

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

APRIL 6, 2006

'Twas a Dark and Stormy Night . . .

by the News Review Staff

No lightning strike in Monday night's storm seems to have hit the city. In fact, Public Works Director Kenny Hall told the News Review, "believe it or not, we haven't had one call. Not one tree down." The storm, however, did cause extended outages at crucial moments in city affairs.

Council in the Dark

Greenbelt City Council's first worksession to review the Fiscal Year 2007 proposed budget was barely getting underway when it was abruptly stopped in its tracks by the storm outside and by the total uselessness of our technology toys when power is lost. After some scurrying around in the darkened council chamber for small flashlights and trying to use the bright light from a battery-driven laptop, the session just ground to a halt. Like waiting for a late arrival of a professor for class, three councilmembers, four staff, one citizen and the News Review reporter unanimously approved a motion that we would go until 8:30 p.m. before adjourning to city office hallways where light was being provided by an emergency generator. Liz Park, the city's director of Social Services, held forth in

the dimly lit hallways (of powerlessness) and walked the council through her \$425,900 proposed budget for kids, families, crisis intervention and assisted living, proving once again that "Greenbelt CARES."

News Review

Monday was definitely a dark and stormy night at the News Review office, where staff were preparing for the next day's editing of the paper. With a darkening sky threatening a big storm there was only a brief rain and nothing nearby of lightning or thunder but . . . down went the power, anyway, throwing the Community Center into near darkness, along with everything in the center and south end of town. Tantalizing but brief resurrections of power had lights flickering on and off awhile, then the building was left with only the emergency exit and hall lights provided by a noisy emergency generator outside the News Review windows. Off in the distance, we could see the apartments on Parkway had not lost power at all. After an hour of darkness, staff trickled off into the night – some to darkness at home, others to the north end of town, which did not lose power

during the storm or its aftermath. Early birds who returned Tuesday to attend to papers left strewn about in the dark found even more storm remnants to deal with – computers that would not work and a high-speed internet line that required expert attention. All day we limped through with dial-up that blocked anybody from reaching us by fax till our computer guru Neil McLeod managed to get the DSL up and running. We were freshly reminded of how slow the internet was before we acquired DSL.

The Theater

At the Old Greenbelt Theatre a handful of patrons were enjoying "Mrs. Henderson Presents," starring Judi Dench, when the screen suddenly went black and two battery-operated emergency lights came on at either side of the stage. Their light was blinding since they were directed right into the faces of those seated.

The theater lights came on again – then blacked out – then came on again momentarily. Finally there was only those blinding emergency lights. Theater staff and the few patrons milled around a bit, then called it a day

See **STORM**, page 6

City Manager Presents Budget With No Increase in the Tax Rate

by Thomas X. White

As required by the Greenbelt City Charter, City Manager Michael McLaughlin presented his proposed budget for the City of Greenbelt for Fiscal Year 2007 at the beginning of the council meeting on March 27. He saw no need for a tax rate increase to cover proposed expenditures of \$21,232,600. (See box on page 6 for highlights.) Continuing his approach begun in recent years, the manager utilized a visual presentation of the FY07 budget highlights and supplemented the presentation with background and commentary on key issues facing the city.

In the printed Manager's Budget Message prefacing the FY07 budget, McLaughlin describes the document as "the city's operational and financial master plan for the coming year." He called it an "opportunity to review and identify the issues and opportunities" facing the city, a chance to "set the direction of the organization for the coming year and beyond."

McLaughlin used his presentation to outline what has occurred in the current budget and what he sees coming, focusing council on three important "thoughts" as they begin their review of his proposal: Structural Problem, Greenbelt West and Past Decisions.

Structural Problems

Beginning with the past three or four budgets, McLaughlin described the city's structural budget problem as an issue of city expenditures growing faster than available revenues. The basic problem arose with increases in the number of city personnel to provide the high level of services that Greenbelt citizens have required and, in some cases, demanded.

When hard times arrived, a city budget composed primarily of salaries for city staff afforded little flexibility for managing expenditures short of laying off valuable employees, a solution that neither the manager nor councils were willing to accept. McLaughlin advised council that the problem continues in the upcoming budget and, he expects, will continue for years to come.

However, he thought he could report some good news on this front this year. Relief, he says, is coming by a slowing in the growth of city salaries, occasioned by the retirements of several long-term employees. He described this occurrence as a "double-edged sword." The city is losing dedicated and skilled people, he said. At the same time the opportunity opens for promotions for younger employ-

ees and lower overall personnel costs.

Emphasizing the overall structural problem will persist, McLaughlin reminded council that city costs for operations continue to rise. Health insurance is projected to increase 16.4 percent, up \$90,000. Other insurance costs, including Workers' Compensation, are up 22 percent or \$93,000. Costs for natural gas, electricity and motor fuels are expected to be nearly double what those costs were in Fiscal Year 2003, exceeding \$500,000 in the coming year.

Attributing the structural budget problem to past decisions where even with limited resources councils and the community have supported quality services and expanded them, McLaughlin noted that those decisions have contributed greatly to the quality of life and sense of community experienced by Greenbelt citizens. The key policy question he poses is "what services are necessary and at what level?"

Greenbelt West

Although the manager's proposed budget accounts for little or no estimates for Greenbelt West impacts, McLaughlin told council he knows that for the fu-

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

City Works Out Tax Issue On Beltway Plaza Theaters

by A. Neil Deo

The proposed Fiscal Year 2007 budget dominated the Greenbelt City Council meeting on March 27 (see separate story) but changes at the Beltway Plaza theaters came a close second.

Since American Multi-Cinema Inc (AMC), operators of the motion picture theaters at Beltway Plaza Mall, ceased operating the theaters in Greenbelt – at AMC 6 theaters in 2005 and at AMC 8 theaters in February 2006 – the city has been asked how it might assist the Plaza owners, Quantum Companies, who at present have stepped in to continue operating the eight theaters as Academy Theaters, LLC.

Quantum Management plans to invest between \$800,000 and \$1 million to upgrade the theaters with stadium seating. Since neighboring theaters have opened in Bowie, Largo and Silver Spring, Quantum and the

city have been considering a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Academy Theaters. The city had received a declining amount in Admission and Amusement Taxes (A&A) since 2001.

Representing Quantum was Marc "Kap" Kapastin. Mayor Judith Davis and councilmembers asked Kapastin to have Quantum investigate ways to improve lighting and security at the rear of the theaters. Kapastin agreed to speak with his company.

According to the MOU, the city would reduce its A&A tax to 1 percent starting in FY07. The rate would then rise by 1 percent each year for the next four years before returning to 10 percent on July 1, 2011. The reduced tax would help offset Quantum's investment to keep the theaters

See **THEATERS**, page 6

County Pays Application Fee For GES's NAA Accreditation

by Natalie McGill

The Prince George's County Before and After School Extended Learning Program Central Office recently endorsed Greenbelt Elementary School's own program for national accreditation, awarding them \$2,000 for the application fee. Currently state accredited and now in its third year, the school's program qualified for membership in the National Afterschool Association (NAA).

Among criteria for the accreditation is "demonstrated parent support," staff involvement for at least one year and "enthusiasm and openness to accreditation process."

Applying for national accreditation means parents and staff will evaluate the program's weak-

nesses and assure it lives up to NAA standards regarding quality of indoor and outdoor playing facilities, attention to children's safety, health and nutrition and to development of their human relationships.

Now ready to embark on the application process, Program Coordinator Karen Dixon and her staff and teachers Michann Williams, Rosa Patterson and Margo Simpson aim to send the completed request to NAA by November 1.

"[We're] encouraged to let the community know we're confident we're going to reach the goal," Dixon said. "We work hard to provide a safe learning environ-

See **GES**, page 10

What Goes On

Saturday, April 8

9 a.m. to noon, Donation Drop-off, Parking Lot between Municipal Building and Community Center

9 to 11 a.m., Potomac Watershed Clean Up at Stream behind Police Station and at Greenbelt Park

Sunday April 9

1 p.m., Greenbelt Baseball Opening Day Parade, Starting at Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center and Proceeding to McDonald Field

Monday, April 10

7 p.m., Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting, Community Center

8 p.m., Regular City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Thursday, April 13

7:30 p.m., GHI Board Meeting, GHI Board Room

Saturday, April 15

10 a.m. sharp, Annual Egg Hunt, "Buddy" Attick Lake Park (Rain Date, April 17)

Saturdays and Sundays noon to 5 p.m., Temporary Skate Park Open, Lakecrest Tennis Courts (weather permitting).

Letters

A Thank You To Postal Workers

The Greenbelt community was saddened by the sudden death of Pamela Pinkney, who served the citizens of this community for 27 years. It is because of our dedicated postal workers that we have such excellent and personal services from our post office. By having employees who take the time to get to know the residents and to serve with excellence over many years, we have been blessed with care that is often unknown in larger communities.

Ms. Pinkney's death and the move of the main post office to another section of town is a powerful reminder of the close-knit community that we in Old Greenbelt have enjoyed for so long, which is certainly something for us to appreciate and gratefully acknowledge.

Our prayers are with the post office during this tough time and we also want to thank each and every one of the employees for making our community so special, day in and day out, no matter if it is sunny, rainy, snowy or icy.

Katrina Boverman

Greenbelt High Reunion Scheduled

The Greenbelt High School Reunion will be held on Saturday, May 6 at 11 a.m. at the Greenbelt American Legion. All students, graduates, faculty and friends are welcome. There will be a memorabilia table for old photos, albums, yearbooks, newspaper articles or any items of interest people would like to bring and share.

A luncheon will be served by the Legion. All interested may send a check to Pauline Bordas, 111 Hedgewood Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Interested parties with questions may call Bordas at 301-474-8657.

U8 Raiders Team on a Roll

by Coach John Pedersoli

The Greenbelt U8 girls' soccer team, the "Raiders," got their first win of the season 5-0 over Oxon Hill. Julia Pedersoli scored three goals and Madison Maragliano added two more. Goalies Elaina Perry and Barbara Turnbull held Oxon Hill scoreless. Standouts on defense were Clare Alexander, Sophie Bernheisel and Anina Commins. Anchoring the offense were Kayla Foster, Emma Grier and Jasmine Goggins.

The girls went on to play College Park to a 2-2 tie on Saturday, April 1 in a competitive, well-played and thrilling game. College

Park took a 1-0 lead but Kayla made it 1-1 with her first ever goal. After College Park took a 2-1 lead, with time running out, Madison blasted a shot into the back of the net to secure a tie. Helping in goal were Sarah McCarthy and Elaina. Standouts on defense were Jasmine, Clare, Sophie and Barbara. Playing offense were Julia, Anina and Emma.

At the season's halfway point Greenbelt has also lost to Upper Marlboro 4-0 and won 5-0 against Oxon Hill. Leading scorers are Julia and Madison with three each and Kayla with one.



Madison Maragliano on left dribbles the ball. She is supported by her team mate Julia Pedersoli (middle background).

PHOTOS BY JOHN PEDERSOLI

Tennis Association Ladder Play Starts

The Greenbelt Tennis Association (GTA) opened the tennis season by announcing the start of singles competition. Players can move up in standings when they win a match against a player in a higher position on the "ladder." Defending champion from last season is Alan Moise.

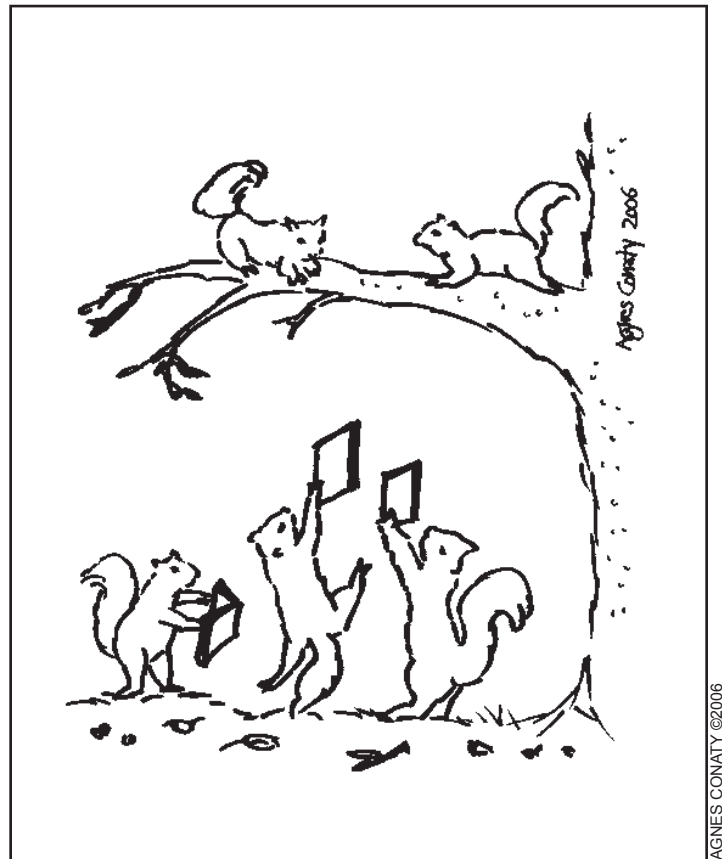
Interested players are encouraged to take part. Ladder play, which continues through September 30, is free for members of GTA and residents of Greenbelt. Procedures can be found on the tennis association's link at: <http://www.greenbelt.com/>.

For more information call Bill Wilkerson at 240-462-5369.

GIAC Meets

The Greenbelt Internet Access Cooperative (GIAC) open board meeting will be Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Police Station. New and old members are encouraged to attend to discuss and plan for the future. There is a special need for interested people to serve in this all-volunteer organization as officers, members of the board or assorted individual tasks leaders and helpers throughout the year. If the organization is to continue to thrive, GIAC needs people's interest and time. No special technical computer skills are necessary.

Grin Belt



"Here we go again . . . another round of petitions against the ICC."

AGNES CONATY ©2006

On Screen

"Smoking" Is No Puff Job

"Thank You for Smoking," which opens at Old Greenbelt Theatre on Friday, April 7 provides many a smoke ring of satire and spin. Glib cigarette lobbyist Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart) pushes his product as emblematic of your right to choose. Burnished smile at the ready, he takes on school children, senators (Vermont cheese in the bargain) and such icons as the Oprah show in a well-honed satire based on a best-selling novel from 1994 (by Christopher Dickey). Writer/Director Jason Reitman gets many a good turn from actors such as Maria Bello, Adam Brody, Rob Lowe, William H. Macy and Robert Duvall. Could the film have inhaled deeper?

Take a drag yourself. R, 92 minutes.

— Eli Flam

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Springhill Lake: Karen Zoellner 301-474-1882
Chris Cannon 301-516-1068

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Thomas X. White, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Pat Davis.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

SPRING YARD SALE

April 8, 2006

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

At Greenbelt Community Church
(Crescent and Hillside)

301-474-6171

Don't forget to get your hoagies and baked goods!

PRELIMINARY AGENDA MEETING OF THE GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, April 13, 2006 GHI BOARD ROOM, 7:30 PM



Key Agenda Items:

- Bylaws Committee Report – Bylaws Change
- Approval of Rain Barrel Policy
- Contribution Requests – 2nd Reading
- Insurance Deductible
- Schedule Stakeholder Meeting with City
- Annual Meeting Agenda
- Greening Greenbelt Initiative
- Selection of Additional Yard Line Committee Members
- 2006 Spring Concrete Contract – 2nd Reading
- Proposed Yard Fencing, 19 E Hillside
- A&E Committee Recommendations
 - New Openings in Existing Buildings
 - Perimeter Fencing Options
 - CLEAR Revisions for §VII. Fences
- 2006 Slate Roof Contract – 1st Reading

Regular board meetings are open to members.



OLD GREENBELT THEATRE WEEK OF APRIL 7 THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R)

Friday
*5:20, 7:30, 9:40

Saturday
*1:00, *3:10, *5:20, 7:30, 9:40

Sunday
*1:00, *3:10, *5:20, 7:30

Monday – Thursday
*5:20, 7:30

*These shows at \$5.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com

Community Events

Greenbriar Elects Board of Directors

The Greenbriar Community Association elected a new board of directors at its meeting on March 28. The results are as follows: President Barbara S. Smith, Vice President Angeline M. Butler, Treasurer Therese M. Benedik, Secretary Jeanette Kimbrough Gordy and Director Russell Vick.

Board meetings are held monthly at the community building at 7600 Hanover Parkway. Greenbriar owners and residents are encouraged to attend.

Greenbriar Phase Boards Meet

On Tuesday, April 11 there will be three Greenbriar Phase board meetings. Phase III will meet at 6 p.m.; Phases I and II will meet at 7:30 p.m. These meetings will be held in the Commons Room.

20th Annual PGRC Springburst 8K

For the 20th consecutive year, the Prince George's Running Club (PGRC) will sponsor the Springburst 8K race in Greenbelt Park on April 15. The race is also a part of the Maryland Road Runners Club of America (RRCA) Grand Prix Series.

The course begins at the Sweetgum Picnic Area and includes some challenging hills along the way. The T-shirts given out at the race have always had some spring related flower theme, except for the time when a Venus fly trap was featured eating a fly wearing running shoes. This year's T-shirt will be a collage of the flowers of T-shirts from the previous nine years.

More details about the race can be found at the PGRC web page, www.pgrc.org. PGRC supports running and walking in Prince George's County and offers beginning runner training programs.

Credit Union Offers Free Shredding Day

The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union will again offer a free shredding day to members of the community and wants to get the word out in plenty of time so people will have time to collect the papers they want to securely destroy. The shredding will be offered on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot behind the Credit Union.

Mamas and Papas Hold Pot Luck

The Greenbelt Mamas and Papas will meet Wednesday, April 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Babies, pre-schoolers and parents are invited to a play group, where the kids play and the adults swap parenting tips, tricks and support. The group meets at the Greenbelt Youth Center Multipurpose Room, 99 Centerway. If the weather is nice, the group will meet at the playground across the street from the library. For more information call Tina Clarke at 301-474-9522 or email tina_clarke@comcast.net.

Annual Music Festival Coming to New Deal

The annual "Crazy Quilt" music festival will be held on Saturday, April 15 from 1 to 10:30 p.m. Believe it or not, spring is here and that means it's time to join the New Deal Café, the City of Greenbelt and musicians from around the region in an afternoon of song, stories and familiar faces. Weather permitting this will be an outdoor event in the public space outside the café. There is seating for 100. Food is available at the café. Groups and businesses from around the city will display and sell their goods. Look for bake sales and artists' works too.

The festival will start at 1 p.m. in Roosevelt Center, move inside at the New Deal Café at 7:30 p.m. and go till 11 p.m. A wide range of musicians will perform different types of music – all for free. For information call 301-474-5642 or log onto www.newdealcafe.com.

Explorations Takes The Week Off

There will be no Explorations Unlimited program on Friday, April 14. The program will resume on Friday, April 21.

Childhood Conference At Roosevelt High

The Prince George's Inter-agency Early Childhood Committee will sponsor the ninth annual "Celebrate Children" Early Childhood Conference on Saturday, April 22 at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Keynote speaker Ella Jenkins, a children's folk-singer and musician, is a 2004 Grammy Award winner. She will open the conference in the morning with an inspirational talk for those who care for children.

The conference provides over 70 workshops offered in morning and afternoon sessions. These classes vary from creative curriculum to health and mental health issues with children. Attended by educators, administrators, health-care professionals, parents and other child advocates, the conference provides a forum for networking and information sharing around issues of early childhood growth and development.

Participants can achieve six hours of training toward the Maryland Child Care Credential.

Registration is required. For further information or to receive a registration form call 301-772-8420.

GHI Notes

Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m., Sustainable Design & Practices Committee, Board Room

Wednesday, April 12, 7 p.m., Woodlands Committee, Board Room

Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee, GHI Lunch Room

Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room

Saturday, April 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Common Area Clean Up – pick up bags between 9 and 10 a.m. at GHI

Sunday, April 16, 1 p.m., Easter Day Clean Up of Woodlands – meet at playground, 4 Court Gardenway

Library News

by Ellen Utley, Branch Manager

The Greenbelt Library will host a free workshop about opera for children and families on Saturday, April 8 at 11 a.m. Teaching artists of the Washington National Opera will introduce the story and music of Engelbert Humperdinck's opera "Hansel and Gretel." In this workshop, families will explore how music communicates plot, character and emotion through hands-on crafts and creative music activities. This program is ideal for children ages 6-12 and their families.

This month the library is celebrating National Library Week (April 2-8). The theme is "Change Your World @ Your Library." This is a national observance to commemorate the contributions of the nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

Drop by the library to pick up U.S. and Maryland income tax preparation materials and forms. The filing deadline for 2005 is Monday, April 17. For those running late, the library has the appropriate form to file for automatic extension of the deadline.

Getting a library card is easy and free. All that's needed is a driver's license with current address. The staff are eager to assist. Come by with questions and other information needs and help celebrate National Library Week. 301-345-5800.

Also at the Library

Tuesday, April 11, 11 a.m. – Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months with caregiver, limit 15 babies.

Wednesday, April 12, 10:30 and again at 11 a.m. – Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 20 children each session.

4 p.m. – BooKids book discussion, ages 8 to 12, Roald Dahl's "Matilda."

Thursday, April 13, 10:30 a.m. – Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years. Limit 15 children.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club has lots of activities to offer members these days. There's still time to sign up for the Anniversary Luncheon at La Fontaine Bleu on April 19. April 12 we'll have a speaker from Hill Haven Senior Home in Adelphi. We'll play games on April 26.

The trip to Blair Mansion for lunch and the mystery show was fun with very good food.

The club sends "Get Well Wishes" and "Good Cheer" to Louvain Townsend who is recovering from surgery. Let's all send her a card.

Spring has arrived in Greenbelt; let's all get out and enjoy the flowers, the trees and the sunshine.

P.G. Choral Society will host an Italian Dinner/Silent Auction on April 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. Dinner served 6 p.m. Door Prizes! Musical Revue! Individuals – \$15.00 Groups – \$25.00 Seniors – \$10.00 Call 301-336-8539 or 301-454-1463

Greenbelt Baseball Opens with Parade

by Greg Fisanich

A kickoff parade helps Greenbelt Baseball celebrate 55 years of youth baseball at McDonald Field, 7 Court Southway. Everyone is encouraged to watch the defending champion Giants and runner-up Cardinals ride along as GVFD Engine Co. #35 leads the rest of the Major Leaguers, the Machine Pitch League and the new Tee-Ball League players.

The parade starts at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center and proceeds to 7 Court Southway at 1 p.m., with the opening day game to start at 2 p.m. between the Cardinals and Giants.

Come watch as Mayor Judith Davis throws out the first pitch and enjoy a great game, a cold drink, good food and a great time. Support Greenbelt's youth and their sponsors.

POETRY WORKSHOP

Discover the basic building blocks of poetry and how to assemble them in your own way.

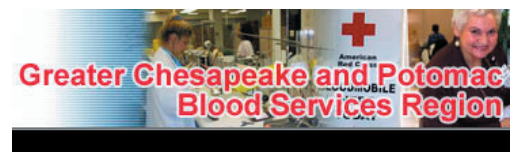
Mondays, April 17, 24, May 1, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park

Led by poetry MFA Melissa Sites.

Send your name and a check for \$20 made out to College Park Arts Exchange, P.O. Box 784, College Park, MD 20740 or preregister at info@cpae.org or 301-927-3013



and



are hosting a Community-wide Blood Drive Saturday April 8 10am to 4 pm

Appointments preferred, walk-ins accepted, but may have a wait.

For more information, to schedule an appointment, or to volunteer, please contact Sharon Kimbleton

in the Church Office at (301) 474-4212 x6

or email at newsletter-editor@verizon.net

The life you save may be your own.



[Redacted text block]

Museum Art Deco Lecture Set for April 18

The Greenbelt Museum's "Metro Deco" lecture originally scheduled for March 21 has been rescheduled for April 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 201. The speaker for the free lecture is Linda Lyons of the Washington D.C. Art

Deco Society.

Art Deco is associated both with the Jazz Age of the 1920s and the machine-age streamlining of the 1930s. The Washington area includes many examples.

For more information contact the museum at 301-507-6582.

Spark of Spirit New Age Flea Market

On Saturday, April 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. there will be a New Age Flea Market at Spark of Spirit, 9937 Rhode Island Avenue. For more information visit the website www.sparkofspirit.com or call 301-345-1486.

Choral Society Holds Dinner and Auction

The Prince George's Choral Society will hold an Italian dinner with a musical review, silent auction and door prizes on Saturday, April 8 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran



Church, 6905 Greenbelt Road.

For information and tickets call 301-538-1532 or 301-336-8539 or visit pgchoralsociety@yahoo.com.



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
April 10, 2006, Municipal Building,
Regular Meeting-8:00 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Arbor Day – Proclamation
- Introduction of CERT Graduates
- National Public Safety Telecommunications Week – Proclamation
- Maryland Chiefs Challenge – Proclamation
- Municipal Government Month - Proclamation

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

* Committee Reports (Items on the Consent Agenda marked by * will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)

LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 19, "Taxation," of the Greenbelt City Code in Order to Revise Article III, "Admissions and Amusement Tax" for the Purpose of Permitting the Establishment of the Tax Rate by Resolution (1st Reading)
- A Resolution to Establish Admissions and Amusement Tax Rates in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, Effective July 1, 2006 (1st Reading)

OTHER BUSINESS

- Recognition Group Application - Greenbelt Community Fund
- Election Issues Holding an Election with Five Candidates Requiring Contributions and Expenditures Reporting by Groups Campaigning on Ballot Issues

MEETINGS

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

TEMPORARY SKATE PARK NOW OPEN ON WEEKENDS FOR THE SPRING SEASON!
12-5pm
Saturdays and Sundays
Lakecrest Tennis Courts (weather permitting)

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.

Vacancies exist on the:

Advisory Committee on Trees

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

Youth Advisory Committee (Opening for adult position)

For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Bring your baskets and find the eggs that the Bunny and his Helpers have hidden. They have hidden many eggs, including some very special Golden Eggs that include extraordinary prizes.

WHEN: Saturday, April 15, 2006
WHERE: Buddy Attick Lake Park
WHO: Children from 18 months thru 6th Grade
TIME: 10:00am SHARP!!!!!!



In case of inclement weather, the Hunt will be held on Monday, April 17th at Buddy Attick Lake Park. Please check the weather hotline at 301-474-5525 for event status.

For more information please call the Recreation Department at 301-397-2200



DONATION DROP-OFF

American Rescue Workers
Saturday, April 8
9:00 a.m.-Noon
Parking lot between the City Office and the Community Center

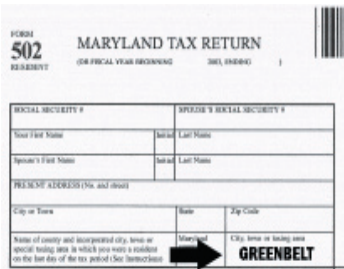
For further information contact the City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8303.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 10-14

- Monday, April 10th, 7:00pm, Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee, Greenbelt Community Center Info: 301-474-8004
- Monday, April 10th, 8:00pm, Regular City Council Meeting, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call the number listed above, or contact the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 or kgallagher@greenbeltmd.gov.

MARYLAND TAX RETURN



If you live within the corporate boundaries of the City of Greenbelt, make sure to write or enter "Greenbelt" on your Maryland State Tax form under "City, town or taxing area" so that your taxes can best serve your community!

GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71

MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000: Monday, April 10th at 8pm: Regular City Council Meeting (live), **Tuesday & Thursday, April 11 & 13: 10am & 6pm** "Ask the Expert-Healthy Cooking for One or a Couple," **7:15pm** "ACE Reading Club-Magnolia Elementary," **7:30pm** Replay of City Council Meeting.

PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, April 12 & 14: 7:00pm "St. Mary's Passion Play," **8:30pm** "Music Man."

CITY JOB OPENINGS

Office Associate P/T: \$11.54/hr., M-F 7:30 am to 1:30 pm for Greenbelt Public Works Dept.; H.S. Diploma/GED; clerical/receptionist duties; take accurate/clear messages; good organizational skills; proficiency with Windows Word; Excel required; learn street routes throughout Greenbelt; enjoy working with public.

Crisis Intervention Counselor: \$18.21/hr; 20 hrs/week with on-call, evenings & weekends. Provide emergency and on-going counseling services involving domestic violence, rape, suicide, family conflict and juvenile crime. Work with Youth/Family Services Bureau and Police Department. BA in social work, psychology, marriage/family therapy or related field; minimum 2 yrs. post graduate experience family/crisis counseling.

Park Ranger: \$8/hr. Part-time position. Varying daily hours, including weekends. Patrol and inspect parks throughout the City; assist park visitors; enforce rules/regulations to ensure compliance and perform some conservation work such as nature interpretation and educational programs. H. S. diploma or GED. College attendance is desirable. Some knowledge/experience in park management, natural sciences, public relations or related subjects. Must be 18 years of age with valid driver's license.

Apply: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, call job line 301-474-1872 to request application be mailed to you or download application from website, www.greenbeltmd.gov. EOE.

VISIT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV FOR INFORMATION ON CITY SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, UPCOMING MEETINGS, CITY DEPARTMENTS AND MORE!

COUNCIL continued from page 1

ture it will cause a major impact. In his budget most costs for addressing the developments are covered by associated planning and development fees, so the FY07 budget would be neutral for Greenbelt West impacts.

For the long term, McLaughlin listed several positive aspects for proposed or planned developments. Construction should begin on the redevelopment project at the Greenbelt Nursing Home site of about 90 condominium units, with an approximate \$250,000 value for each unit. Development could begin in FY07 at the South Core of Greenbelt Station and McLaughlin noted that there also appears to be interest in the North Core at the Metro Station. The Springhill Lake redevelopment being undertaken by AIMCO could also represent a significant investment in Greenbelt.

In his budget message McLaughlin noted that these developments and the expansion of Beltway Plaza "will change the face of Greenbelt West." Not only must the city provide services for these new areas but it must set "the vision for the area and the community as a whole," he said.

A number of years ago, he noted, the city published a welcome booklet titled "A National Landmark . . . A Model for the Future." That title, he added, "captured Greenbelt's legacy and set a course for the future which we as current day keepers of the Greenbelt legacy must keep in mind as Greenbelt West decisions are made."

Council Response

Judging from the reactions of its members, council appeared to be generally pleased that the manager was not proposing any increase in the city's tax rate. Mayor Judith Davis called it a realistic budget and noted that the manager must have been listening to council and the citizens.

She noted that the submission of the proposed budget was only the beginning of a review process that would be taking place over the next two months. A series of worksessions are scheduled through April and May, with the budget adoption scheduled for council's first meeting in June.

Anything proposed for addition will have to be supported by interested parties, Davis said. She and Councilmembers Konrad Herling and Leta Mach urged citizens to take the opportunity to participate in the scheduled worksessions, if for no other reason than to gain an understanding of how the city operates, how the city obtains and allocates its available revenues and how the budget translates into direct city services for Greenbelt residents.

Both Herling and Mach indicated they will be looking forward to working on a proposed budget that looked like it would be less stressful than their first two budgets. Councilmember Rodney Roberts offered no comments on the proposed budget and Councilmember Ed Putens, recuperating from surgery, was unable to attend the meeting.

McLaughlin gave his traditional thanks to the various city staff members for their hard work, beginning with November 2005 through submission of the Manager's Budget, for the analysis, discussion and preparation that went into the proposed budget.

He announced that the bound copies of the budget should be available during the first week in April. Citizens interested in the FY07 budget can request a CD version from city offices or download the budget from the city website at www.greenbeltmd.gov. Copies of the bound version of the budget will not be available until near the end of the first week in April.

THEATERS

continued from page 1

operating.

The city will benefit from having the theaters operating, since they will continue to generate A&A taxes, albeit at a reduced rate for a few years. However, should ticket revenues increase at a faster rate, the MOU provides that the city will increase its A&A taxes at an equivalent rate.

The Old Greenbelt Theatre and Academy 8 Theaters will not show the same movies at the same time. P&G President Paul Sanchez will be in charge of operating both theaters.

Two changes to the MOU were noted in the staff review of the draft document: ensuring that the city has access to accurate information about theater receipts and requiring city approval of any new exterior signage related to the theaters. The effective date of the MOU is July 1, 2006.

Councilmember Konrad Herling moved for approval of the MOU and Councilmember Rodney Roberts gave a second. There were four affirmative votes with Councilmember Ed Putens absent, recuperating from surgery.

School Issues

David Lange, on behalf of the Greenbelt Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, spoke about the need for "vision" and effective working together by all stakeholders in school planning and redevelopment. He urged that elementary schools be included in the process as they are feeder schools for the proposed new middle school in Greenbelt West.

The topic was timely as the city also issued a proclamation declaring the first week of April the "Week of the Young Child." Greenbelt Nursery School representatives attended to receive the first-time official announcement by the City of Greenbelt.

Other Resolutions

Council also authorized the staff to negotiate the purchase of landscape and mowing services from Trugreen Landcare of Ashton, Md. Existing services for grass cutting will not be affected by this resolution, which authorizes City Manager Michael McLaughlin to proceed with purchasing the landscaping and maintenance services for areas that lie mostly outside the core area of the city.

Potomac Watershed Cleanup takes place on April 8, starting at "Buddy" Attick Lake Park. Earth Day celebrations will occur on April 22 along with community service opportunities for students.

Greenbelt in the News



PHOTO BY MARAT MOORE

Tony Perkins of Fox News interviews Virginia Beauchamp, News Review reporter and copy editor in the early morning of March 15.

Greenbelt was highlighted in Maryland Life Magazine's January-February issue under the heading, "A Vision Fulfilled." The two-page article detailed the early years and cited a continuing strong sense of community. "Greenbelt," it ended, "is a wonderful place to visit – and a unique part of Maryland history."

Then the Winter 2005/2006 issue of Prince George's Suite, a relatively new magazine, ran a piece on the Greenbelt News Review with a picture of editor Mary Lou Williamson. The caption highlighted the paper's almost 70-year history.

As if this was not enough media coverage, on Wednesday, March 15 Channel 5 Fox Morning News set up its cameras at the New Deal Café where, interspersed over a period of several hours, weatherman Tony Perkins interviewed several local citizens – Mayor Judith Davis, pioneer settler Bob Sommers, News Review staffer Virginia Beauchamp and Café director Ellen Siegel. During the last interview the Celtic musical group, the Shenigans, performed on stage in the background.

STORM continued from page 1

(or night). Patrons received ticket passes for another showing.

Co-op

Meanwhile, our editor on the way to the News Review office shortly after 8 p.m., stopped first at the Co-op to pick up things needed for breakfast. Spotting a potential reporter for the paper, she called to her and scurried to catch up. They talked a long time in the dark, knowing the cash registers (computers) were down and would take longer than closing time to reboot if the electricity returned. Meanwhile Co-op staff with flashlights checked each aisle again and again to be certain there was no one else in the store. Our editor gave up and headed for the News Review office. The noisy generator outside told the story – no power in the office. She found the side door open and two staff members sitting in the dark hoping the power would come back soon. She gave up more quickly this time and headed home – but wait, what about breakfast? She went back along a darkened Ridge Road to find that Southway, Greenway

Center and the tall buildings beyond were all lighted. Safeway was open but not busy; breakfast problems were fixed.

On the way home Greenbelt Road was dark beyond the Southway traffic lights, when a beautiful rain of sparks suddenly fell about where the Lakecrest light is. Those lights flashed yellow four times, paused, flashed again and died. Charlestowne Village, University Square and all of Lakeside were dark – not counting houses and apartments lit by candles, the stray oil lamp and flashlights.

Storm? What Storm?

The sea of darkness in the center and south end of town gave way to lights in a line running from Parkway across Crescent to Ridge Road. Those in the north end of town, who would universally claim they are left in the dark far more than other parts of town, found themselves in the opposite situation Monday night, with only a brief flicker and no power outage at all – no blinking 12:00, no clocks to reset, no computers belly-up.

Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Highlights

The following are budget highlights from the city manager's presentation.

- Total proposed expenditures: \$21,232,600, a \$1,149,300 or 5.7 percent increase
- Proposed revenues: \$21,476,400 (5.6 percent increase)
 - No property tax rate increase
 - Real property assessable base up 8.0 percent (up 10.7 percent in FY05; 9.5 percent in FY06)
 - Expected assessment levels of 8 to 10 percent to continue through FY10
 - Corporate assets remain positive but up only 1.6 percent since FY04
 - 3 percent performance bonus for above average evaluation
 - Responds to concerns regarding lagging police salaries [provides for partial deferred compensation contribution as salary and eliminates mid-point (of grade) as basis for salary increases]
 - 39.4 percent of all General Fund Expenditures go to public safety, slightly down from 40+ percent the last four years.
 - A total of \$1,477,300 budgeted to fund Capital Projects in FY07, including resurfacing of portions of Hanover Parkway and Megan Lane from Mathew to Kara Court; completion of the skate park; phase 2 of the Community Center window restoration; playground replacements in non-city playgrounds (per playground agreement) and the Hillside Road stabilization project
 - Expenditures of \$1,500,000 are proposed from the 2001 Bond Issue Fund to begin reconstruction of the Public Works facility and the renovation of the Old Greenbelt Theatre
 - \$500,000 in state program open space funds identified and available for land acquisition, if the opportunity arises



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BAD BUSINESS SERVICE?
NOISE? MESSY PROPERTY?**



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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.

Attempted Murder

March 26, 11:28 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive, police responded to a report of the sound of gunshots coming from an apartment. Upon arriving on the scene they discovered that unknown person(s) had fired several shots into the front door of an apartment. No one in the residence was injured.

Robbery

March 27, 9:44 p.m., 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a clerk at the Shell Food Mart reported that a woman entered the store and announced a robbery. A weapon was not displayed but was implied. After obtaining an undisclosed amount of money, she exited the store and fled the scene by getting into a waiting vehicle, last seen traveling toward Breezewood Drive. The suspect was described as a black female, 18 to 20 years of age, 5', 125 pounds with black hair, brown eyes and a dark complexion, wearing a black coat, light colored pants and a light colored bandana. The vehicle was described as a black or gray 2000 Toyota Solara 2-door and its driver was a heavy-set black female.

Indecent Exposure

March 29, 11:36 p.m., 101 Centerway, the victim reported that a man was in the pool area at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center when he exposed himself to several persons and then fled the scene. He was described as a white male, 50 to 60 years of age, 5'4" to 5'6", 150 to 175 pounds with black and gray hair, an olive complexion, a large stomach and a scruffy beard, wearing black and white swim trunks.

Drug Arrest

March 27, 4:50 p.m., Greenbelt Youth Center, a resident man was arrested and charged with possession of paraphernalia after police responded to a report of a person possibly smoking marijuana. The man was located in the area at the rear of the Youth Center and with paraphernalia commonly used to store marijuana at his feet. He was released on citation pending trial.

Disorderly Conduct

March 23, 8:24 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road, a non-resident man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct after police responded to a report of a disorderly person on a Metro bus on Greenbelt Road. The bus driver reported that the man got on the bus and began shouting obscenities at him; he said that he did not feel safe with the man on the bus. The man, who was also shouting profanities at other

patrons on the bus, was ordered to get off. He continued acting disorderly once he was off the bus. He was arrested, released on citation and then at his request, transported by ambulance to a hospital for a pre-existing medical condition.

Theft

March 31, in reference to a theft reported March 31 at the Target Department Store, a criminal summons has been obtained charging a resident man with theft over \$500 by scheme.

Vandalism

March 28, 5:52 p.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive, unknown juveniles set a small fire in a wooded area. The Branchville Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire.

Vehicle Crimes

Five vehicles were reported as stolen: a 1993 Ford Crown Victoria 4-door from the 7500 block Greenway Center Drive; a 1997 Dodge Caravan from the 6200 block Springhill Court; a white 2000 Toyota Corolla 4-door, Maryland tags HVW012 from the 6100 block Cherrywood Lane; a 2001 Isuzu Rodeo from the 6000 block Cherrywood Court; and a white 1999 Plymouth Voyager, Maryland tags 193967 from the 7500 block Greenway Center Drive.

Five vehicles were recovered, one by Greenbelt police with no arrest made and four by outside departments with one adult arrest made in one recovery. One rear tag, Maryland 1ATZ89 was not recovered.

Vandalism to, theft from, attempted theft from and attempted theft of vehicles was reported in the following areas: 7800 block Mandan Road (two incidents), 400 block Ridge Road, 8100 block Lakecrest Drive, 6100 block Breezewood Court (two incidents), 6000 block Springhill Drive, Springhill Drive and Breezewood Court, Springhill Drive and Springhill Terrace, Beltway Plaza and 5500 block Greenbelt Road.

Following are some of the other incidents handled by police during the week for which there are no narratives: three additional robberies; one attempted burglary; three thefts; three shop-liftings; five assaults, including one domestic assault; one missing person; and two emergency psychiatric evaluations.

Police Chiefs Launch Annual Campaign

From April 6 through June 6 the Greenbelt Police Department will join more than 100 law enforcement agencies across Maryland to participate in a competitive annual effort to educate the public about the lifesaving and injury-reducing benefits of safety belt use. Maryland has a history of being a leader in safety belt and child safety seat compliance aided by the commitment that the state's law enforcement community has made to establishing successful educational programs for and partnerships with the citizens they serve. When educational methods alone do not result in voluntary compliance, law enforcement does not hesitate to use the final "educational" tool - a safety belt citation.

"The highest priority for law enforcement officials is to protect and preserve the lives of the citizens we serve," said Chief James R. Craze. "As a team we want our message to be clear to Marylanders of all ages. If they are not buckled up, at least one member of our law enforcement team will stop them and issue a ticket, because all of us care about the citizens we serve."

In Greenbelt local law enforcement officials will be conducting community outreach educational programs at child day care and senior centers, schools and businesses. Also, with the help of religious leaders, the "Buckle Up Religiously" campaign will be conducted at a number of places of worship within the city. Local community partners will be assisting law enforcement officials in conducting observational safety belt use surveys. The health department and the EMS and health care community will assist by promoting the lifesaving benefits of buckling up on every ride in every vehicle. They will advocate that all children are properly restrained in an appropriate child safety seat, booster seat or seat belt in accordance with their age and weight. Finally, there will be enhanced enforcement efforts for those who do not heed the call for voluntary compliance.

For more information about the Chiefs' Challenge campaign in Greenbelt call MPO Scott Kaiser at 240-542-2114.

Cpl. Gaughan's Killer - Guilty, Sentenced to Life

Robert Mark Billett, 44, of Bladensburg, was found guilty by a Prince George's jury in the shooting death of Cpl. Steven Gaughan. A resident of Boxwood and a Prince George's County police officer, Gaughan was fatally wounded in a shoot-out following a traffic stop. Billett was sentenced to life without parole.

Billett was convicted of first-degree murder in the death of Gaughan and attempted murder of Gaughan's partners, Officers Michael Eubanks and Shawn Phoebus, and of using a handgun in the commission of a crime of violence. The case was tried in Circuit Court before Judge Dwight Jackson.

"This is an important day. Prince Georgians sent a strong message that law enforcement officers cannot be the target of violence and that killing a family man, a dedicated police officer, has serious consequences. You will be caught.

You will be convicted. And, you will get punished accordingly. We hope the Gaughan family can find some measure of justice in this verdict. We hope our colleagues in law enforcement will know we fully appreciate their sacrifices made every day," commented State's Attorney Glenn F. Ivey.

In a late morning incident on June 21, 2005, Gaughan and Phoebus had spotted a suspicious vehicle and attempted to make a stop; the vehicle fled and then stopped in the 11700 block of South Laurel Drive. An occupant bailed out of the vehicle and was pursued by Gaughan on foot. Shots were exchanged and both Gaughan and the suspect, identified as Billett, were struck. They were both transported by helicopter to Prince George's Hospital Center. Gaughan's death was announced that evening by County Executive Jack Johnson.

Marine Orchestra Concert at U of Md.

On Sunday, April 9 at 2 p.m., the Marine Chamber Orchestra will appear in concert in the Dekelboun Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the U of Md. Director, Lt. Col. Michael J. Colburn will be conducting "Music for Movies," featuring works by John Williams, Aaron Copland and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The concert is free. For information call 301-405-2787 or visit www.claricesmithcenter.umd.edu.

Police Association Offers Scholarship

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association is offering a competitive \$500 college scholarship award. Qualifying students must be between 17 and 21 years of age and enrolled full-time in a law enforcement curriculum.

Greenbelt residents interested in applying should contact the police chief's office at 301-507-6500 for an application.



G R E E N B E L T

Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.
125 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770

April 2006

Dear Citizens and Business Owners of Greenbelt:

It is that time again to ask for your generous donations to help support the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc., in our **Annual General Fund Drive for 2006**. We will be starting our fund drive in late April or early May. We truly appreciate your contributions during the previous fund drives.

You will receive your donation package in the mail during the month of April or early May. You may choose to either mail your donation back to us or bring it to the station and hand it to one of our volunteers. We are located at: 125 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD. If you should misplace your donation package, you can still mail us your contribution. Please note the new mailing address for the station: Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Dept., 125 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770.

As in the past, I would like to **emphasize strongly** that you **do not accept any solicitations over the telephone** from persons identifying themselves as members or representatives of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. **For this Annual General Fund Drive during the months of April/May, we only ask for donations through the mail.**

We have received some questions from concerned citizens as to some of our other scheduled fundraisers. During the month of December we conduct what we call our annual boot drive. At various intersections throughout the city we station our members so that they are able to collect donations in fire boots.

May I encourage you to come and enjoy a day of bingo at the station on Sundays and Fridays or at the Elks Lodge #1778 on Kenilworth Ave. in Riverdale, Md., on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We offer food and drink at no cost to you and all of our bingos are now **SMOKE-FREE**.

Again, I would like to thank you for your very important past and continued support during our **General Fund Drive**.

Regards,

D. Christopher Fleshman, President
Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.



All Non-Smoking Bingo

Greenbelt Vol. Fire Dept.
125 Crescent Rd.

Friday 12:00 - 2:15

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The 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.

ACE Reading Club Names Writing Contest Winners

by Liz Murray, Program Coordinator

The ACE Reading Club, a free reading-incentive program created by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) and now funded by the city, hosted a youth writing contest for students who live in or attend school in Greenbelt. The winners of the 2006 Youth Writing Contest have been announced.

In the Junior Poetry Division the winners are: First place, Cearah Camp-Green of Greenbelt Middle School; second place, Makayla Bryan of Greenbelt Elementary School; and third place, Johann Baptista of Greenbelt Elementary School.

In the Junior Short Fiction Division, the first place winner is Aliyah Nickens of Greenbelt Elementary School; second place, Johann Baptista of Greenbelt Elementary School; third place, Caitlin Cummings, Greenbelt Middle School; and honorable mention, Monae Brown, Greenbelt Elementary School.

The Senior Poetry Division winners, all from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) are: First place, Antania Whitlow; second place, Nicole Jones; third place, Andrea Castillo; and honorable mention, Dylan Parkhurst.

The Senior Short Fiction Division winner was Yasmin Boakye, of ERHS.

The student authors will present their winning entries at the Fourth Annual Greenbelt Youth Literary Showcase, which will be held in the Municipal Building

at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28. The program will be taped and aired at a later date on the city cable channel, Channel 71.

The public is invited to the ACE Literary Showcase event, where cash awards and other prizes will be presented to the youth writers. The council and mayor, local media, students' families and friends are all invited. Refreshments will be provided. The students' work will also be printed in the ACE Reading Club's Literary Showcase publication, a book that is available for sale the night of the event or by pre-ordering. To pre-order, call 301-345-6660 or email lmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

Arts and Egg Hunt Saturday

On Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to noon, the College Park Arts Exchange will sponsor children's crafts at the annual College Park Egg Hunt. The free event will be held at the Youth and Family Services Center at 4912 Nantucket (near the corner of Edgewood and Rhode Island Avenue). Children can craft bunnies and other emblems of spring from air-drying clay and string pastel-colored bead bracelets. This activity is for children of all ages.

The egg hunt is sponsored by the College Park Youth and Family Services and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

April 11 Strategy Game Is Hoity Toity

The Greenbelt Strategy Games Club invites people to come play strategy games on Tuesday evenings at the Youth Center. The game for the week of April 11 will be Hoity Toity. The original version of Hoity Toity was published in 1990 in Germany. Later, Uberplay published Hoity Toity in the United States. Hoity Toity is a classic bluffing game. The object of the game is to gain prestige by becoming the antique collector with the most valuable collection.

Players buy or steal various pieces of "junk" in the form of cards, trying to form the largest and oldest collection. Built on a "rock-paper-scissors" mechanism, this game gives all players a couple of choices each turn. The trick is in guessing what one's opponents are likely to do and planning choices accordingly. Players are encouraged to use any means necessary, fair or foul, to gain the top collection but beware of the detectives who will put players in jail if they are caught thieving. Those who have never heard of Hoity Toity, never learned to play or are interested in learning are invited to come to the next Strategy Games Club meeting.

The Strategy Games Club has a wide variety of games – both new and traditional – available to participants. The Strategy Games Club meets every Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Youth Center multipurpose room. This is an intergenerational group for players age 8 and above. There is no registration required.

Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

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Prince George's & the State of Maryland

Publick Playhouse



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DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE
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Prince George's Publick Playhouse Parks & Recreation

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Ask yourself if any of these areas may be affecting the beauty of your smile:



- The color or shape of your teeth
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- Noticeable cavities or old dental work
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If so, come into the offices of the McCarl Dental Group for a complete and comprehensive evaluation.

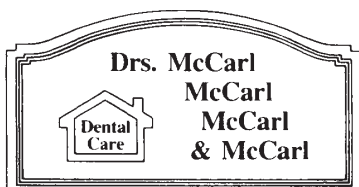


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McCarl Dental Group
301-474-4144

28 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-0717

GES continued from page 1

ment for our students with a sense of security.”

Parents reportedly are clamoring to get their children into the program. Add a lower than average child care cost compared to most in the area, a convenient location, only 45 available slots and a wait list just as long: the result is considered a rare find for Greenbelt Elementary parents.

“It’s very convenient because they only have to go to one place,” Dixon said. “We’re 30 percent less [expensive] than most before- and after-care programs in the area.”

Dixon thinks one key to the program’s success is the balance staff creates between working hard and having a good time. The children have scheduled reading and math sessions and homework assistance. Additionally, they have both indoor and outdoor recess, arts and crafts and social events like pizza parties.

The program also has extracurricular clubs such as for football and cheerleading. Both clubs

are run by local middle and high school students in the area wanting to expose children to these activities at an early age while the older students earn community service hours.

Even Greenbelt’s Advisory Committee on Education sponsors a reading club and videotapes student book reports to be aired on local television.

“Kids don’t care whether they’re learning or not, they care about having fun,” Dixon said. “We always put an enjoyable fun spin on things.”

Navy Sea Chanters At Clarice Smith

The U.S. Navy Band “Sea Chanters” chorus will celebrate 50 years of service with a full day of free festivities on Saturday, April 8 at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

The day begins with an open rehearsal at 11 a.m., free clinics at 1 and 3 p.m. exploring the artistic details of choral sound and a gala concert at 7 p.m. in the Dekelbom Concert Hall that pays homage to the Sea Chanters’ past and looks forward to the future. Guest artists and special selections will also be featured.

Harp Recital at UM

The Annual Harp Studio Recital will take place at Gildenhorn Recital Hall at the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts on Thursday, April 13 at 8 p.m. The program is free.

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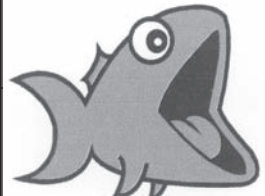
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Send cover letter, resume and references to Paulette Washington, Meetings and Office Manager, NAHC, 1707 H St., NW, Suite 201, Washington, D.C. 20006; paulette@coophousing.org; 202-737-0797 x323; fax, 202-783-7869; www.coophousing.org (http://www.coophousing.org/).

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YARD SALES

YARD SALE – Early birds, 7 a.m. - noon?? Sat., April 8, weather permitting. 7962 Lakecrest Dr., rear Charlestowne condos. Multi-family treasures.

HUGE YARD SALE – April 28 & 29, 9-3, Mowatt Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road. Bake sale, trailer load of flowers, lots of treasures, hot dogs, hamburgers, chili and combread. Mark your calendar now. 301-474-7291

YARD/ESTATE SALE – Sat. 4/8, noon - 4. Electric chairlift, bedroom furniture, living room furniture, tools, misc. 5M Gardenway.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE – April 29, 2006 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on the GHI lawn, Hamilton Place. Spring is finally here! Now is the time to start your spring-cleaning and discover unused treasures to sell. You can reserve a table for a mere ten dollars and turn those unused treasures into a hefty bankroll. You need not be a member of GHI to participate. (Rain date, April 30). To reserve table space or additional information, contact Joanie McCord, 301-474-4161.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 – 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. New and used items, baby and kid's stuff, furniture and electronics. 56 Ct. Ridge Rd. (Corner of Plateau Pl.)

YARD SALE – 19 Empire Place, Saturday, April 8, 8 a.m. - noon. Bike, computer, clothes, books, movies, toys, large display case, workbench, rowing machine, home decor, ladies accessories, maternity and baby items, garden, camera, kitchenware, fish tank and accessories, furniture and more.

YARD SALE – Multiple family! Lots of cool items for your home and fresh baked treats! Saturday, April 8, 8 a.m. 24 Court Ridge Road. No early birds please. Rain date, Sunday, April 9, 8 a.m.

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Intrepid Greenbelt Pair Race in Outhouse Classic

by Sharahn D. Boykin

While other residents were nestled in warm homes watching the Winter Olympic games, Greenbelt residents Ben "Pappy" Guiffre and Derek Thompson were competing in an unusual winter sport in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Like silver medalist Bode Miller, they used skis . . . and a pole. But unlike Miller, their skis were attached to an outhouse.

Guiffre, a consulting detective, and Thompson, a professor emeritus of the University of Maryland, drove 1,447 miles to compete in the 13th Annual Trenary Outhouse Classic on February 25. Guiffre and Thompson placed third out of eight teams.

"It was theater, sport and carnival all rolled into one," said Guiffre.

Racing individually against the clock, teams of two pushed a 3-x 4- x 6-foot tall outhouse down a 500-foot track of snow and ice. "All outhouses are required to have a toilet seat, a roll of toilet paper, skis and push bars no longer than 16 inches," said Dianne Peterson, treasurer of the Trenary Outhouse Classic.

Trenary is a small town with a population of 400. "Normally you can shoot a cannon down the street," said Peterson. But each year on race day, the last Saturday in February, the town's population swells to 4,000 tourists. They travel from various parts of the country to watch 60 teams compete in the Outhouse Classic, she said.

The town owes its outhouse tradition to Toivo Aho, a resident who heard about an outhouse race in Washington from a cousin and decided to try it in Trenary, said Peterson.

"It was thrown together the first year and then it took off like crazy," she said.

Although Aho passed away, nine of his friends keep the Trenary Outhouse Classic alive.

Sleuth Booth

Competitors have the option of dressing in costumes. Thompson and Guiffre, disguised as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, christened their outhouse "The Sleuth Booth."

The back of the red-roof gray outhouse bears a crest of Sherlock Holmes's silhouette on the outside. The bottom reads: "Dedicated to Marie Hill Bunch" in honor of Guiffre's girlfriend who told him about the event. The front door bears the famous sleuth's 221-B Baker Street address.

The words: "Holmes and Watson pursue the mystery of the night deposit!" decorate the sides.

Displayed inside were a needlepoint portrait of an outhouse and copies of Strand Magazine, said Guiffre.

Thompson, true to his character Sherlock Holmes, donned a cape-coat, a classic deerstalker hat complete with brims in front and back and a curved pipe. Guiffre as Dr. Watson wore a black broad-brimmed hat, a plaid jacket and blue ascot.

Both Thompson and Guiffre wore over their shoes Yaktraxs, a rubbery device with metal coils that provide better traction and thermal underwear beneath their costumes to buffer freezing temperatures.

Competitors should dress to stay warm but should not overdress, said Peterson. "The lighter they are the quicker you can push.

"You don't want to wear heavy boots to run in. Some people run barefoot. Every year there's someone who runs barefoot to get a better grip," she said.

As they raced in 19°F with a wind chill of 0° and 14 mile-per-hour winds, the weather started to take its toll on Guiffre and Thompson.

"We learned, with our combined age of 120, that we still had the hearts of heroes but not the legs," said Guiffre. "So we did our best to hang on."

The Race

"When it was show time, the thinking stopped. It was time to put the pedal to the metal," said Guiffre. For the first 100 yards we gave a good account of ourselves. But the fierce cold burned our lungs and our legs became leaden. We drove ourselves on to the finish but we lost time in that last 75 yards."

Thompson said there was only one thing on his mind during the race. "I wanted to get to the finish line fast because it was cold," he said.

Weather conditions were not the only obstacle. Guiffre said they veered off the track a little bit when the enthusiastic crowd surged onto the track.

Winter Challenge

The dynamic duo had a taste of extreme weather conditions on their way to the race. After driving 926 miles to Chicago, Guiffre and Thompson drove through a snow storm to get to Trenary.

"It was brutal. By the time we hit Escanaba, just across the Michigan state line, we hit a full blown Alberta Clipper," said Guiffre. The road disappeared in a hurry and then the [tire] tracks disappeared.

"The only way you could tell where the road was, was to estimate the distance between the trees on either side. You guessed that you were supposed to be somewhere in the middle."

Realizing that the temperature would eventually drop too low to use the wrenches to assemble the outhouse, Guiffre and Thompson had assembled it in Chicago and secured it to the bed of the pickup truck.

"She [the outhouse] stood proud and took punishment from the snow and wind," said Guiffre.

The Trenary Outhouse Classic was Guiffre's and Thompson's first outhouse race and it may not



PHOTO BY BRIDGET CORNETT

This one-of-a-kind Victorian-styled outhouse mounted on skis and dubbed "The Sleuth Booth" is seen here in Greenbelt before heading for the cold north. Its creators are Derek Thompson, left, a Brit and a dead ringer for Sherlock Holmes and Ben "Pappy" Guiffre as his stodgy companion Doctor Watson.

be the last. Guiffre said they were looking into another race in Gravel Switch, Ky., that uses wheels on the outhouses instead of skis.

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Do We Really Want this HUGE Decision Made Without Debate?

We are not getting the whole story

Advertisements run by the City government in the *Greenbelt News Review* praise developers' plans for replacing Springhill Lake with high-density, "upscale" housing. But these ads tell only one side of this story. In truth, what these developers want may completely alter the Greenbelt we know and love. If developers get their way, the number of housing units in Greenbelt will increase more than 40% and half of the housing units in our city would be in Greenbelt West. How will these changes affect Greenbelt?

For one, taxes will likely go up as residential development increases the costs of providing public services more than the new tax revenue it brings. Already, the City has approved taxpayer-financed subsidies to some of these developers; and the City's real estate taxes are forecasted to increase 8-10% each year through 2010.

Another change is that the development will create more traffic congestion and pollution in our city. Further, the developers want to tear down the SHL Elementary School, convert its location into a storm water

pond, and return no land for a new elementary school. There are more examples, but we don't have room for them here.

Maybe most important, these developers have shown NO interest in building a community or attracting residents who share Greenbelt's traditional values such as cooperative living, community involvement, woodlands or wetlands protection, cultural and economic diversity, public education, public recreation or community art. Why does the City government want these changes?

Accommodating the Politically Powerful

It appears that the Greenbelt City government wants to follow the wishes of outsiders – State & County officials and wealthy developers – who want

Greenbelt to become a high-density, urban center like downtown DC. They want these changes even though many Greenbelters do not believe that

these changes will be good for our community. Nor do many Greenbelters believe that the plans of these outsiders are as rosy as they claim.

A Different Vision – Greenbelt's Vision

We do not have to accept plans from developers whose only interest is amassing incredible wealth, irrespective of what they leave behind. We can instead call upon our

government to consider different visions for Greenbelt – ones that **build upon**, rather than destroy, Greenbelt's unique strengths in economic diversity, cooperative living, citizenship, community

art, public recreation, and living in balance with lots of beautiful, natural surroundings. However, our elected officials need to hear from you. The few of us who have spoken up is not enough.

Protect Yourself and Greenbelt – Stay Informed

The first step is to get the whole story, not just the one-sided opinions being advertised by our City government. We need to insist on an informed debate that fully considers the pluses **and** the minuses.

Unlike the City, our group cannot afford to keep putting ads in the *Greenbelt News Review*. But we can help you stay abreast of these issues another way. Stay

informed by signing up for a free electronic newsletter. Send an e-mail to eveningfire@verizon.net and ask that you be added to our distribution list. We promise to send you only **important** information (we have lives and families, too!) and you can unsubscribe at any time. If you cannot access e-mail, call us at 301-982-0257 and we will provide you with printed copies.

Without hearing the full story and pressing for a full debate over this momentous decision, Greenbelt – a unique community that took generations to build – a model for high-quality, sustainable living for all – could be lost forever.

Robert Fireovid, Greenbelters for an Informed Citizenry (301-982-0257)



PHOTO BY JUDITH THOMPSON

"Pappy" Guiffre readies the Sleuth Booth for the race.

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