

APRIL FOOL!

***Hope you enjoyed some good
laughs compliments of the
Greenbelt News Review.
We couldn't resist the
opportunity to make
fun of ourselves . . .***

***April 1 doesn't often fall
on a Thursday!***

Greenbelt Consumer Co-op Ad

Greenbelt Consumer Co-op Ad

POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Handgun

Beltway Plaza Mall, March 24, 8:30 p.m., a nonresident man was arrested and charged with transporting a handgun in a vehicle. Police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation; a computer check revealed that the driver had a suspended license. Located in the vehicle was a semi-automatic handgun. The suspect was released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

School Disruption

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, March 19, 12:39 p.m., a resident youth was arrested for disruption of school activities after he was ordered by a teacher to leave a classroom where he was disrupting instruction. The youth refused to leave, then began using a cellular telephone. He was told a second time to leave and was arrested when he again refused. The youth was released to a parent pending action by the school board and the Juvenile Justice System.

Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were stolen: a light blue 1992 Honda Accord 4-door, March 19 from the 6200 block Breezewood Drive; a beige 1996 Ford Contour 4-door, Maryland tags HFX674, March 19, from the 400 block Ridge Road; a 1991 Lincoln Town Car, March 20, from Beltway Plaza Mall, recovered

March 23 by the Prince George's County Police, no arrests; a black Lincoln Navigator, Delaware tags 77928, March 20, from the 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace; a burgundy 1998 Dodge Stratus 4-door, Pennsylvania tags EGC4429, March 21, from Beltway Plaza Mall; a red 1990 Toyota Camry 4-door, Maryland tags KBA740, March 21, from the 6100 block Greenbelt Road; a red 1997 Buick Park Avenue 4-door, Maryland tags 81015HD, March 22, from the 8000 block Mandan Road; a 1988 Toyota Camry 4-door, March 23, from the 9100 block Edmonston Road, found abandoned the next day by the owner; a 1985 Pontiac Parisienne 4-door, Maryland tags FHG640, March 25, from the 7600 block Hanover Parkway; and a green 1992 Honda Civic 4-door, Maryland tags 846ASM, March 25, from the 8100 block Lakecrest Drive.

Eight vehicles were recovered; two adult arrests were made in one of the recoveries. One stolen tag was also recovered.

Vandalisms to, thefts from or attempted thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza Mall (3 incidents), Breezewood Drive and Edmonston Terrace, 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, 6100 block Breezewood Court, 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, 5800 block Cherrywood Lane (2 incidents),

Police Sponsor Basket Bingo

Members of the Greenbelt Police Department will be co-sponsors of a Basket Bingo event to benefit the 2004 Maryland Special Olympics. The game will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 3 at the Glen Burnie Moose Lodge #1456, 1911 Crain Highway, Glen Burnie. The entire proceeds will benefit the Special Olympics. Doors will open to the public at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets sold prior to that date will be offered at a reduced price. For information call Chris Peters at 301-583-2334. For information about sponsoring a prize basket call George Mathews at 240-542-2116.

5900 block Cherrywood Lane, 6000 block Springhill Drive, 6200 block Springhill Drive, 6200 block Springhill Court, 9100 block Springhill Court, unit block Lakeside Drive, Pinecrest Court, 45 Court Ridge Road (2 incidents), Forestway, Gardenway, 7500 block Greenbelt Road, 6900 block Hanover Parkway, 7800 block Hanover Parkway and 8000 block Craddock Road.

Other incidents noted by police for which information was not provided were: assault (2), shoplifting (1), theft (5) and vandalism (1).

Sixth Graders Hold Mock Primary

by David Lange

On Monday, March 1 the sixth grade students in Beth Novick's homeroom at Greenbelt Elementary School held a mock primary election. Al Sharpton won by a wide margin. The students had a homework assignment: Go home, do some research about the candidate you chose and write three reasons why that person is the best choice for a Democratic candidate this coming fall.

Here are some of the reasons the children gave for their choice:

Al Sharpton – He supports statehood for the District of Columbia. (Jordan McNair)

Al Sharpton – He grew up in a rough neighborhood which makes him determined to see young American citizens grow up in a good neighborhood. Also he cares about the minority problem in America. (Jaraad Padgett)

John Edwards – He has a great plan to make our schools better, provide teachers with a higher salary, stretch school hours through after-school programs and make our high schools better. He suggested a plan called College for Everyone. (Ashley Prescott)

John Edwards – He speaks out against racism. (Marcus Coker)

John Kerry – He has a good healthcare plan to keep kids in America safe and healthy. He plans to assure that 99 percent of all children have health coverage. One way he would do this is by having families complete a simple form and sending it to school. This would automatically enroll all kids in health care coverage. (Jacob Silver)

John Kerry – He wants to give the schools more money for education. (Carolyn Thompson)

Poulenc at Clarice

A free performance by UM's own student-led chamber orchestra will be held Friday, April 9 at 8 p.m. in the Elsie & Marvin DeKelboun Concert Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The program includes Poulenc's virtuosic "Aubade" for piano and chamber orchestra. Presented by the University of Maryland School of Music, Rita Sloan is featured on piano with Richard Scerbo, music director.

Lab Theatre Play, Mature Offering

The student-produced play "Play Until Something Explodes" by Noelle D. Wilson will be presented at the Laboratory Theatre of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at UM, Saturday, April 3 at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 4 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Monday, April 5 at 7 p.m. This free play contains mature content.

The Greenbelt Police Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.

THEATER continued from page 3

prioritized the list of possible theater projects as "strongly recommended," "recommended" and "optional." Sixteen separate projects were on the list.

Cited as number one was repair or replacement of the exit doors from the theater's main auditorium. As theater operator Paul Sanchez stressed at meeting's end, these doors are strongly affected by heat and humidity. "The panic hardware is shot," he reported. He urged that the doors be attended to at once before summer temperatures arrive. Councilmember Edward Putens agreed. "We should do them immediately," he said.

In reference to the fire safety issue of the interior wall shared with the dry cleaner's, all is cinder block, according to Sanchez, "except for one small piece of wall and ceiling" in a filled-in and no longer used stairwell to a dressing room below the stage. "That is not fire proof," he said. Except for that small area, the stage floor is concrete, he said, "with wood over top."

Another strongly recommended item is an upgrade of emergency and exit lighting and auditorium aisle lighting and an upgrade of the fire alarm system, including smoke and heat detectors. These are among the four top-priority safety issues, councilmembers agreed.

All agreed also that the two restrooms need upgrading, with additional stalls and handicapped access. Whether the design should include a unisex facility

for handicap access in lieu of handicap access within the separate male and female restrooms was not decided at the meeting. Cohen said she would present designs at a future meeting to show both solutions. Such a meeting is scheduled tentatively for sometime in June.

HVAC System

According to Sanchez, some elements of the heating and air conditioning system are "generally okay." The blower is 10 years old, he said, and heating is "pretty reliable." The air conditioning system, however, dates from the early 1970s. The ductwork is original, Cohen said, and "beyond its useful life." The original air return system no longer works effectively, she pointed out, since some of it was blocked when the Pleasant Touch facility was constructed below the stage.

Everyone agreed that the lobby area and the ticket booth in particular need repair.

Postponed

Three of the possible items for repair or replacement were deemed less urgent by those present and named for postponement until a later time. These were modifications to the existing exterior landings and concrete ramp from the auditorium doors, provision of a new sprinkler system and possible extension forward of the stage for possible use for performances other than movies.

Sanchez was especially concerned that the expensive movie

screen might be damaged by persons involved in such events. He commented that over the years he has received many compliments concerning both picture and sound quality of the Old Greenbelt Theatre from persons attending film showings here – in particular in comparison with the District's Uptown Theatre.

Despite the nonhistorical presence of the current fabric covering for the auditorium walls, all agreed that for its acoustical effect it should be maintained. Further, as required by the lease with Pleasant Touch, which shares a water meter with the theater, separate metering can be accomplished with an internal meter to that facility.

Jazz Appreciation At Gildenhorn

Kick off Jazz Appreciation Month as Unified Jazz Ensemble brings its unique modern sound to College Park. Saxophonist Jeff Antoniuk leads a combo featuring bassist John Pineda, drummer Marty Morrison and Mike Noonan on vibes and trombone. This program is part of Take Five, an interactive, informal series offering an opportunity to explore a wide range of performing arts. This free event takes place Tuesday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Joseph and Alma Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.

AMERICAN REALTY

14-Y Ridge Road

UNDER CONTRACT

NEW LISTING

19-U Ridge Road

UNDER CONTRACT

NEW LISTING

21-M Ridge Road

This three bedroom block unit has vinyl siding, new wall-to-wall carpeting throughout and has been freshly painted. Located close to the Center.

NEW LISTING

2-S Gardenway

UNDER CONTRACT

NEW LISTING

6-B Hillside Road

Two bedroom brick unit with central air conditioning, wall-to-wall carpeting, Pergo floor, new stacked washer/dryer and an English garden make this unit a rare find.

COMING IN APRIL

1 Bedroom
Upper Level

Commission Only - No Extra Fees
Jeannie Smith, GRI
Quality and Personal Service
301-345-1091



HORNSBY continued from page 3

studies showed that the population in the areas of ERHS would level out around the end of the decade, whereas other areas would begin periods of greater population growth.

Hornsby said the main factor in his decision has been to ask the question "How are we going to spend this money and how will it benefit all of the kids in the county. Not one school vs. another. That's not what this is all about." Hornsby's plan involves additions, the adjustment of boundaries and a new regional high school.

ACE and PTA members who attended the meeting were concerned that Roosevelt would lose funding due to these changes. Allen Elliot, vice president of Roosevelt's PTA asked Hornsby if he looked at the "collateral damage in funding." Elliot explained. "When you reduce the enrollment, you reduce the resources . . . and by doing so lose flexibility to offer programs."

Programming

Hornsby answered that he had considered this and explained that the physical changes at county schools would be reflected in the program offerings. He said that he will be forced to "change how we have been teaching all students across the board" due to new state tests. Program changes, he claims, will have been in place for three years before any additional space is open.

Hornsby stressed that one "can't equate enrollment with the Science and Tech programs,

which is an additional add-on at Roosevelt" in terms of both population and funding. There are 900 additional students at Roosevelt due to these programs. Hornsby explained that "we are right-sizing all of our schools and we need to be sure to have programmatic offerings at all schools." When asked what was the goal for Roosevelt's Science and Technology Program Hornsby said that he wanted to replicate it at other schools so that county students may all get "the same kind of product."

Conyers

He said that Roosevelt will be right-sized in two to three years and this will result in the removal of the temporary structures. Eva Griffin asked that Dr. Conyers, Roosevelt's principal, be allowed to speak. In the most heated exchange of the night, Hornsby refused to let Conyers speak. Hornsby said that it was not appropriate. Hornsby said that he would have invited the principal from DuVal if he had been informed of Conyers' presence. Moments later, however, Hornsby relented and Dr. Conyers spoke.

Open Channels?

Conyers was confident that "whatever changes, we will figure out a way to meet the challenge. When a student comes to ERHS, I need to make each student a better person. I never complained about overcrowding. I didn't want to tell a student, 'we could help you, but we're too big. Go home.'" He concluded saying, "We will make the adjustments we need to, but

we will put young people first."

Those in attendance were not only concerned about the changes themselves. They were equally concerned about the way in which Hornsby announced the recommendation without first consulting the community that his decision will affect. One of the goals of the meeting was to open better channels of communication. Many in attendance expressed agreement with Elliot when he said that he was not against the changes themselves, but that he wanted the community to be consulted or at least informed about such decisions.

Hornsby said that in August he invited every mayor in the county to a meeting and asked them all to contact him with any questions. He stressed the fact that it is "not a city school system, but a county one." Hornsby was accompanied by appointed members of the school board, to whom he is answerable. He pledged to work harder to make sure that municipalities are "in the loop."

The recommendation to build the additions at DuVal was announced in a February 24 letter to Councilman Douglas Peters. Peters attended the meeting. He pointed out that elected council members are responsible to their constituencies in a way that the appointed school board is not. He said that the county council has not had debate and discussion about this issue. "Yes," Peters concluded. "There is still time for your input."

Conservation Corps Offers Employment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel will host a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program at the Refuge this summer. The YCC is a summer employment program for young men and women from all segments of society who work, earn and learn together doing outdoor conservation projects. The program is open to young men and women ages 15 through 18 who are citizens or legal residents of the United States. Enrollees work full time for eight weeks and earn minimum wage. The program runs from June 28 through August 20.

Previous work projects on the Refuge have included repairing fencing, clearing vegetation, building and improving trails, cleaning water control structures, removing invasive plants and contributing to wildlife management programs. Participants also take part in educational programs and receive training in first aid and CPR.

Applications are available at the National Wildlife Visitor Center or Patuxent's North Tract Contact Station, or by calling 301-497-5950. Also, information about the YCC and an application can be downloaded by visiting <http://patuxent.fws.gov/> and following the YCC links. Applications are due by April 15 and should be mailed to: YCC Coordinator, Patuxent Research Refuge, 12311 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708. Applicants will be selected on a random basis and will be notified of selection.

New Program Helps Backyard Wildlife

The Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel is kicking off a new set of programs entitled the "Backyard Refuge Series." These interpretive and hands-on programs are designed to help people learn what they can do in their backyards to help wildlife. The programs are designed to provide for the participants one of the following: bird nesting box, butterfly plants and a bird feeder. Participants will also take home a refuge manager's handbook with instructions on how to manage their new "refuge." Donations to the Friends of Patuxent are requested to offset the cost of materials.

The first program, "Bird Nest Boxes," will be held on April 3 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Later programs will be held in June and October.

The Patuxent Research Refuge is part of the National Wildlife Refuge System of over 540 national wildlife refuges throughout the country. Patuxent is trying to help the refuge system protect more land in the Washington metropolitan area by encouraging people to turn their backyards into wildlife refuges.

The Patuxent Research "Backyard Refuge Series" will be held at the North Tract entrance to the Refuge located off Rt. 198, between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 32. Registration a month in advance is required for these programs. To register, call 301-497-5887. Call 301-497-5763 for any special needs or accommodations at least two weeks prior to the program.



FREE Extreme Smile Makeover Comes to Greenbelt!



Many have seen the unbelievable transformations people have received on the popular television show "Extreme Makeover." The McCarl Dental Group, Greenbelt's "first family" of dentistry since 1938 has been inspired by that theme and will be selecting someone from the greater Greenbelt area for an extreme smile makeover at no charge to the patient.

Changing a smile can change a life. The idea was presented last month at a conference in Utah by Becden Laboratory, a nationally known dental lab that specializes in cosmetic porcelain veneers and crowns. Becden has assisted the McCarl Dental Group in many cosmetic cases over the years.

The three Doctors McCarl will accept requests until May 1 before selecting the patient. The treatment will only take a few weeks to finish. Smile makeovers can frequently cost between \$5,000 and \$15,000. The patient must be an adult in good health, live in the surrounding area, have no underlying dental or medical problem that would make cosmetic work inappropriate and be willing to have their name and "before and after" photos published.

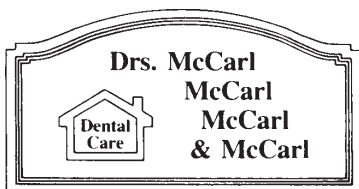
Interested parties should submit a smile photo clearly showing their front teeth, name and address, phone and a brief description of themselves by mail to the McCarl Dental Group, 28 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Due to the anticipated volume of requests, applications cannot be taken over the phone. Applicants will receive notification that the letter and photo were received but the photos will not be returned. A photo of the person selected will be published in the Greenbelt News Review.

"No matter where you go, you always have your smile! If you or someone you know would be deserving of a fabulous smile makeover, submit their name and photo today. It could change their life!"

McCarl Dental Group 301-474-4144



Dr. Jay; Sally McCarl Moore; Dr. Clayton, Sr. (retired); Dr. Clayton, Jr.; and Dr. Dave



28 Ridge Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-0717

Call us today for a Satisfying Smile!

For Our New Patients
Polishing & Cleaning

\$35.00

after
Complimentary Initial
Dental Exam

Only \$35.00 for a complete
polishing and cleaning.

Includes necessary x-rays
on day of examination.
Good only with coupon.
Value up to \$192.00.

Office Hours:

Monday	8-5
Tuesday	9-8:30
Wednesday	9-8
Thursday	8-4
Friday	8-3
Saturday	8-12

Observatory to Be Built Under Pending Agreement

by Al Geiger

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the city and the Greenbelt Astronomy Club is awaiting formal approval by the Greenbelt City Council. The MOU concerns a 10-1/2 foot steel observatory dome owned by the Astronomy Club and currently stored at the city maintenance yard. The club members plan to install the dome near the Northway ball field on city-owned land. They also own a 14-inch reflecting telescope to be installed within the dome. The MOU covers ownership and use of the observatory.

According to Community Planner Kristen Ward, the estimated cost of the project is \$30,000, of which the city has agreed to contribute \$10,000 and

the club will contribute \$20,000. Although all costs above \$30,000 will be the responsibility of the club, the city has agreed to advance the extra needed funds after a repayment plan has been worked out. A preliminary estimate from NZI Construction was for \$28,748.75.

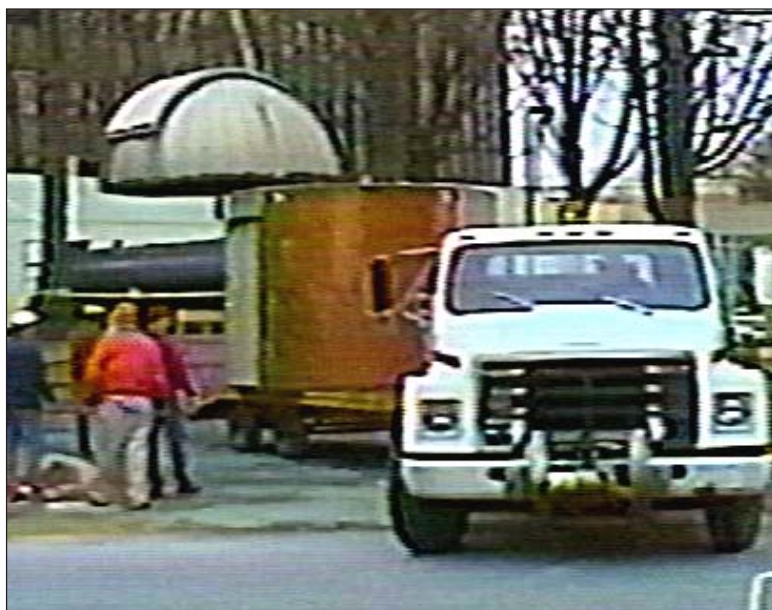
The Astronomy Club has between 30 and 40 dues-paying members, according to club president Matt Elliott. They hold bi-monthly "star parties" to which the public is invited and encouraged to attend. Elliott says that one of the main purposes of the club is public education.

(Photos below were provided by Matthew Elliott, Ed Abel, John Settle and/or Doug Love.)



The dome was originally atop the Campus Tower at Montgomery College in Rockville. It had to be removed to accommodate building repairs to the building's roof and HVAC system and hence, needed a good home. Members of the Greenbelt Astronomy Club were happy to accommodate.

At right, Doug Love works to secure the observatory dome as the team prepares for transport. The trek from Rockville to Greenbelt was quite a task. The 10 1/2 foot steel dome is currently stored at the city maintenance yard. With the help of funding from the city, the dome will be permanently located near the Northway ball field on city-owned land. A 14-inch reflecting telescope owned by the Club is also scheduled to be installed within the dome.



The contractor that was in charge of the building repair project assisted in the efforts to relocate the dome.

New Schools Added To Educational List

Additions to providers approved to offer Supplemental Educational Services (SES) for school systems in Maryland have been announced by the state. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) allows the use of federal Title I funds by income-eligible students attending schools in the second year of school improvement to obtain supplemental educational services of their choice. Students and parents must select from a list of public or private providers approved by the state education agency.

There are now 29 qualified providers on Maryland's list. The following companies have been added to the list of qualified providers: Bell; Camelot Learning; Failure Free Reading; Foundations, Inc.; G. B. Thomas, Sr., Learning Center; GapBuster Learning Academy, Inc.; Johns Hopkins; Living Classrooms; Montgomery County public schools; Parks and People; Platform Learning; Plato Learning; Prince George's County public schools; and the YMCA of Central Maryland.

Another list will be released in May. Maryland State Department of Education will continue to identify and approve additional providers. Students at 82 schools in Maryland are currently eligible to receive SES, depending upon family income levels.

For more information about parent options under NCLB, call Jane Fleming at 410-767-0642 or email jfleming@msde.state.md.us.

Talented and Gifted Summer Centers Set

The Maryland State Department of Education recently announced the schedule of upcoming Maryland Summer Centers for students entering grades 3 through 12. The 20 Summer Center programs offer unique instructional experiences for students who are gifted and talented and give students the opportunity to work in settings and with resources not available during the regular school year.

Centers are located throughout the state and offer one- or two-week residential and non-residential programs with a focus on the arts, sciences, mathematics, technology, creative writing, government and history. Activities are designed to encourage critical thinking, creativity and problem solving while challenging students academically.

Tuition is charged for these programs but a limited number of full and partial scholarships are available for those needing financial assistance. Brochures and application forms are available from schools and local gifted and talented education coordinators.

Information and an application form may also be found on the website of the Maryland State Department of Education at www.marylandpublicschools.org/summercenters. Applications must be postmarked by Thursday, April 15, except for Fine Arts Centers, which have earlier deadlines and may require an audition.

GIVE BLOOD
1-800-GIVE-LIFE

COUNCIL continued from page 3

Herling said how important it is that transportation in Greenbelt Station interface with that of the surrounding areas, including Metro and MARC and that a regional approach be taken. Councilmember Leta Mach asked about accommodations for pedestrians and bikers and was told that there were hiker/biker paths in the plan.

Under the agreement, Metroland Development will fund improvements at the intersection of Cherrywood Lane and Metro Access Drive and \$10 million for construction of a beltway interchange and contribute about \$5 million in right-of-way to the interchange construction. This provision raised questions and the ire of Councilmember Rodney Roberts, who said that a cardinal principle in the opposition to this plan was the spending of public funds for private benefit. He questioned whether the developer's proposed contributions were sufficient to eliminate or mitigate this concern.

Patricia Blankenship, speaking as chairwoman of Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC), agreed. She said that the estimated cost of an interchange is over \$50 million. Metroland Development did offer other funds to the city, including \$900,000 for public recreation facilities.

Perhaps the most significant aspect of the agreement is that the developer grants the city approval of the site and landscape plans. Councilmember Edward Putens said, "This is essential." Everyone agreed that the devil is in the details – or in the site plan – and the city must have the right to approve or disapprove. Manzi added that such approval authority over the site plan would not be granted by the court and that only through an agreement could the city secure this right.

Opposition, Concerns

Former Councilmember Thomas White, speaking from the audience, had a number of concerns. He said, "It isn't there yet." He felt that not all of the city's concerns had been addressed adequately and that the language needed tightening to ensure that it did not preclude the city's taking action to oppose other aspects of the development.

Manzi reviewed a few of the provisions White identified. He felt that they were in the city's interest but agreed that the lan-

guage could be reviewed again and perhaps tightened.

Blankenship of CCIRC spoke on behalf of the salamanders. CCIRC supports the restoration of the current wetlands and described an adverse environmental impact of the proposed development, even as modified in this agreement. Craze thought that the salamander migration and breeding patterns could be studied and that critter crossing might be constructed so that they could "slither along" as needed.

Mayor Davis was concerned that College Park and Berwyn Heights would be informed and involved and the developer assured her that this would be the case. Davis said that this project has to make sense for the whole area. She also thought that this agreement owed much to Greenbelt, since it incorporated and addressed many of the concerns and issues the city had raised. She said, "This is a better plan because you have worked with Greenbelt."

Parking, the influx of cars to the area and air pollution were concerns raised by both the council and the audience. There was disagreement as to whether this was a Transit Oriented Development, which calls for careful and appropriate land use around existing transportation systems, or whether it was a more opportunistic venture, simply taking advantage of the Metro and the land available for development around it.

Kap Kapistan representing Beltway Plaza spoke of the interest in having more upscale retail come to this area. He did not think, however, that the Metroland plans in place would guarantee that. He urged more time for deliberation and indicated that he would submit additional questions and concerns for the record. He said that Beltway Plaza had always been there for Greenbelt and he wanted to make sure that a new development would not destroy the retail and residential balance.

Further Action

Council recognized the need for quick action. The developer urged a decision as soon as feasible. Roberts wanted the maximum amount of time for citizen input but the majority of council agreed to schedule a special meeting at the next available date. A meeting will take place at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, in the Council Chamber.

Exchange Students Need Host Homes

World Heritage Student Exchange Programs announces its participation in a new program, Partnership for Learning Youth Exchange (YES), sponsored by the State Department. This global initiative provides scholarships to high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations to spend an academic year in the U.S. while living with American host families. This historic program seeks to build on the values in common with Muslim societies as it strengthens voices of moderation and reinforces the U.S. commitment to education and opportunity.

The YES program fosters communication between people of the United States and the partner countries in the interest of promoting mutual understanding and respect. World Heritage is

currently seeking qualified host families to welcome these special students coming from Gaza, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Pakistan, the West Bank and Yemen. By living with local host families and attending the local high schools, YES scholarship students will acquire an understanding of American values, build on leadership skills and learn about the important elements of American civil society. Upon returning home, YES scholarship students will work together to share what they have learned while in America and make a difference in their home countries.

If interested in learning more about this program, contact Kimberly at 410-265-1193, call 1-800-888-9040 toll free or visit www.world-heritage.org online.

Meat-Lovers Converge On Greenbelt Co-op

by Marat Moore

It was March madness for meat-eaters at the Greenbelt Co-op on March 25, when shoppers zipped their carts to the rear meat counter to load up on pork, chicken, beef and fish – buying a total of 3.8 tons, according to Co-op's meat manager Victor McEntee. McEntee said that the Co-op brought in

three extra butchers to join the regular crew who cut meat for 12 hours, resulting in sales that were 10 times the Thursday norm. After a one-year absence of the well-loved meat sale, shoppers celebrated and flocked to the store throughout the day, with the busiest times being the morning and after work.



PHOTOS BY MARAT MOORE

Meat Manager Victor McEntee wheeled out ribs and roasts to keep the counter stocked.



One particularly nice-looking pork roast prompted a friendly tug-of-war between News Review staffers Alice Murray, left, and Pat McCoy. But everybody left happy – especially former Co-op employee Raymond Kerns, who decided to stop buying when his cart was full (pictured below).



Kids and Adults Can Go Wild At Watkins Nature Center

by Agnes Conaty

Spring indeed has sprung and nature unravels its wonders before our eyes. I waited in giddy anticipation for that first blossom of crocus or daffodil. Robins arrived quite early in March around the Greenbelt Lake and I welcomed them with delight. There is a nature haven just down Route 193, going east along Greenbelt Road. Within 15 or 20 minutes from home, Greenbelters have an easy getaway for the entire family at Watkins Nature Center.

Located along scenic Watkins Park Drive, Watkins Nature Center has 10 trails that range from easy to challenging. For families with children in strollers, the Playground Path is perfect, covering 1/8 mile and about five minutes from the nature center. Another easy hike with flat terrain and a quarter of a mile distance and about eight minutes from the nature center is the Woodland Trail.

For those who seek greater adventure, Farm Trail and Upland Trail offer 20 minutes of hiking fun. Train lovers will like the trek to the Farm Trail, which cuts across miniature train tracks and gives access to Old Maryland Farm. At the same distance of two-thirds mile, Upland Trail has a ridge view above a sparkling stream.

The six other trails are for those with aerobic endurance for 45 minutes to three hours of hiking with distances exceeding a mile to five miles.

Weekends at Watkins Nature Center promise a lot of family fun. There is a once-a-month Friday Evening Hike to search for beavers, frogs and other nocturnal creatures. There are monthly Saturday morning Family Discovery Hikes guided by the nature center naturalist or crafts, a puppet show and a featured live animal show for toddlers. There are also monthly Saturday evening Family Campfires where families gather around a bonfire with marshmallow sticks. There is a monthly Sunday afternoon Wildlife Cinema where plants and animals are featured on video.

Inside the Watkins Nature Center, you can pretend to be a paleontologist looking at fossils and studying dinosaurs or a



PHOTOS BY AGNES CONATY

Agnes Conaty dons a paleontologist hat before a fossil dig inside the Watkins Nature Center.

naturalist observing some barn owls, hawks, falcons, turtles, frogs and snakes. You can also look at some visiting birds through binoculars. Spring is a time for adventure and to explore the unknown. At Watkins Nature Center, you have a whole lot of wild things to discover.

Programs require reservations and charge small fees. Watkins Nature Center is located at 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro. For more information call 301-218-6702 or visit the park's website on-line at <http://www.pgparcs.com>.



Get to know the pair of handsome barn owls and other resident creatures at the center.



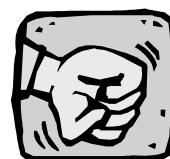
Look for the turtles in the indoor pool.

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward on Saturday!

HEY! WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?



**TROUBLE WITH NEIGHBORS?
BAD BUSINESS SERVICE?
NOISE? MESSY PROPERTY?**



You don't have to keep suffering!!

The City of Greenbelt has a COOL way to help you work things out without hassle, and without courts or lawyers. It's FREE! It's CONVENIENT! It's CONFIDENTIAL! – and it's called MEDIATION.

So give yourself a break. You are only a phone call away from information that could improve your life. Call 301-345-7203.



City of Greenbelt
COMMUNITY MEDIATION BOARD

Marine Band Plays At Clarice Smith

The "President's Own" Marine Band will present a concert of Sousa marches and other American favorites on Sunday, April 4 at 2 p.m. in the Dekelboum Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland. The concert is free and no tickets are required. For more information on this program call 202-433-4011.

House Captain Volunteers Needed

Christmas in April in Prince George's County has an urgent need for more house captains. Due to the high volume of recipients this year, assistance is needed. On April 24 the homes of approximately 100 of the neediest homeowners will be repaired. The house captains act as a liaison between the homeowner and Christmas in April. Captains also schedule the work to be done at the assigned home on the day of the event. For more information or to volunteer on April 24 call 301-868-0937.

Beltway Plaza HARDWARE
 Keys Copied
Buy 1, Get 1 FREE
 All NFL Logos \$4.99
 Transponder keys
 \$35 & Up
301-345-2662

Potpourri
 Anonymous Christian support for hurting people. Questioning personal significance? Come and meet with other Christians who combine prayer, scripture, praise and *real relationships*.
 Thursdays - 7:00 to 8:30 PM at Greenbelt Baptist Church

ZEUS ELECTRIC
 Custom Quality Work Done w/ Pride!
 No job too small.
 Service work and new homes.
ALL work done by Master Electrician
 Insured Lic. #1142 Pr. Geo.
301-622-6999

INCOME TAX PREPARATION
 PROFESSIONALLY PREPARED
 REASONABLY PRICED
 CALL: RANDOLPH C. SPRINGER
 CPA MST
301-345-1293

Traditional Funerals Monuments Cremation Service
Donald V. Borgwardt
 Funeral Home, P.A.
 Family owned and operated
 4400 Powder Mill Rd.
 Beltsville, Md. 20705-2751 Pre-Need Counseling
 (301) 937-1707 By Appointment

Whether it's a refinished basement, a vacation, or a new family car, A Home Equity Line of Credit from Greenbelt FCU can make it happen.
 It's easy to get, no fees, low closing costs, and a variable rate at 4% apr. Call us at 301-474-5900 for more information and your application.
 301-474-5900
 112 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD
 apr = annual percentage rate as of 12/9/03; subject to change. Rates determined by LTV and indexed to Wall Street Journal Prime Rate.

SINCE 1946 MELVIN MOTORS BOWIE, MD
 13405 Annapolis Rd. (Rt. 450) at Highbridge Rd.
 MELVIN MOTORS FAMILY OF SERVICES
 SALES - SERVICE - RENTALS
 Yes, after 58 years we still have a family-run business!



Scotty Johnson, one of our master technicians
 Check out our inventory at
 www.melvinmotors.com
 301-262-1313

CLASSIFIED

RATES
CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.
BOXED: \$8.10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$12.15). Deadline 10 p.m. Monday.
NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

HELP WANTED
NANNY - Couple in Silver Spring, Md., looking for part-time or live-in nanny to help take care of infant. Safe neighborhood. Good pay. Please call Anna, 301-879-4836.

Holbert's Home Improvements
 Kitchens & baths Painting
 Carpentry Repairs
 Call 301-221-8301
 M.H.I.C. 25916

Change Your Weights, Change Your Life!
 Dietitians offer professional weight loss counseling
 Hanover Office Park * Greenbelt, MD * 301.474.2499
Nutrition Month Specials Now Available


Old Greenbelt Citgo
 
Dave Meadows
 Service Manager
Maryland State Inspections
 Oil Changes, Batteries 301-474-0046
 Brakes, Shocks, Tires 20 Southway
 Exhausts & Tune-Ups Greenbelt, MD
 MD State Lottery 20770
 • Open 24 Hours for Gas and Snacks •

 **GASCH'S**
 Funeral Home, P.A.
 Serving Families in the Greenbelt Area
 ... Since 1858

- Traditional Funeral Services
- No Cost Consultations
- Out of Town Arrangements
- In Home Consultations
- Pre-Planned Funerals
- Cremation
- Memorial Services
- Visa, MC, AmExpress

Visit our website at: www.gaschs.com
301-927-6100
 4739 Baltimore Avenue • Hyattsville, MD 20781
 Family Owned and Operated for Five Generations

SEASONAL HELP - Reliable person to help maintain common area grounds - Windsor Green. 5 day week, April - September. Various duties including painting and litter pick-up. Call Betty, 301-345-4837.

NEED A HAND PICKING UP trash, listening in silence, singing songs, learning how to be at peace, living with love. Are you free Friday afternoons? Call 301-982-2675. Be the change you want to see.

CHILD CARE ASSISTANT - For Greenbelt Day Care, \$300 per wk, 301-982-1061.

LOST AND FOUND
LOST CAT! 3-18 - Reward! 15 Ct. Laurel Hill Rd. Small spayed female tortoiseshell calico blk/orange, white neck, belly, paws. No collar. Owner desperate! Her brother misses her! Dottie, 301-474-8182

LOST IN SPRINGHILL LAKE - Small shaggy brown and silver/black - mixed Yorkie female dog, wearing a smiley face collar. Needs daily medication. Please call 301-474-3750 or 301-455-2164.

MERCHANDISE
BLUE-EMU - Pain relief cream, 12 oz. jar, \$39.95, call 301-785-5096.

SOFA - Comfy, over-stuffed, dark green. Excellent condition. \$300. 301-982-6714.

SERVICES
HOUSECLEANING - \$40 and up. Excellent references. Supplies provided. Free estimates. Angel, 301-262-9430.

REPLACEMENT WINDOWS - Excellent quality windows and expert installation. Many local references. Call Art Rambo, 301-220-4222.

LAWN AND GARDEN SERVICE - Professional experience without the prices. Steve, 202-528-3604.

HOUSECLEANING - Starting: apartments \$20; townhomes, \$30; houses \$40. Also available, carpet steam cleaning. Free estimates. Lynn and Brian. Call Lynn, 202-288-1779 or 301-805-8370.

TRANSFER FILM, SLIDES, PHOTOS to VHS or DVD. Tape repair, consumer editing. Photos made from videotapes, etc. HLM Productions, Inc. 301-474-6748.

KARL PENA PHOTOGRAPHY - Weddings, portraits, headshots, events, and corporate work. Get gorgeous sunny-day shots with your lover (or dog) or kids at Greenbelt Lake or at the Cherry Blossoms by the National Mall in DC. Call now: 301-474-3210 or email: photo@karlpena.com.

CAR CONSULTANT - Car buying services. Student prices \$1,000 - \$2,000. Other price ranges available. Most prices under Blue Book value. 301-922-6648.

SEAN'S LAWNS - Grass cutting, yards raked. 301-446-2414.

QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED STATISTICIAN - Available for consulting. Report preparation, proposal development, PowerPoint presentations etc. 301-922-6648.

JACKIE'S CLEANING - No job too big or small. Estimates. 301-731-0115.

NEED HELP CREATING A PUBLICATION? - 10 years experience with graphic and newspaper production, layout & design, brochures, CD covers. Also, editing and proofreading. Experience with PC and Mac. Available as a computer tutor! Reasonable rates. Call Anne at 301-518-5106.

GOT SKILLS? Let all of Greenbelt know. Advertise here for great exposure at reasonable rates.

\$
CENTERWAY TAX & ESTATE SERVICE
 111 Centerway Suite 204
 Roosevelt Center
 Year-Round Service
 NOTARY
 Regina O'Brien, Enrolled Agent
301-345-0272
 \$

BONDING PSYCHOTHERAPY COUNSELING CENTER
 • Relationships/Couples
 • Depression/Anxiety
 • Feel better/Enjoy life
 Ginny Hurney, LCSW-C
(301) 595-5135
 HELP for WOMEN and MEN

Mobil®
 GREENBELT SERVICE CENTER
Auto Repairs & Road Service
 A.S.E. Certified Technicians
 Maryland State Inspections
161 CENTERWAY ROAD GREENBELT, MD 20770
(301) 474-8348

ADVERTISING

SERVICES

CHILD CARE OPENINGS – Experienced and licensed child care provider will have openings in four weeks, all ages. Helen, 301-982-1061.

CLOTHING ALTERATIONS – Done by experienced seamstress (male & female clothing), 301-559-3379.

JC LANDSCAPING – Beds trenched and mulched. Annuals, ornamental shrubs and trees installed. Small tree removal. Shrubs and small trees trimmed and pruned. New lawn seeding or sod, other landscaping needs, 301-794-7339.

HOUSE PAINTER – Interior or exterior, 15 years' experience. Drywall repairs, carpentry, gutters cleaned, handyman. Eric Associates, 301-441-2545 or cell 301-675-1696.

HANDYMAN – Yardwork/gardening, spring cleaning, painting, home repairs, organizing, etc. Prices vary per hour depending on the complexity of the job. C.J., 240-354-1929.

HARRIS LOCKSMITH – Rekeying and installing. Clay Harris, Greenbelt. 240-593-0828

HOUSECLEANING – Competitive prices, once a week or spring cleaning. Jackie in Greenbelt. Estimates, call 301-441-2545 or cell 301-675-1696.

WANTED

FEMALE INDOOR CAT – For lone-some widow. 301-474-6817.

NOTICES

FREE SMILE MAKEOVER – See McCarl Dental Group ad page 11.

SPRINGHILL LAKERS NEEDED
For delivery of News Review on Friday afternoon
Nominal pay.
Call Mary Lou at 301-441-2662 or Barbara at 301-474-8483.

Home & Business Improvements
Remodeling-Repairs-Int. & Ext. Painting
Bathrooms-Basements-Kitchens
Ceramic Tile & Laminated Floors
Pressure Washing-Deck Care-Sheds
Wisler Construction & Painting Co.
Serving Greenbelt since 1991
301-345-1261
www.wislerconstruction.com
Owner has over 20 years experience
Member of the Better Business Bureau
MHIC40475

"MY HUSBAND IS AMAZING!"
Amazing Husband Handyman Service
10% senior discount with this ad
Specializing in small jobs
Mark Gittis – 301-441-3859

\$300 REWARD
For the recovery of my 1996 Geo Tracker stolen from the GHI 14 Court parking lot in Greenbelt on March 14/15. Black, 4-door, boxy older style with covered tire on back, Savannah Toyota lettering on back door. MD tags "M889 500"
If you see this vehicle anywhere, please call 301-982-34777. Leave message. All serious messages will be answered. \$300 cash paid upon successful recovery of car.

THE FRUIT OF SILENCE is Prayer. The fruit of PRAYER is Faith. The fruit of FAITH is Love. The fruit of LOVE is Service. The fruit of SERVICE is Peace. God Bless you all. - Mother Teresa

FRIENDS OF THE NEW DEAL CAFÉ ARTS (FONDCA) reminds you of the "used treasures" sale set for Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the café in Roosevelt Center. Support the concerts and art shows there with donations of items you no longer have room for (tax-deductible – we give receipts). Plan to bring down from 8-10 a.m. Questions, leave phone and name at 301-441-8249 (Eileen Peterson). Needed: loans of folding tables and help closing up sale and transporting unsold "treasures" to another non-profit in Beltsville.

ATTENTION GHI MEMBERS – If you are thinking about selling your occupancy rights and equity interest, the GHI Marketing Committee will be hosting a Seller's Seminar on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the GHI Board Room. The seminar is designed to answer some of the most often asked questions about selling a GHI home. The information given will help you sell in a timely fashion and receive the full value for your home. You will be able to ask questions to the committee about the current market. To register, contact GHI at 301-474-4161 ext. 140.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – Sat. 4/3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Table top Victorian trimmed Xmas tree, Boyds Bears, beer stein, hand puppets, candle holders, baby stuff. 8-C Laurel Hill Rd.

Located in the heart of Historic Greenbelt

Hours:
Mon-Tues 1-9pm
Wed-Fri 9am-9pm
Sat 9am-6pm



143 Centerway
301-345-1849

- Facial Services
- Therapeutic Massage
- Body Services
- Make-up Services
- Waxing Services

Complete menu available at www.pleasanttouch.com

Dr. Lynn Feldman
Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry
Board Certified Psychiatrist,
American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology

Psychotherapy, Psychological Testing
Medication, Life Coaching, Consultation
Depression, Mood Disorders, Anxiety, Stress, ADHD,
throughout the Life Cycle

(301) 345-0807 7474 Greenway Center Drive, Suite 670,
Greenbelt, MD

Licensed Bonded Insured MHIC #7540



HOME REMODELING SPECIALIST

Replacement Windows • Siding • Roofing
Repairs • Florida Rooms • Decks • Painting
Kitchens • Additions • Bathrooms

BRICK - BLOCK - CONCRETE
Free Estimates/Town References
"Serving Greenbelt For 30 Years"
Call Dick Gehring **301/441-1246**
8303 58th Ave. • Berwyn Heights, MD

Greenbelt Auto & Truck Repair Inc.

159 Centerway Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
301-982-2582
www.greenbeltautoandtruck.com




Maryland Department of the Environment A.S.E. Let's Clear The Air

Master Certified Technicians
A complete service facility equipped to perform all service requirements that your manufacturer recommends to comply with Preventive Maintenance service schedules & extended warranty programs! Also, routine repairs that keep your vehicles operating safely and reliably.

- Now Offering! •
- Auto-body, collision repairs and theft recovery damage
- A.S.E. Certified Technicians,
- Insurance Claims Welcome.
- Free estimates, please call for appointment



Leonard and Holley Wallace
301-982-0044
Realty 1 In Roosevelt Center
Your Greenbelt SpecialistsSM
Since 1986

GRI Graduate - Realtor's Institute **CRS** Certified Residential Specialist

Historic Greenbelt

Single-family home with in-law apt. and separate entrance. 4 br. & 2 full baths. Completely renovated. Large deck and shed. Won't last long!

Canning Terrace

2-Story quad-style end townhome with 3 brs. & 2 1/2 baths. Renovated kitchen, new roof and heating/ac system. Available soon at \$184,900.

Lakeside

All-brick custom-built home still occupied by original owners. Large lot that backs to woodlands. Screened porch and large driveway. Call!

Glendale

3 bedroom Rambler on 1/2 acre lot! Large deck, separate garage, above-ground pool & more. Fireplace and hardwd. floors. \$224,900 UC

Yorkshire Knolls

Colonial end unit townhome with finished walk-out basement. Master bedroom with sunken tub. Lots of added features! \$182,000 SOLD

Fort Washington

Large Rambler with 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Finished basement, garage, fireplace, wood stove & wet bar. Backs to parkland. \$274,900

Greenbriar

This one bedroom condominium is being renovated with new paint, carpet and more. Close to comm. center and pool. Call for info.

Fort Washington

Nearly 1/2 acre lot is adjacent to parkland. 4-car garage with gravel parking area. 3br, 2.5 ba. and separate living area. Just \$249,900

Brick Townhome

Just a few steps from Roosevelt Center. This brick townhome has modern appliances, cabinets, countertops and more. Coming Soon!

2 Bedroom Townhome

This home with deck and fenced yard backs to protected woodlands. Hardwood floors and new appliances. Coming Soon!

Brick Townhome

Unique GHI townhome on the library end of town. Many modifications and improvements. Large yard and close to Center. Coming Soon!

2 Story Addition

Beautiful frame townhome that backs to protected woodlands. Large addition with fireplace, sliding patio doors & modern kitchen. \$185,000

2 Bedroom Townhome

One of the best values in the co-op. Separate laundry room, new carpet, large fenced yard, and many other features. Just \$99,900! U.C.

Backs to Woods

Two bedroom townhome with wood deck that backs to protected woodlands. Hardwood floors and many improvements. U.C.

Lakewood

Split-foyer detached home at the top of a private cul-de-sac. Three bedrooms and 2 full baths. Coming Soon - call now to be placed on list.

1 Bedroom Loft Home

Upper level GHI co-op unit that overlooks trees and common spaces. Top condition with refinished hardwood floors & more. \$72,000. U.C.

U.C. = Under contract; seller may consider back-up offers



BUDGET continued from page 3**Budget Schedule**

Council has scheduled the following work sessions and meetings on the proposed city budget. All meetings are at the Municipal Building and will begin at 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Planning, Community Development, Capital Projects - CC	Thur., 4/08
Public Safety - CC	Wed., 4/14
Social Services, Miscellaneous, Other	Mon., 4/19
Recreation - CC, 7:30 p.m.	Wed., 4/21
Public Hearing at Regular Meeting	Mon., 4/26
Public Works - CC	Wed., 4/28
Fraternal Order of Police	Mon., 5/03
Contribution Groups - CC, 7:30 p.m.	Wed., 5/05
Green Ridge House - GRH, 7:30 p.m.	Wed., 5/12
Final Budget Worksession	Mon., 5/19
Second Public Hearing at Regular Meeting	Mon., 5/24
Budget Adoption at Regular Meeting	Mon., 6/07

(CC - Community Center, GRH - Green Ridge House)

If council approves McLaughlin's recommendation the city tax rate will be increased for the ninth consecutive year.

Revenues

In past years tax rate increases have been justified on the basis that property values have not increased enough to keep up with inflationary pressures upon city costs. This year that is not the case as McLaughlin is proposing only a 4.1 percent increase in city expenses. He is not proposing any increase in services or added personnel. However, property tax revenues, while the city's biggest revenue source, make up only 55 percent of the city's overall revenues. Other revenues, most of which are beyond the city's control to raise or lower, have not increased as rapidly and the city has lost some grant funding. Highway user revenues, derived from the state-levied gasoline tax and other sources, is forecast to be \$150,000 less in the new fiscal year. Last year, the budget was balanced, in part, by using \$100,000 of the city's surplus. McLaughlin does not believe those reserves, which are monies set aside for a rainy day emergency, are sufficient to be used again. As a result total revenues for the new fiscal year are expected to increase only 3.9 percent.

The failure of city revenues to keep up with necessary increases in city costs is called a structural problem by McLaughlin. With slow economic growth and greater fiscal problems at the state and federal level, there does not seem to be a solution to the city's dilemma.

Expenditures

McLaughlin told the council that his budget generally funds existing services with a few reductions in service. No new personnel are proposed, though added personnel could be used

in every area, he says. He has found few cost savings as a majority of city costs are fixed and cost of programs have already been trimmed in past years. While the number of full time or equivalent part time employees is down by 2.1, that is the result of personnel authorized last year to be funded by grants not being funded. Since the city is primarily a service provider, 67 percent of its budget costs are for salaries and employee benefits. McLaughlin is proposing a 2.5 percent cost of living pay adjustment and up to three percent for performance pay, but is reducing the city's leave buy-back program benefits to save \$40,000. Other cuts proposed in the budget are reducing the amount of fund transfers for capital programs by \$100,000, an amount that was funded last year out of the city's surplus reserves, not funding the ACE Reading Club (\$13,000 savings), eliminating one Zipcar (at the city offices, \$10,000), cutting out a previously proposed \$10,000 contribution in support of the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum Challenge Grant and eliminating one red light camera for a cost savings of \$20,000.

The one-cent tax rate increase is to fund a relatively new city program; Greenbelt Assistance in Living, a program he terms successful to assist the elderly to remain in their homes when special needs arise. This program had been initially funded by a three-year grant, which will now be running out. While the city is seeking other grant monies, there is no assurance that it will succeed. McLaughlin was not able to absorb the added cost of this program as part of established city services without making a cut in some other city service.

"Ambush Makeover" Captures Victim at Atlanta Bread Company

by Dea Zugby

The Atlanta Bread Company in Greenbelt is always busy on early morning workdays and Thursday, March 25 at 7:30 a.m. was the same; lines had already formed for takeout service and a number of people were eating breakfast at tables and booths.

However, this morning was different. A crew of nine people was setting up for something big: cameramen, script writer, associate producer, field producer, makeup designers and stylists and the host of a nationally syndicated daytime television show. Additionally, Arnold Belasco, owner of the cafe-bakery, was allowing people to set up a gourmet coffee tasting test.

What was going on?

In an interview with William Whatley, the host of "Ambush Makeover," I learned that the newest target of the "Ambush Makeover" would be arriving within the hour, a local young lady who had no clue she was being targeted.

According to Whatley, "Ambush Makeover" is unlike other "Extreme Makeover" shows that provide nose jobs, liposuction, breast augmentation, tummy tucks and weight loss programs to the targets of their shows. With "Ambush," they select individuals with the most potential and develop that potential by designing a special hairstyle, dress and shoes for the chosen person. Whatley said, "I feel it's a good makeover story - a mixture of 'Fear Factor' and 'The Amazing Race.'"

"Sixty percent of 'Ambush Makeover' targets are selected from the street by staff; the other 40 percent are set up by family or friends who send in emails, letters, videos and pictures of or about an individual," said Whatley.

The target of the Greenbelt "Ambush Makeover" was MacKenzie Stevens, 23, of Glenn Dale. Stevens was born in Alexandria, Va. and moved to Prince George's County at age five. She graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1998. Last year she graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in computer science and works as a computer application support specialist at University College in College Park.

Stevens and her best friend, Ashy Palliparambil of Bowie, met as students in the science and technology program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1995. They were close friends throughout high school and college, working part-time jobs together at University College while both attended the university.

Palliparambil thought Stevens would be the perfect makeover because she had not changed her appearance since the two first met in school. A lot of people thought she was 12 years old. Palliparambil sent pictures of Stevens at age 12 along with a letter to "Ambush Makeover." Several months later she was surprised to hear from them. Palliparambil needed to "set up" her friend (get her to the Atlanta Bread Company) around 8:30 a.m. This would be no problem because Stevens stops by there for breakfast daily enroute to work. But this time Palliparambil needed to be there, too, she in-



Jen Madden (left), Field Producer for Banyan Productions, speaks with celebrity host William Whatley of Fox TV's "Ambush Makeover" program. Whatley posed as an Atlanta Bread staffperson to surprise the show's latest makeover candidate.



Makeup artist and stylist Lezlee Bethea (left) skillfully brings out MacKenzie Stevens' inner diva.



Stevens (left) and her best friend Ashy Palliparambil take a quick break to pose together with Whatley. Palliparambil contacted "Ambush Makeover" to submit Stevens' name for the show.

vented an excuse to hook up with her to make sure she arrived at the specified time.

When they arrived together they were approached by Whatley, the host of "Ambush Makeover," who was wearing an Atlanta Bread Company apron and serving gourmet coffee to customers. He offered coffee to Stevens (dressed in blue jeans, pale pink shirt, black leather jacket and beige boots) and Palliparambil. Stevens, however, declined - she doesn't drink coffee - and shortly thereafter learned she was the newest target of "Ambush Makeover." Visibly shaken, she took a few minutes to recover from the shock and excitement of the moment.

For double measure Palliparambil had baked brownies for her friend just in case she might be mad at being set up.

Stevens was to be escorted to a salon, boutique and shoe store in Washington for her makeover. During the makeover, the staff at the beauty salon would not allow her access to a mirror and she became concerned about what they were doing to her hair.

Although she had worn her

hair the same way for years, she loved the transformation. Her shoulder length hair had been cut in layers (4 to 5 inches) and auburn and blond highlights had been added to her dark brown hair.

She was given three choices of attire (two-piece suits in size 2), all of which were too big on her. Stevens is a size 0! She saw an elegant pink dress in the boutique shop and was allowed to try it on. She loved it. Later that evening she was presented to her family, friends and co-workers at Bar Rouge in Washington with her new hairstyle, dressed in a lovely pink dress and Stella McCarthy designer shoes.

Stevens was back at work early the next morning with many memories of an incredible experience. The friendship between Stevens and Palliparambil is still intact. And her favorite brownies were delicious.

"Ambush Makeover" is a 30-minute daytime show, which can be viewed locally on Fox 5 (WTTG) Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. Stevens' "Ambush Makeover" will be presented in September.



Condolences to Courtney Hardman, Barry Von Perkins and Larry Don Perkins on the death of their mother, Donna Jean Hardman who had been pianist at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church for 20 years.

Our sympathy to Betty Down on the death of her husband, Jim.

Greenbelters were sorry to hear of the death of former Greenbelter Ethel Fisher. She and her husband were founding members of the Jewish Community Center and also helped organize GHI.

We were sorry to hear of the death of William B. Yates, who taught for years at North End Elementary School.