by Isaac Yoo

Boro Bag by Laura Takaks

Stella (left) and Snow White by Camille and Maren O’Roark

Felt mandalas by Jane Mulaney

Monotype prints by Peter and Lily Chonczynski

Greenbelt Nature

An Old Greenbelt urban farm dog, McKenna, guards the flocks of caladium and coleus.

Ducks not social distancing

A great blue heron, a great snowy egret and a mallard duck happily coexist at Ora Glen Pond in Greenbelt East.

Turtles are sunning themselves on rocks in the pond on Hanover Parkway.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send “actual size”, or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.