

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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

APRIL 20, 2006

## Planning Department Outlines Budget Needs for Fiscal Year 2007

by James Giese

On April 17 the Greenbelt City Council met with staff of the Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development to review that department's proposed budget for the new fiscal year. Council also reviewed the submitted budget for capital projects. The review, covering the subject in detail but at a leisurely pace, lasted until midnight. The first hour and a quarter was devoted to a slide presentation by departmental staff that went over much of the same material already provided council in the city manager's budget document.

These budget worksessions are primarily opportunities for the council to learn in greater depth about each city department's activities and needs. As such, council seldom takes action to effectuate changes in the budget. Such decisions come at later budget worksessions.

However, councilmembers did indicate their desire to remove from a list of future capital projects lighting for the Schrom Hills Park ballfields and to add in its place implementation of a plan being developed for improvements to the Northway ballfields.

Mayor Judith Davis pointed out that at present the city had received no comments from the Greenbelt East associations as to their interest in lighting the ballfields in that area's Schrom Hills Park. The amount budgeted for those lights was \$351,000, with the expenditure not to take place until fiscal year 2009, three years from now.

A cost estimate for improvements at Northway Fields has not yet been developed but council felt that there should be funds allocated for these improvements in the city's long-range plan once a master plan for the fields was approved and costs determined. Although both the Advisory Planning Board and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board have unanimously approved the proposed plan for these fields, council will not consider the matter until cost estimates are prepared.

At the time that council established a forest preserve, concern was raised that a part of the ball fields had been included in the land designated for forest preserve. Land within the forest preserve is prohibited from being used for active recreational

purposes. In response to a question, Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze told council that a boundary survey for the fields had not been done, as the cost would have been \$17,000. Instead the city's planner was told to use the area currently used as ballfields and cleared of trees.

It is council's practice to further review its capital projects program after the operating budget is adopted in June, at which time other modifications could take place.

### Skateboard Park

During the meeting the status of a number of projects now in the works were reviewed. Of greatest interest was the status of the long-delayed skateboard park. Building permit applications are now being reviewed by Prince George's County Department of Licenses and Inspection. Permits are expected to be approved by late April or early May, according to Craze. Total cost for this project is projected at \$208,000.

The construction of the park is already under a flat fee contract

See **BUDGET**, page 6

## Council Defends Biennial Elections; Sets Movie Tax

by David Higgins

During last Monday's Greenbelt City Council meeting, councilmembers defended the need for holding biennial municipal elections. Some citizens have said that elections waste time and money, particularly in light of the 2005 election results. Only six candidates ran for seats on the five-member city council in 2005 and only 18.4 percent of Greenbelt's registered voters filled out a ballot.

City charter requires an election to take place regardless of the number of candidates. Mayor Judith Davis said that "[Canceling elections] would undermine the principle that elected officials are accountable to voters by virtue of their election, encourages a further downward spiral of in-

terest in voting and running for office in the next election and denies voters their existing ability to vote for write-in candidates."

Councilmembers remained open to reducing election costs if five or fewer candidates run, though all seemed optimistic of such a scenario. Davis argued that cancelling the next election might save less money than anticipated.

"Much of the staff work for running elections has already been done and one of the major costs – voting equipment – has already been contracted," she said. "What the board will recommend is that in the event that no more than five candidates file,

See **COUNCIL**, page 2

## Greenbelt Park Receives \$10,000 Grant from REI

by Jim Lara

As visitors come to Greenbelt Park of the National Park Service to camp out or hike on the trails, they'll be happy to know that the park was awarded a \$10,000 grant to help maintain the area. It was formally given Thursday, April 13 when Mel Fordham, an outreach coordinator with Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI) presented a check to National Park Service Superintendent Gayle Hazelwood. REI is a national retailer specializing in goods and equipment for the outdoors.

In addition to financial donations, the company will send volunteers to various sites to assist the staff in maintaining the parks. "We're a believer in giving back to the land and today was an example of that," said Fordham.

Annually, REI dedicates a portion of profits to help protect the environment and increase involvement in outdoor activities. According to Fordham, the company had sales last year of over a billion dollars. That resulted in \$3 million budgeted for donations across the country. Greenbelt was one of 100 parks in the U.S. chosen to be awarded a grant. This was the first such donation given by REI to Greenbelt Park. There is an REI store nearby in North College Park.

The money will be used to clear trees and replace bridges on the park's trails. This will especially benefit the perimeter trail of the park since portions of it had to be closed because of

See **REI GRANT**, page 5

## Environmentalists Challenge ICC On Air Quality Requirements

by Virginia Beauchamp

Just under the wire, the Environmental Defense and the Coalition for Smarter Growth, along with organizations including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Sierra Club and the Audubon Naturalist Society submitted their critique of official plans for the proposed \$3 billion Intercounty Connector toll road or ICC, as it is popularly called. The deadline for submission of comments by the public dealing with the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) was April 11; the citizen groups issued their press release one day earlier.

Although this deadline for comment on the FEIS has now passed, the deadline for public input on a new air quality requirements report prepared by the Maryland Department of Transportation is set for April 26.

### Report Criticized

According to the release by the environmental groups, the official environmental impact study "failed to consider alternatives." On this basis the study is "flawed," the release says, making it "a barrier" to "real solutions" in meeting transportation needs between Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

The release charges that "independent" scientists who have

### Comment Period On ICC Extended

An analysis of the new air quality report is available on the internet to view and download at [www.iccstudy.org](http://www.iccstudy.org).

Questions or comments on the additional air quality report may be submitted by April 26 on the website or by mail to the ICC Project Manager, Wesley Mitchell, at Mail Stop C-301, Project Planning Division, State Highway Administration, 707 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

examined the highway proposal find "time and again" that "this road would destroy now healthy streams, forests, and parks, harm the health of children and others living close to the new highway, and spur more traffic and sprawl."

The state itself has predicted that the highway, when finished, would "cause 4,945 acres of development that would not otherwise happen," the opponents say. Yet, they charge, state planners do not look at the impact of this resulting development on the

Chesapeake Bay itself nor do they consider "practical alternatives" to building such a major roadway.

Among major negative effects of the ICC would be air pollution, water pollution, threats to "the only naturally-reproducing brown trout population" in Montgomery County and "a significant adverse impact on wetlands."

Because the ICC would be designed as a toll road, "disadvantaged populations" would be cut off from using it, the release charges. At the same time, the ultimate high cost of the highway would make construction of alternative public transportation facilities impossible.

Other negative factors would be "noise impacts" and damage to parklands from "vibration, changes in access, visual intrusion," and "air quality," the release says.

### The Other Side

The Maryland Department of Transportation, the State Highway Administration and the Maryland Transportation Authority dispute the air quality assessment. In a separate report these agencies noted that the proposed highway would not "contribute" to a violation of new air quality standards that were imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency in March 2006.

## What Goes On

### Saturday, April 22

**10 a.m. to noon**, Celebrate Earth Day with the Recycling and Environment Committee. Plant Native Plants at Hillside Underpass/Crescent Road

**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, Public Works Open House, 555 Crescent Road

**Noon**, Join Advisory Committee on Trees for Arbor Day Tree Planting, Hillside Underpass/Crescent Road – Followed by City Tour of Large and Unusual Trees throughout the City. Tour Pickup also at Public Works Open House

### Monday, April 24

**8 p.m.**, Regular City Council Meeting and 1st Public Hearing on FY07 Budget, Municipal Building (Live on Channel 71)

### Tuesday, April 25

**8 p.m.**, Budget Worksession on Public Safety, Community Center

### Wednesday, April 26

**6 p.m.**, Greenbriar Community Assn. Board Meeting, Commons Room

### Thursday, April 27

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

### Saturday, April 29

**9 a.m. to noon**, Electronics Recycling, Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road

## Letters

### THANKS

A special thanks to Three Brothers Restaurant, the Greenbelt Police Department, the Greenbelt Parking enforcement, the Greenbelt Recreation Department Park Rangers and the Greenbelt Public Works Department for their help in providing prizes and a beautiful park for Greenbelt's annual Easter Egg Hunt. An EGG-celent time was had by all.

*Marlena Cavallo,  
Greenbelt Recreation  
Department*

### Responsible Disposal Is Everyone's Business

To all Greenbelt residents having additions built:

If you are having a foundation dug, ensure that your contractor does not scatter the red clay over the woodlands and then cover the clay with leaves and limbs to hide the material. Such an action will crush and suffocate countless numbers of plant and animal life including the endangered box turtles and salamanders. This action is a code violation reportable to GHI, city code enforcement and county construction complaints.

There is a contractor operating in Greenbelt that has destroyed thousands of square feet of woodland floor. Three sites are known and there may be many more, especially if the construction is adjacent to a wooded area. If you know of a site, please report it to the proper authorities. Otherwise you might find yourself living next to hundreds of square feet of dead zone of compacted red clay – the burial place of thousands, a myriad of life snuffed out as I now have to live with every day.

*Gloria K. Houck*

### What Have We Come To?

It took me 10 years to convince my wife to move to Greenbelt but in the 18 months since we moved in, I've found myself wondering just how good a decision that was. We scrimped and saved until we could afford a house on Lakeside Drive, supposedly a safe neighborhood, and yet my wife's car was broken into twice in the first nine months after we moved here. From all the information I've gathered, thefts from vehicles were an almost weekly event on our street until a Lakeside resident spent hundreds of dollars to install video security cameras that cover not only his house but much of the road. Apparently word of the

cameras got around the criminal community and since they were installed some months ago the police inform me that there have been absolutely no reports of thefts from vehicles or indeed any crimes against vehicles, anywhere on the single-family home portion of Lakeside Drive.

Now, a neighbor's dog has been stolen. This time there is an eyewitness to the crime and it was also captured on the recorded security video. For those of us with hearts big enough to encompass a canine companion, the fate of stolen dogs is almost too horrid to contemplate.

Thank goodness, prayers were answered and by what can only be described as a miracle the dog was recovered unharmed.

What has happened to cause Greenbelt to become a haven for people who would perform such criminal acts? It certainly isn't the same community that I moved out of almost a dozen years ago. Are all of us going to be forced to spend fortunes on alarm systems and video security cameras and turn our homes into virtual fortresses, just so our children, our belongings and even our pets can be kept safe from harm?

And just for the information of the criminal community, I've ordered an upgraded video security system for my own house. Soon there will be several more cameras on Lakeside Drive.

*William Cornett*

### Correction

Two ads on page 3 in last week's newspaper appeared with heavy black lines instead of type. The omission of text was particularly costly for GHI's Community-wide Clean Up which was scheduled for last Saturday. In these electronic times, transmission errors still can throw a wrench into things.

The other ad affected was the Babe Ruth Baseball sign-ups. In an effort to ensure that the information gets to those who are interested, the ad is included again (at least that is the intention) in this issue on page 3.

The News Review regrets the inconvenience caused by last week's printing problems.

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

subsequent expenditures be very closely scrutinized . . . Major costs such as advertising and the printing and mailing of the sample ballot and voter notification cards could, and probably should, be eliminated."

Councilmember Edward Putens opposed cutting costs, saying they should continue mailing out sample ballots in an effort to get "somebody out there interested" in local government. The 2007 election will cost about \$16,000 according to Assistant City Manager David Moran.

### Tax Ordinance

In other meeting news, council introduced an ordinance to reduce the city's admissions and amusement tax to 1 percent beginning Fiscal Year 2007. The rate to apply to all city movie theaters would then increase incrementally over four years until it returns to its original 10 percent.

At its last meeting council approved a request by Quantum Companies, owners of Beltway Plaza Mall, to reduce the tax. Beltway Plaza recently took over ownership of the mall's remaining eight theaters and said it will upgrade and expand the facilities.

"If the theaters were to close," said Davis, "the impact on the city's admissions and amusement tax revenues would be substantial . . . they will continue to generate admission and amusement taxes even at a reduced amount for a couple years."

### Recognitions

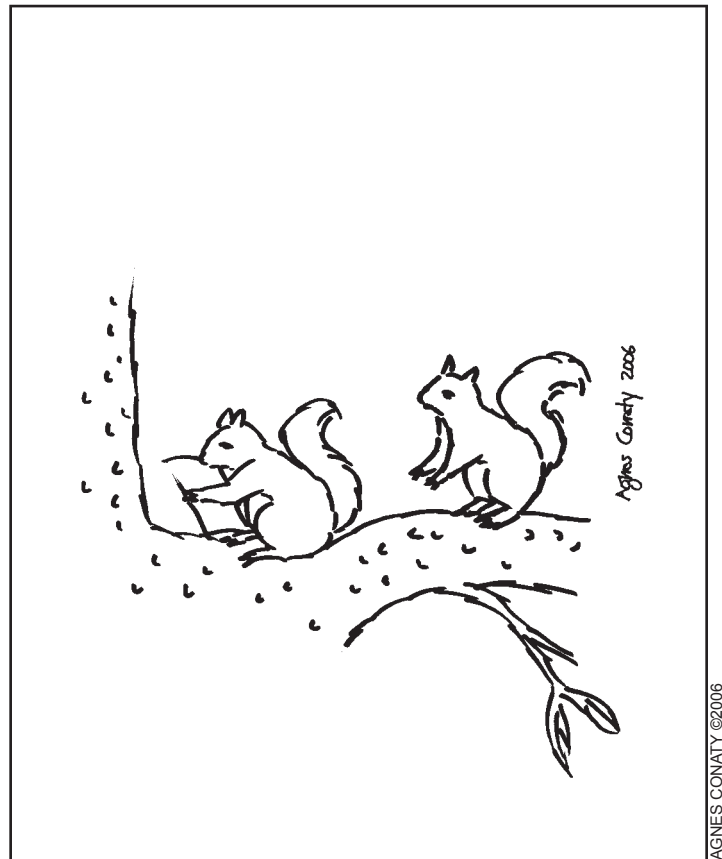
Council recognized several community members for contributions to Greenbelt. Mayor Davis declared April 9-15 Public Safety Telecommunications Week "in recognition of the communication specialists who represent a critical link between citizens and the police department."

A representative from the Greenbelt Police Department said dispatchers are "the backbone of our department." He awarded Alicia Covile, communications unit supervisor, a certificate as "Supervisor of the Year" on behalf of Police Chief James Craze.

Davis proclaimed the period from April 6 – June 6 as "a life-saving campaign to encourage all citizens to comply with safety belt and child safety seat laws." Davis cited statistics on vehicle safety and proper seatbelt use. A police department representative stressed that the challenge is

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

## Grin Belt



"You are using recycled paper for those Earth Day announcements, aren't you?"

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA MEETING OF THE GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, April 27, 2006 GHI BOARD ROOM, 7:30 PM

#### Key Agenda Items:

- EZ Pay Drawing
- Greening Greenbelt Initiative Presentation, Guest Carl Elefante
- Request for Exception – Awning at 44 F Ridge
- 2006 Slate Roof Contract – 2nd Reading
- Companion Animal Committee Mission Statement

Regular board meetings are open to members.

## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887  
newsreview@greenbelt.com  
301-474-4131 • FAX 301-474-5880

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977

Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985  
President Emeritus, 1985-

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662

Assistant Editor: Barbara Likowski 301-474-8483

News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805

Assistant to the Editor: Eileen Farnham 301-513-0482

#### STAFF

Jackie Bealle, Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell, Judi Bordeaux, Sharahn Boykin, Jessi Britton, Sharon Carroll, Agnes Conaty, Austin Conaty, Bill Cornett, Randy Crenwelge, Kay Cummings, Peter Curtis, Pat Davis, A. Neil Deo, Carol Drees, Neal Ewen, Chris Farago, Eli Flam, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, Alison Gary, Al Geiger, Bernina McGee Giese, James Giese, Marjorie Gray, Enid Grempler, Eve Gresser, Carol Griffith, Shirl Hayes, Sabine Henrich, Solange Hess, Barbara Hopkins, Linda Jackson, Kathie Jarva, Elizabeth Jay, Suzanne Krofchik, Charlene Lagerwerff, Meta Lagerwerff, Pam Lambird, Sandra Lange, Jim Lara, Pat McCoy, Kathleen McFarland, Natalie McGill, Emma Mendoza, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Diane Oberg, Linda Paul, Leonie Penney, Eileen Peterson, Jennifer Sciubba, Linda Siadys, Eileen Simon, Sandra Surber Smith, Helen Sydavar, Joanne Tucker, Thomas X. White, Marie Wong and Dea Zugby.

BUSINESS MANAGER:  
CIRCULATION

Ron Wells 301-474-4131

Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

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.

### OLD GREENBELT THEATRE WEEK OF APRIL 21 THANK YOU FOR SMOKING (R)

#### Friday

\*5:25, 7:30, 9:30

#### Saturday

\*3:25, \*5:25, 7:30, 9:30

#### Sunday

\*3:25, \*5:25, 7:30

#### Monday – Thursday

\*5:25, 7:30

\*These shows at \$5.00

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



## All Non-Smoking Bingo

Greenbelt Vol. Fire Dept.  
125 Crescent Rd.

**Friday** 12:00 - 2:15

**Sunday** 2:00 - 4:15

Elks Lodge #1778

6700 Kenilworth Ave.

**Mon. - Tues. - Wed.**

7:15 - 9:00

**Free Food & Drink**

Call the  
**Bingo Hotline**  
301-277-1670

# Community Events

## Park Fee Increase Public Meeting Topic

The National Park Service will host a public meeting, Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Park Ranger Station.

Public input is being sought on proposed increases of park camping and picnic fees. The current costs include \$14 per night for camping and \$50 to \$150 for picnicking depending on group size. An increase of \$2 for camping and \$5 for picnicking is proposed. The public and surrounding communities are encouraged to come and voice their opinions in this public forum. For further information about this meeting call Site Manager Fred Cunningham at 301-344-3948. To learn more about Greenbelt Park, visit the park website at [www.nps.gov/gree](http://www.nps.gov/gree) or call the ranger station on 301-344-3944.

Greenbelt Park is located at 6565 Greenbelt Road, near Kenilworth Avenue South. Signs will be posted at the park entrance to direct visitors to the meeting area at the ranger station.

## GHI Notes

Upcoming meetings and events (all are in the board room unless otherwise indicated):

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m. to noon, Earth Day tree potting project, GHI administrative building.

Monday, April 24, 7:15 p.m., pre-purchase orientation.

Tuesday, April 25, 7 p.m., new member coffee social.

Thursday, April 27, 7:30 p.m., board of directors meeting.

Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to noon, community yard sale, GHI administrative building.

Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m., Member and Community Relations Committee meeting.

Thursday, May 4, 7 p.m., Finance Committee meeting.

## Medicare D Sessions April 25 and May 5

The Prince George's County Department of Family Services Area Agency on Aging will offer two sessions on "Medicare Part D Prescription Drugs - What You Need To Know" in Greenbelt from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, April 25 and Friday, May 5. These informational presentations will be held in the Greenbelt Municipal Building.

## Charlestowne Village Elects New Directors

At the rescheduled 2006 Annual Meeting, held on April 11, the Charlestowne Village Condominium elected three directors to their seven-member board. Elected to the open positions were Reverend Booker T. Hughes, Carolyn (Sue) Schulz and Mary L. Dotson. After the general election the board held their election of officers.

The 2006 board members and officers are: President Daisy M. Brown; Vice President Genice Lee; Secretary Carolyn (Sue) Schultz; Treasurer Rev. Booker T. Hughes; Directors Donald Bowen and Mary L. Dotson. Another director position remains vacant.

Board meetings are held at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month at the Greenbelt Community Center. Owners and residents are encouraged to attend.

## Greenbriar Assn. Meeting April 26

There will be a meeting of the Greenbriar Community Association board meeting on Wednesday, April 26 at 6 p.m. in the Commons Room.

## Library News

This month the Greenbelt Branch Library children's department celebrates the 90th birthday of author Beverly Cleary with a display of her work. Books and recorded books are available. Cleary is well known to young readers for her humorous and realistic portrayals of the lives of children.

Library staff also mounted a display to celebrate National Jewish Heritage month. Books about Jewish history, beliefs, customs and rituals are available.

Check out the library system website at [www.pgmls.info](http://www.pgmls.info) for a world of information and for an online catalog. Library patrons may check out up to 75 items on a card for 21 days. Drop by to help celebrate National Library Week, April 18 through 24.

### At the Library

Tuesday April 25, 10:30 a.m. - Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months with caregiver, limit 15 babies.

Wednesday, April 26, 10:30 and again at 11 a.m. - Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 15 children.

Thursday, April 27, 10:30 a.m. - Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5. Limit 20 children.

## Exploring Leisure

Explorations Unlimited will host a presentation by Michelle Edwards at the meeting on Friday, April 28. Edwards, a therapeutic recreation (TR) intern with the City of Greenbelt, attends Frostburg State University.

Edwards will discuss TR, explaining aspects such as rehabilitation, leisure education and special recreation. This discussion will focus on leisure education. Participants will learn what leisure is and ways to use leisure time effectively. The discussion will include brainstorming and reminiscent activities.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center in the Senior Classroom, #114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for details

## Astronomical Society Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party Saturday, April 22 at Northway Fields. Members of the society will begin setting up to view a variety of celestial objects at approximately 7:45 p.m.

In the event of rain or hopelessly cloudy skies the event will be cancelled without further notice. Information about other events can be found on the society website at <http://www.greenbeltastro.org/events.shtml>.

## Greenbelt Hosts Blood Drive April 28

The next blood drive in Greenbelt, sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Department and the American Red Cross, will be held at the Greenbelt Community Center on Friday, April 28 from noon to 6 p.m.

The urgent need for blood makes it important that there be a large turnout.

Those who have not already made an appointment through the Red Cross should call Janet Goldberg at 301-397-2212. As was the case in the last blood drive, walk-ins will be accepted at the end of each hour to fill in for no-show appointments.

## FOGL Mega Sale Starts April 29

FOGL (Friends of the Greenbelt Library) will hold a shelf-clearing mega sale April 29 and May 1 on the lower level of the Greenbelt Library.

Proceeds from this sale and from the FOGL book store on the main level of the library are used primarily to pay for the library's Summer Reading Program. This year FOGL was also able to purchase a new television, a digital camera, desk fans, posters, a boom box and winter poinsettias for the Greenbelt Library.

## Credit Union Offers Free Shredding Day

The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union will again offer a free shredding day to members of the community. People should bring the papers they want to securely destroy. The shredding will be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. to noon in the parking lot behind the Credit Union.

## Greenbelt Baseball

Major League Schedule		
Date	Time	Games
Mon., April 24	6:00 p.m.	Orioles vs. Lions
Tues., April 25	6:00 p.m.	Cardinals vs. Athletics
Wed., April 26	6:00 p.m.	Orioles vs. Tigers
Thur., April 27	6:00 p.m.	Cardinals vs. Indians
Fri., April 28	6:00 p.m.	Athletics vs. Cubs
Fri., April 28	7:00 p.m.*	Lions vs. Tigers
Sat., April 29	10:00 a.m.	Indians vs. Giants
Sat., April 29	1:00 p.m.	Tryouts/Rain Make-up

Major League Standings as of Tuesday 4/18/06			
American League	W-L	National League	W-L
Orioles	2 - 0	Indians	1 - 1
Tigers	1 - 0	Cubs	1 - 2
Athletics	2 - 1	Lions	1 - 2
Giants	2 - 1	Cardinals	0 - 3

All games are played at McDonald Field unless noted.  
\*These games will be played at Braden #2.

## Volunteer Trail Day At Greenbelt Park

The National Park Service and REI will host a National Park Service volunteer day to resurface and repair park trails on Saturday, April 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Participants should wear sturdy shoes, insect repellent and gloves. Physical labor is involved, including using shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows.

Food will be available at day's end to celebrate the volunteers' accomplishments.

Registration is mandatory. Pre-register by calling REI at 301-982-9681.

The park entrance is located between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at 6565 Greenbelt Road. For information call 301-344-3944.

## Earth Day Woods Clean Up Saturday

The Committee to Save the Green Belt and Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG) invite participants to an Earth Day woods clean up. Help clean up trash in the forest preserve.



The clean up will be held on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at the end of Plateau Place. Wear old clothes. For more information call Susan Barnett, BCWWG, 301-474-7465 or Paul Downs CSGB, 301-474-6708.



### Babe Ruth Baseball Signups

Players 13-15 call Mark at 301 793-0097

Players 16-18 call Bob at 301 345-1033

Announcement  
MATH & READING TUTORING  
SUMMER DAY CAMP  
JUNE 12 through AUGUST 4, 2006  
7:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.  
AGES 5-12  
\$60.00 NON-REFUNDABLE  
REGISTRATION FEE  
\$90.00 PER WEEK CAMP FEES  
LOCATION: GREENBELT, MD  
Mowatt Church, 40 Ridge Rd.  
REGISTER AT: 301-277-8227  
Cedar Lane  
United Methodist Church  
3501 Bunker Hill Road,  
Mt. Rainier, MD 20712

### NEW DEAL CAFÉ CO-OP NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING April 30, 2006, 7:30pm MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE CAFÉ

The Co-op's Board of Directors have set this meeting to deal with questions raised in a petition signed by 23 members, received on March 21, 2006. The full petition is posted at [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com), and is posted on the bulletin board at the café. The overall purposes of the special meeting are:

(1) To challenge the disqualification of a candidate for the Board of Directors and subsequent selection by the Board of a member to fill the vacancy.

(2) To officially express concern to the Directors about their fiduciary responsibility to establish an audit committee, establish a written payment plan for all creditors, provide written financial reports on a quarterly basis, and to obtain a financial audit of the corporation's books in keeping with the Bylaws and generally accepted business practice.

Members who have paid their 2006 dues will be able to vote on Questions raised at the meeting.

**All members are welcome to attend!**

### William Shakespeare's

## The Two Gentlemen Of Verona

Directed by Stephen Cox  
Produced by Sheilah Crossley-Cox

April 28 - May 20  
Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00pm  
Sundays, May 7 & 14 at 2:00pm

\$12 General Admission  
\$10 Students & Senior Citizens

## Greenbelt Arts Center

123 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

(Next to the Post Office)

Reservations: 301-441-8770

[www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)

# Obituaries

## Ralph Barnes

Ralph Barnes, 73 Court Ridge Road, died at Holy Cross Hospital of congestive heart failure on Thursday, April 13, 2006. He had suffered a minor stroke six weeks earlier. He was 63.

Mr. Barnes grew up near Madisonville, Kentucky. He and Vera Kathleen were married in 1954. They moved to Greenbelt in the 60s, living in the 73 Court Ridge Road, where they raised their four children.

Mr. Barnes worked for Hallmark Iron Works in Newington, Va., retiring several years ago. In addition to his work, he was an active member of Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church and had been a trustee of the church. He was a member of the Gideon's - handing out Bibles to inmates as part of his jail ministry. He loved golf and fishing and watching basketball and football games on television.

He is survived by his wife Vera Kathleen of the home; his children Mary, Phyllis, Doug and Susan; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild and a second one expected soon.

Funeral services were held at Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church on Tuesday, April 18, followed by burial at Fort Lincoln Cemetery.



## Annual Egg Hunt Draws Families



Above, children and their parents hunt for easter eggs at Buddy Attick Park on Saturday, April 15. Organizers warmly welcomed a beautiful spring day, remembering that last year's activities were moved inside to the Community Center due to inclement weather.

At left, a giant bunny was also on hand to entertain the children.

## Winners of Annual Egg Hunt Named

The Greenbelt Recreation Department held its Annual Egg Hunt Saturday, April 15. For the first time in the last three years, the sun was shining and no rain was in sight. A crowd of approximately 800 people arrived at Buddy Attick Park to search for the 5,000 plastic eggs that the Bunny and his helpers scattered throughout the park.

The hunt began promptly at 10 a.m., with a countdown led by Major Judith Davis, all three Miss Greenbelts and the Bunny. The Bunny also hid a special golden egg, redeemable for a special prize, in each of the age group areas. Winners of the golden egg prizes were Annie Liu (age 18 mos. to 3 years), Jamie Sites (ages 4 and 5), Kristen Beauchamp (1st and 2nd grade), Camren Sonneveldt (3rd and 4th grade) and Drew Ables (5th and 6th grade). At the conclusion of the hunt, a large crowd stayed to watch a performance by Greg May and the Mayhem Magical Circus.



Our sympathy to Vera Kathleen Barnes and family on the death of her husband and their father Ralph Barnes.

## Synagogue Dialogue With Turkish Muslims

Mishkan Torah Synagogue will hold an interfaith dialogue with Turkish Muslims on Sunday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to noon at the synagogue, 10 Ridge Road. The dialogue will conclude in time to attend the Darfur rally. For more information call 301-474-4223.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt

SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

SERVE BREAKFAST  
AT S.O.M.E.

Sunday, April 30

Meet at St. Hugh's School

Parking Lot, 6:00 AM

## Spring Plant Sale At High Point High

The Beltsville Garden Club will sponsor the first spring plant sale of the season on Saturday, April 22 at High Point High School at 3601 Powder Mill Road in Beltsville. Quality perennials, annuals, shrubs and trees will be sold at reasonable prices. The plant sale is from 8 to 11 a.m. and will be held rain or shine.

For more information call Geoff White at 301-937-1539 or visit the garden club website at www.beltsvillegardenclub.org.

Fellowship with us at Living Word Embassy Springhill Lake Recreational Center, Cherrywood Lane, Greenbelt  
Time 10:00 AM Every Sunday  
www.anoointedwords.org;  
livingword@fmsn.com; 301-352-3657

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church  
3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)  
www.pbuuc.org  
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community  
April 23, 10 a.m.  
"Pass the Ethics, Please"  
By PBUUC Worship Associates



Barbara W. and Jaco B. ten Hove, co-ministers

## Baha'i Faith

"[God's] intention in religion has ever been the bond of unity and affinity between humankind."  
- Abdu'l-Baha'

Greenbelt Baha'i Community  
P.O. Box 245  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-345-2918 301-220-3160  
www.bahai.org www.us.bahai.org

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday 8:00am Worship Service  
9:15am Sunday School/Bible Study  
10:30am Worship Service



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4322



### Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.  
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.  
Pastor: Fr. Walter J. Tappe  
Pastoral Associate: Fr. R. Scott Hurd

## GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212  
www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net  
Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor



Sunday School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am

Weds. Worship: 7:00 pm  
(Adult Bible Study/Prayer & Children's Ministry)

Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family through Loving Service



Pack a picnic basket and join us for wholesome family movies on the lawn at Greenbelt Baptist Church. We will kick off the season with "The Chronicles of Narnia" on April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. In the event of rain we will show the movies in the Sanctuary (with projection also in the Fellowship Hall for those consuming food). We plan on showing movies every Friday Night through September 15<sup>th</sup>. Each movie night is sponsored

by one of the ministries in our Church. Here's the schedule for through the end of May, so mark your calendars and invite a neighbor or friend to join us for some wholesome Friday evening fun!

04/21	All Ministries	The Chronicles of Narnia
04/28	Men's Ministry	The Never-ending Story
05/05	Streetlights Ministry	The Sound of Music
05/12	Women's Ministry	Dreamer
05/19	Youth Ministry	It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World
05/26	Men's Ministry	Angels in the Outfield

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Dr. Paul C. Kim, Pastor

Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am  
Prayer Meeting Wed. 6:45 pm

Crossways Bible Study Tues. 7:30 pm Thurs. 10:30 am

Handicapped Accessible Come As You Are!



## Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/  
Sunday Worship  
10:15 a.m.

Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

"A church of the open mind, the warm heart, the aspiring soul, and the social vision..."

## St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

7010 Glenn Dale Road  
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)  
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org

Sundays: 8:00 am Simple, quiet Mass  
9:00 am Christian education for all ages  
10:00 am Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted  
1:30 pm Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)  
Wednesdays: 7:00 pm Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

Did you know?

Muslims pray an obligatory ritual prayer (salat) five times everyday.

In the midst of our busy and hectic schedules, it is just a reminder that there is a higher authority watching; which helps us stay on the track, a reminder that there is always the loving and caring God to fall back on whenever we feel down. It is a spiritual journey to meet the Lord and a comfort that brings peace into each individual's heart. Apart from this, of course a Muslim can call on his Creator anytime, for God is the closest to him and is always there to answer his call.

To find out more about Islam, call 301-982-9463 or e-mail us at info@searchislam.org or visit the website www.searchislam.org.

# REI GRANT

continued from page 1

damaged bridges due to severe weather in the last several years.

Upon learning that Greenbelt Park was selected to receive a grant, Hazelwood was very happy. "I think we're fortunate that this will help keep the park enjoyable for everyone who wants to camp or hike out here," said Hazelwood.

## School Holds Taste Of Holy Redeemer

The annual Taste of Holy Redeemer will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 6 until 10 p.m., benefitting the Holy Redeemer K-8th grade school. The event will include all-you-can-eat light dinner and dessert fare, a stocked cash bar and DJ David Flynn's '70s and '80s dance music.

An array of silent auction items will be displayed throughout the school and raffles will take place intermittently during the evening. The winner of the event's the 50/50 raffle and silent auction items will be announced at 10 p.m. Auction items include four box tickets to the June 25 Orioles game, a Birthday Beading Party for eight and dietary counseling service - a \$230 value.

This event will be held in the school's Four Seasons Room at 49th Street and Berwyn Road in College Park.

Tickets may be purchased at the school Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or at the door. For information, visit [www.holy\\_redeemer.org](http://www.holy_redeemer.org) or call the school at 301-474-3993.



# City Information

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

April 24, 2006, 8:00pm, Municipal Building,  
Regular Meeting  
Public Hearing on FY 2007 Budget

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Presentations

- Donation to City-Greenbelt Garden Club
- Oath of Office - New Greenbelt Police Officer - Johnnie Guy
- Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day - Proclamation

#### Public Hearing - FY 2007 Budget

**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.)

- Advisory Planning Board, Report #06-03 (Detailed Site Plan, Fairfield Apartments)
- Advisory Planning Board, Report #06-04 (Detailed Site Plan, Pulte Townhomes/Condos)

### 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 (2nd Reading, Adoption)
- A Resolution to Establish Admissions and Amusement Tax Rates in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, Effective July 1, 2006 (2nd Reading, Adoption)

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Capitol Cadillac - Off-Site Mitigation
- Roundabout Design: Metro Access Drive and Cherrywood Lane - Presentation
- Greenbelt Station Development Agreement - Approval of Contribution Timing
- Greenbelt Station - Detailed Site Plan for Pulte Townhomes and Condominiums
- Greenbelt Station - Detailed Site Plan for Fairfield Apartments

### 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](mailto:kgallagher@greenbeltmd.gov) to reach the City Clerk.

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**  
Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.  
Vacancies exist on the:  
Advisory Committee on Trees  
Arts Advisory Board  
Park and Recreation Advisory Board  
Youth Advisory Committee (adult member)  
For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

CITY OF GREENBELT

# Public Works OPEN HOUSE



**SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND**  
**11am-2pm**  
**555 Crescent Road**  
**301-474-8004**

Bring the family out to this popular annual event!

- \* Demonstrations \* Tours
- \* Hayrides \* Greenhouse
- \* Work Trucks \* Face Painting \* Kids Activities
- \* Light Refreshments



## EARTH DAY

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd**  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
HILLSIDE UNDERPASS,  
(By Crescent Road)

Celebrate Earth Day with the Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee and help plant native plants at the newly landscaped Hillside Underpass.

ATTENTION STUDENTS: Volunteer community service hours will be given.

For more information, call Cindy Murray at 301-474-8004.

### MEETINGS FOR APRIL 24-28

- **Monday, April 24th, 8:00pm, Regular Council Meeting and 1st Public Hearing on FY07 Budget**, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)
- **Tuesday, April 25th, 7:30pm, Advisory Committee on Trees**, Greenbelt Community Center, Room 103. All interested persons are welcome to attend. Info: 301-474-8004.
- **Wednesday, April 26th, 8:00pm, Budget Work Session-Public Safety**, Community Center

*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](mailto:kgallagher@greenbeltmd.gov).*

### GREENBELT AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER SPRING MINI-SESSION ADULT CLASSES ONLY MAY 8-JUNE 2ND

Passholders and Residents register April 24 & 25  
Open registration from April 26th until classes are filled. Register in person at 101 Centerway.  
Info: 301-474-2204 or [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)

**GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71**  
MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000: **Monday, April 24th at 8pm:** City Council Meeting (live), **Tuesday & Thursday, April 25 & 27: 10am & 6pm** "Ask the Expert - Healthy Cooking for One or a Couple," **7:15pm** ACE Reading Club - Greenbelt Elementary. **8:00pm** Replay of City Council Meeting.  
**PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, April 26 & 27: 7:00pm** "G-Mix 2," **7:30pm** "The Foam Ranger," **8:00pm** Greenbelt Arts Center "Death Trap."

## ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, April 22nd at 12pm**  
**Hillside Underpass**  
**(by Crescent Road)**



Join members of the Advisory Committee on Trees for an Arbor Day Planting. Following the planting, enjoy a tour of large and unusual trees throughout the city. Tour will also pick up at the Public Works Open House. Info: 301-474-8004

# ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29TH**

**9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Public Works Yard**  
**555 Crescent Road.**

City residents, businesses and organizations can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items. Accepted items include: central processing units, monitors, keyboards, printers, laptop computers, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, computer mice, Fax machines, recording equipment, cameras, telephones, radios and televisions - 19" or smaller.

Televisions larger than 19" and large stereo units are NOT ACCEPTED.

For further information, contact the City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8308.

## Academy 8 Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall  
Center Court  
301-220-1155

All shows starting before 6 p.m.  
Are ONLY \$5.00  
R = ID Required

(!) = No pass, No Discount Ticket

### WEEK OF APRIL 21 FRI. & SAT.

**The Sentinel** (!) PG13  
1, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 10:35

**Silent Hill** (!) R  
1:30, 5, 7:50, 10:25

**The Wild** (!) G  
1, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:45

**Scary Movie 4** (!) PG13  
1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8, 10:30

**Take the Lead** PG13  
2, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10

**Phat Girlz** PG13  
1:20, 4:50, 7:35

**ATL** PG13  
10:15

**Ice Age 2** (!) PG  
1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50

**Inside Man** R  
Fri. - 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:20

Sat. - 1:45, 4:20, 10:20

Sneak Preview Sat. 7 p.m.  
Akeelah and the Bee

### SUNDAY

\*Mon - Thurs. also  
**The Sentinel** (!) PG13  
1, 3:20, 5:30\*, 7:40\*

**Silent Hill** (!) R  
1:30, 5\*, 7:50\*

**The Wild** (!) G  
1, 3:10, 5:15\*, 7:20\*

**Scary Movie 4** (!) PG13  
1:15, 3:30, 5:45\*, 8\*

**Take the Lead** PG13  
2, 4:45\*, 7:25\*

**Phat Girlz** PG13  
1:30, 4:50\*, 7:35\*

**Ice Age 2** (!) PG  
1:10, 3:15, 5:20\*, 7:30\*

**Inside Man** R  
1:45, 4:30\*, 7:15\*

## BUDGET continued from page 1

with California Landscape and Design, Inc (CLD). However, Craze noted that the company has advised them that it can no longer build the facility for its contract cost. For one thing, the cost of concrete has escalated significantly, she said. Craze thought this issue could be resolved without delaying the project. She noted that changes in the design were required in order to bring the facility further away from the back corner of the Youth Center gym. It will still encroach upon the existing road/walkway from the parking lot at the swimming pool to the parking lot behind the Youth Center. It will be necessary to modify drainage next to the building and to shift the road/walkway. Craze felt that the city could put this added work into a separate contract with CLD and that would satisfy the contractor's need for additional money.

### Movie Theater

Plans are still being prepared for renovating the Old Greenbelt Theatre. It has been determined that it will be necessary to replace the heating, ventilating and air conditioning system. Other planned work is renovating the bathrooms to meet handicap regulations, replacing plumbing and electrical systems and otherwise bringing the facility up to modern fire and safety codes. With the added cost for an HVAC system, it is not expected that funds will be available for other improvements beyond those necessary.

Total cost for theater renovation is budgeted at \$672,671. The bulk of this expense will come out of the proceeds of a recent bond issue. The city also has received a \$50,000 Maryland Community Legacy grant.

According to City Manager Michael McLaughlin, the city receives rent of \$1,500 a month from the theater operator. It receives an additional \$600 in rent for the use of the projection equipment which the city purchased from the operator. These funds are applied against the cost of repaying the outstanding city debt, McLaughlin said.

### Playgrounds

Several people were present to hear the discussion about funds for playground improvements, including Gary Thomas of the Windsor Green Homeowners Association. The budget includes funds for renovating one playground at Windsor Green.

The city has been maintaining the playgrounds in original Greenbelt. Many of these are located in small city-owned parklets throughout the Greenbelt Homes area. Some are on GHI land. For those the city shares maintenance responsibilities with GHI the city is responsible for maintaining the play equipment and GHI maintains the land. Jointly the city and GHI have been upgrading these playgrounds.

More recently council agreed to enter into joint maintenance agreements with other property associations for their playgrounds, if they so choose. Windsor Green has entered into such an agreement.

A survey found that many pieces of equipment did not meet modern safety standards and they had to be removed. Windsor Green, according to Thomas, is concerned as to the extended length of time it could take to restore these playgrounds.

City funds for this purpose have been limited to providing

enough to do only one playground a year with the 75 percent cost share of the city amounting to \$15,000. It was noted that with the funds allocated for work this year plus the funds proposed to be budgeted for the next year, two playgrounds can be done. McLaughlin said that it might be possible to obtain Program Open Space state grant funds for this purpose.

### Observatory

A permit has been obtained for erecting the observatory structure acquired by the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt some time ago. It is expected to be under construction by early summer. The observatory is to be located to the north of the Northway ballfields. The city has allocated \$9,000 for the project with the rest of the cost to be paid by the society.

### Other Projects

Other projects included in next year's budget are: improvements to the police station parking lot (\$25,000); two additional bus shelters (\$2,000); erection of either city designed gateway signs at city entrances or Anacostia Trails Heritage Area directional signage depending on how fast the Anacostia signage plan moves (\$12,000); resurfacing of parts of Hanover Parkway and Megan Lane (\$164,000); continuation of the city's program to repair deteriorated concrete curbs, driveway aprons and sidewalks (\$30,000); a restroom facility at Buddy Attick Park to be partially financed with a \$100,00 state Community Development Parks and Playgrounds grant (\$200,000); erection of a storage shed on Braden Field for use by two sports groups (\$13,000); replacement of more windows at the Greenbelt Community Center at a city cost of \$200,000 to be supplemented by reallocation of a \$300,000 state grant previously made for an addition to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center; construction of a "Wall of Honor" memorial at the Greenbelt Community Center (\$13,000); cleaning of the stone-carved reliefs at the Community Center and the Mother and Child statue at Roosevelt Center (\$40,000) and stabilization of the storm water outfall on the south side of the Hillside Road underpass with engineering work undertaken this fiscal year.

### Planning Department

Craze and Assistant Directors Terri Hruby (for Planning) and Jim Sterling (for Development) reviewed the many activities undertaken by the department's staff. The department is responsible for the review of all construction proposals to be done in Greenbelt, a particularly burdensome task with the intensive and ongoing submission of plans relating to the construction of the proposed Greenbelt Station multi-use, transit-oriented, high-density project to be built at the Greenbelt Metro Station and to the south of it and the proposal to tear down the Springhill Lake apartment development and replace it with more than twice as many rental and owner-occupied apartment and townhouse units. Sterling pointed out that once the planning project is done, his code enforcement section will be responsible for site and grading inspection and will inspect all new roads constructed at these locations.

The department staff is also responsible for overseeing the

planning and construction of city capital projects. Any requested variations or departures from standards proposed for townhouses are also reviewed by city staff.

Sterling's section inspects all rental units annually for compliance with city housing codes. He showed pictures of some of the vandalism and improper maintenance that has taken place at various building common areas and within apartments.

Other Community Development activities include animal control and parking enforcement. Sterling took note of the recently completed animal shelter and the department's interest in putting together a volunteer support group for the facility.

### Needs

Craze related problems faced by the department due to inadequate space for the staff and the need for more storage space. Noting that all planning design is now being done with computers, she requested authorization to purchase a scanner/copier/printer to handle large-size drawings. She noted that storing plans electronically is one way that office space could be better utilized and pointed out that the department has been receiving numerous multi-paged plan documents for review. She also asked for portable wireless computers that staff can use to access information while away from their desks or working at home. The computer slide presentation shown to council, which failed to respond to several prompts, pointed out the department's need for new, more sophisticated computer and display equipment, she noted.

No request is being made to increase the size of the staff of nine full-time and one half-time employees. The staff will be supplemented by professional engineering help contracted and paid for out of fees received from permits charged to new developments. These expenses are not shown in the budget.

The total departmental budget request proposed by the city manager for fiscal year 2007 is \$312,800, a two-percent increase over the \$306,100 of estimated spending for this year.

There is a separate budget for animal control. It is proposed at \$67,500, an increase of \$3,100 over current year estimated expenditures. The budget provides for one full-time animal warden and relies on the county animal control service and the Greenbelt Police Department to assist in animal control when the city warden is off duty. Overseeing the city's dog park is a part of the responsibility of this service.

### COMPUTERS

Systems Installation  
Troubleshooting,  
Network, Wireless  
Computer Design and Upgrades  
Antivirus, Anti-Spam, Firewall  
IBM, Dell, HP, Gateway  
JBS 240-606-6020  
301-474-3946

### Continental Movers

Free boxes  
Local - Long Distance  
\$75 x two men  
\$85 x three men  
301-340-0602  
202-438-1489

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## COUNCIL continued from page 2

### CERT Team

Several of the 30 graduates of Greenbelt's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program were introduced to council members. CERT classes are offered free through the Prince George's County Volunteer Center and Office of Emergency Management. They are open to community members interested in developing a planned response to severe weather events and other disasters.

Bill Holland, a CERT graduate, coordinates the program for the city's Public Safety Advisory Committee.

### Education News

Councilmember Leta Mach shared a disturbing statistic learned while attending a meeting of Prince George's County elected municipal women the previous week: "Dr. Leroy Tompkins, chief accountability officer of Prince George's County Schools, presented an alarming fact: although the high school graduation rate is currently high, only 14 percent of this year's class would have been able to graduate in 2009, when the four-part High School Achievement test becomes a requirement for graduation."

Mayor Davis said this is a wake-up call for the entire community: "We either help students now or else the future non-students will help themselves to what we owe them."

The next regular city council meeting is Monday, April 24 and, as always, is open to the public.

### Special Day

Arbor Day and Earth Day will both take place on April 22. Council honored Bob Trumbule from the Advisory Committee on Trees for upholding Greenbelt's designation as a "Tree City U.S.A." by maintaining green space and educating citizens about the value of trees.

The Advisory Committee on Trees will begin Earth Day early in the morning by planting trees at the Crescent Road and Hillside Road underpass. They will begin Arbor Day activities at noon by planting native Maryland trees such as sweet bay magnolias along Greenbelt's roadways. Trumbule will guide a city-wide tree tour for citizens later.



Come to the  
**COLLEGE PARK FARMER'S MARKET**  
Local farmers and vendors offering fresh fruits, vegetables, garlic, bakery goods, jellies, potted herb plants, bedding plants, cut flowers and herbal products

5211 Paint Branch Parkway  
(formerly Calvert Road)  
in College Park - across from Airport

**We're starting earlier this year!**

April 29 through November 18  
Saturdays from 7am - 12noon

*Publick Playhouse*



**Saturday,  
April 22, 8 p.m.**

The renowned modern  
dance company is the  
hottest show in town!

**Dallas Black Dance Theatre**

**301-277-1710 TTY 301-277-3012**

Prince George's Publick Playhouse 

***Greenbelt Consumer Co-op Ad***

## Dog Stolen at Post Office Recovered on Wednesday

by Bill Cornett

The owner's name has been omitted from this article to help avoid reprisals.

A beloved family pet was brazenly stolen from the Roosevelt Center on Saturday in a incident where the suspect chased the animal over half a mile and was caught on several security cameras. But in a fortuitous turn of events, the owner was able to recover the animal.

The owner had a short errand to run at the post office and since the post office does not allow dogs, he tied Ace up to the bike rack by the front door. "I took the leash off of his collar and I wrapped the loop around the pole and then I pulled the latch through the loop and that creates a ring around the pole," said the owner. "Then I re-attached it to his collar. That's how I normally do it." The owner was horrified to walk out of the post office a few minutes later, to see that both the dog and the leash were gone. With the way he had attached the dog, only a human could have undone it.

"He (the suspect) would have had to hold on to Ace's collar in order to unlatch the latch and Ace can be pretty hard to hold on to, especially with someone strange," said the owner. "My guess is that Ace just took off. Unfortunately, the guy was able to follow him."

Not completely realizing at the time that it was a theft, the owner walked back to his house on Lakeside and enlisted several neighbors in the search. One young helper, Bridget Cornett, spoke with a group of friends at the Youth Center. "They said that they had seen Ace come by several minutes earlier and a man was chasing him."

At approximately 9:35 a.m., a household video security camera spotted Ace — without his leash — running down Lakeside Drive from the direction of Crescent Road, followed by an African-American male running at a fast clip.

Ann Paskalides reported seeing a man matching that description chasing Ace, who had stopped at the front door of a house on Lakeside Drive. The man chased the dog around the side of the house. "I just thought he was someone helping (the owner) catch Ace," Paskalides said. "You'd never think that someone would be stealing a dog."

A second household security camera caught the suspect, this time with the dog on a leash, coming out from behind a neighbor's house. The video shows the man with the dog in tow, stepping onto the blacktop sidewalk that runs between Lakeside Drive and the lake path, putting on a light-colored sweat shirt or sweater and proceeding down the hill toward the lake path. That took place about 9:39 a.m. Since both security cameras record 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the homeowners were able to retrieve the recordings and turn them over to the police.

Since the day was warm, police



The owner's daughter welcomes Ace back home on Wednesday.

PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT

found the fact that the man put on a long-sleeved garment interesting. "It would have altered his appearance," says Greenbelt Police spokesperson George Mathews. The officer also says that the police are pursuing the matter. "Any crime, especially one where there is an emotional attachment to an animal, certainly we would take

that seriously." Mathews says that having both an eyewitness and the security video recordings will help identify the suspect.

On Tuesday evening, both human and canine friends of Ace gathered in front of the post office for a candlelight vigil. The owner read from a piece he wrote about a sojourn with Ace that was published in the News Review in 2002 and participants held up pictures of Ace with the words "Bring Back Ace" printed above them. "I feel so sad for my friend," said Celsiana Cornett, who is a friend of the owner's eight-year-old daughter.

"She (the daughter) was very upset, as you can imagine," says the owner.

"It's like losing a child," says Monique Jezierski, who attended the vigil. "It's absolutely like having a piece of your heart ripped out, not knowing what happened, not knowing if they're suffering and frightened."

Unfortunately, animal theft can be a very large business. The USDA website ([www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)) and other resources say that dealers can earn as much as \$700 for each dog that they sell to research labs and most dogs bring from \$250 to \$500. Many websites with information about stolen dogs advise owners that they shouldn't leave dogs out alone in a fenced yard and to have the pet tattooed with the owner's Social Security Number on the thigh or have an RFID tag implanted by a vet. Also, dogs can be used as "bait" to train pit bulls for fighting, the details of which are far too awful to describe in a family newspaper.

Wednesday afternoon, acting on a hunch, the wife of the owner decided to drive around town. "I saw a teenager on the front stoop of an apartment building holding Ace. He had the same leash on as when he was stolen." The woman confronted the teenager, demanded her dog back, grabbed the leash and took him.

Not just the family but the entire neighborhood reacted with joy when it was announced that Ace had arrived back home, with neighbors dropping by with treats. The owner says that he has learned an important lesson and that he will never leave a dog unattended again. "I thank everybody for giving us support and prayers. It's a complete miracle that we got our dog back." Ace was obviously happy, too, as he kept wagging his tail and licking his owner's arm.

### Robberies

April 7, 8:20 p.m., Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Terrace, a man reported that he was walking home when he was approached by as many as six people, one of whom demanded money from him. After obtaining money and the man's jacket, the suspects fled the scene on bicycles toward the 6200 block of Breezewood Drive. The suspects are described as 13 to 18 years of age and wearing dark clothing.

April 7, 9:41 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, a food delivery person reported that he had just made a delivery and was walking back to his vehicle when he was approached from behind by four youths. One of the youths grabbed him by the neck and choked him while a second youth demanded money. The second youth then reached into the victim's pocket and removed money. All four fled the scene toward Springhill Lane. The suspects are described as male juveniles all wearing dark clothing. One was 5'10" and weighed 125 pounds; another was 5'7" and weighed 130 pounds.

April 9, 11:28 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, a man reported that he was walking to an apartment building when he was approached by two other men. One displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. After obtaining the man's wallet and cell phone, both suspects fled the area on foot. The suspects are described as two black males, both 18 to 25 years of age and wearing blue jeans and black hooded jackets. One was 6' and the other was 5'10" tall.

### Assault

April 5, 1:30 a.m., 100 block Periwinkle Court, police responded to a report of an assault in progress. Upon arriving on the scene an officer observed a man and another person arguing. At one point the man shoved, kicked and bit the officer. Both the officer and suspect were transported to the hospital for treatment of injuries. On April 7 an arrest warrant was obtained charging a resident man with second-degree assault on a law enforcement officer.

April 7, 9:17 p.m., 9200 block Springhill Lane, a man reported that he was riding his bike when he was approached by as many as five people, also on bikes. One of them pointed at him what he believed to be a handgun. The man fled the area on his bike; at one point he fell from the bike, resulting in cuts to his arm and hand. He was treated on the scene by ambulance personnel for his injuries. There is no definitive description of the suspects.

### Drug Arrest

April 7, 10:46 a.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road, a non-resident man was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of paraphernalia after police stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. Upon approaching the vehicle to speak with the driver, the officer observed a quantity of suspected marijuana in plain view and also found elsewhere in the vehicle paraphernalia commonly used to smoke marijuana. The man was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

## Police Blotter

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



PHOTO BY ANDY CARRUTHERS

On April 17 members of the newly-formed Old Greenbelt Neighborhood Watch on their inaugural patrol, line up on the Gladys Noon Spellman pedestrian bridge over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. From left: Lou Vazquez, Bhameny and Tom Fishbeck, Jan Wolf, Harris Maclay, Linnea Berge and Ed James. Anyone interested in learning more or getting involved should contact Vazquez at [vazquezlrjuly06@yahoo.com](mailto:vazquezlrjuly06@yahoo.com) or call 240-678-6490.

### Vandalism

April 11, 8:46 a.m., Ivy and Lastner Lanes, unknown person(s) damaged playground equipment at a city playground.

### Theft

April 13, 12:40 p.m., Greenway Center, a black Coach wallet containing U.S. currency was taken from a store counter.

### Disorderly Intoxication

April 4, 2:05 p.m., Cherrywood Lane and Breezewood Drive, a resident man was arrested and charged with disorderly intoxication after police observed the man in the roadway in front of oncoming vehicular traffic. He had trouble standing and could not walk unassisted. Police detected the odor of what was believed to be an alcoholic beverage on his breath. The man was released on citation from the police station pending trial.

### Forgery

April 11, in reference to an occupied suspicious vehicle reported March 7 at Hedgewood Drive and Ivy Lane, an arrest warrant has been obtained charging a resident woman with forgery of a private document, uttering a false document and possession/use of a false government document.

### Burglaries

April 5, 6:41 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered a residence by breaking out a window. A VHS/DVD player was taken.

April 8, 10:55 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Court, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered a residence by forcing open a rear window. The only

property reported missing is a cell phone.

April 10, 6:11 a.m., Roosevelt Center, a commercial burglary was reported.

April 11, in reference to a burglary reported February 18 in the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway, an arrest warrant has been obtained charging a man of no fixed address with fourth-degree burglary and malicious destruction under \$500.

April 13, 11:30 a.m., 6200 Springhill Drive, it was reported that unknown person(s) entered a residence through an unlocked door and stole children's clothing.

### Vehicle Crimes

Two vehicles were stolen: a 1996 Honda Accord 4-door from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive and a 2001 Chrysler 300 4-door from the 6200 block Springhill Court.

Six stolen vehicles were recovered, two by Greenbelt police and four by outside police departments. No arrests were made in any of the recoveries.

Theft from, attempted theft from and vandalism to vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza, 6100 block Breezewood Court, 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, 9100 block Edmonston Court, 6200 block Springhill Drive, 6500 block Capitol Drive, Parkway, 7 Court Ridge Road, 38 Court Ridge Road, 7800 block Hanover Parkway (three incidents), 7800 block Emily's Way, 8000 block Mandan Road and Kenilworth Avenue at Pontiac Street.



### The Taste of Holy Redeemer

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# Segways Bring Freedom, Pleasure to Riders

by Shirley Middleton

Have you seen a strange-looking two-wheeled device with a foolishly grinning, helmeted person riding around Greenbelt? That's me riding my recently acquired Segway. (The Segway's name is Gilda, representing both her golden color and the name of a good friend who went with me on many adventures in our youth.)

For those who haven't heard about them, Segways are two-wheeled, battery-powered, personal transportation devices that use gyroscopes and computers to maintain an upright position. Operating one is very simple: to go forward, you lean forward. To go backward, you lean back. To stop, you just stand up straight. If a Segway runs into something, its main pole gets pushed back, causing it to stop.

Turning requires using a hand control on the left side: turn it right to go right and left to go left. It's that simple! If you can stand, you can operate it. And, yes, it's fun!

I have gotten many second looks as I glide along. I frequently hear a sibilant "Segway!" following me, interspersed with shouts of "Cool!" and "I want one!" A fellow who has M.S. and a Segway and a blog (<http://segwayman.blogspot.com/>) told me, "I'm sure you've discovered that you get a lot of attention while using it in public. I frequently tell people that 'You don't want to ride it if attention bothers you.'

"I do enjoy that aspect of it very much," he added, "at least now people are looking at me for something I can do and not looking at me and feeling sorry for me."

Some people have stopped me to ask about it, how it works, how fast it goes (up to 12.5 miles an hour on a level, smooth surface), how much it costs (about \$5,000 - see how much my husband loves me!), how long the battery lasts (about three years) and where we bought it (from a retired pilot in Annapolis who began selling them out of his garage as a way to keep himself occupied).

I have M.S. and have found it wonderfully helpful in allowing me to explore my community. When I moved to Greenbelt two years ago, I was able to walk from our house close to Northway to the Center a couple of times a day. Now I find it difficult on some days to make it once if I've done any activity beforehand.

It was most frustrating! I had gotten a bicycle this past fall to help me get down to the Center and library but it had the disadvantage of requiring me to use my leg muscles and potentially "run out of gas" before I got home. My long-suffering and loving husband bought it for me because he wanted to go on walks with me without me giving out after an hour or so.

The first weekend we had it we took it to Washington to look at the cherry blossoms. When we had gone with a group of visiting students two years ago, I could only make it about a quarter of the way around the Tidal Basin. This time we went completely around it and then went past the Roosevelt Memorial, the Lincoln Monument, the Vietnam War Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the World War II Memorial.



Shirley Middleton rides her recently acquired Segway through Greenbelt.

instead of being able to just look at the cherry blossoms, I had to keep my eyes on the crowds of other people around me so I didn't run over their toes or bump into them. I was successful except for one instance when a man crossing the street approaching me was distracted by conversation and walked into me. (I was stopped.)

Although the Segway was originally created with able-bodied users in mind, it has been a wonderful help for those of us with mobility problems. There is an organization called Disability Rights Advocates For Technology (DRAFT) at <http://www.draft.cc/draft3/Home/tabid/36/Default.aspx> that advocates for those who use Segways for their mobility device. They are also associated with Segs4Vets, which believes that any returning veteran with one or two leg amputations who could benefit from a Segway and desires one ought to have one. This group accepts donations to provide such veterans with Segways.

And I wasn't exhausted when we got home!

One disadvantage was that

Greenbelt is just the kind of place where Segway use is ben-

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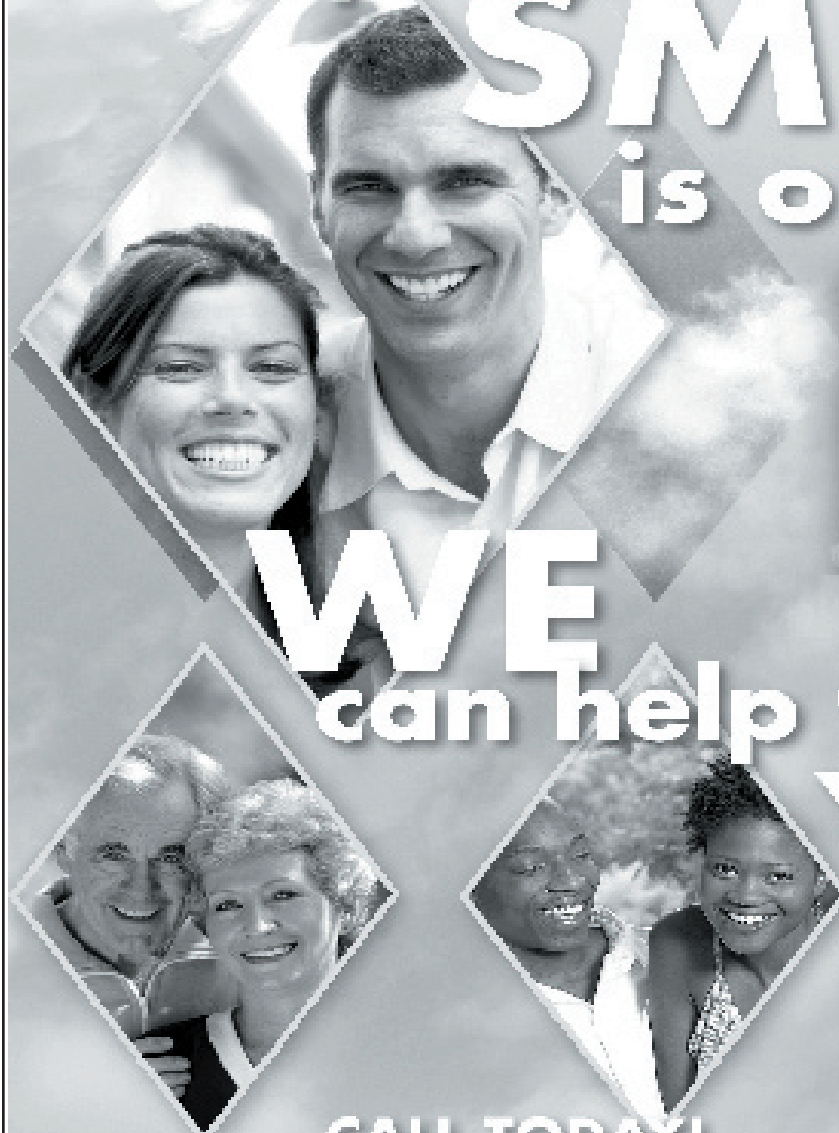
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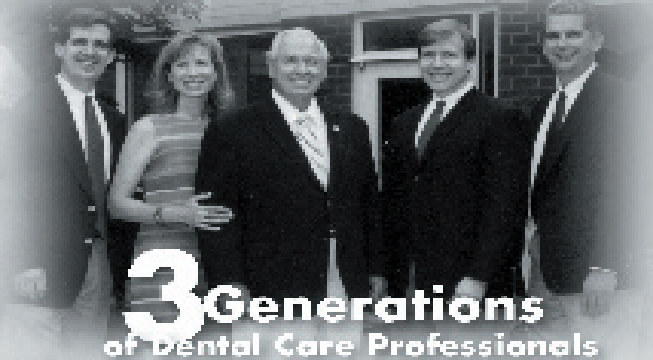
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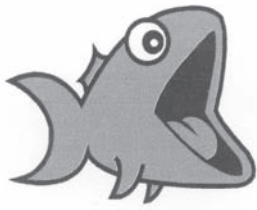
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# Tornado Touches Down in Greenbelt April 5

by Uri Yokel

We believe that a tornado or tornado-like winds may have touched down here at 153 Research Rd. on Wednesday, April 5 at about 7 a.m. My wife, who was home at the time, described the sound like that of a large jet plane landing on our roof. Three large pine trees, including a 100-year sturdy specimen, were snapped and blown helter-skelter, miraculously missing a boat, garden shed and two cars. Interestingly, there was no evidence of any wind damage anywhere except in that one spot.



One tree was snapped in two pieces with the trunk landing between two cars not more than four feet apart and not close to its stump! The top half of the same tree was deposited about 30 feet away and is still dangling from another treetop.

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**Friends of the Greenbelt Museum  
Annual Membership and Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.  
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road  
Multi-Purpose Room (Room 201)**

**Agenda**

- Sign In and Refreshments
- Curator's Report
- President's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Incoming and Outgoing Board Members
- Question and Answer Period
- Door Prize

The Curator will provide an exclusive SNEEK PEAK at several newly acquired objects to the collection, including a few from the Roy Braden Family collection, at the meeting. Don't miss this chance to see these fascinating objects close up!



## CALLING ALL CANDIDATES for

**GHI Board of Directors, Audit (Board Oversight) and  
Nominations and Elections Committee Elections**

Candidate Consent Forms due to GHI offices by  
5:00pm May 5, 2006. Forms can be picked up at the  
GHI offices or call Debbie Cooley 301-441-9158.

Annual Meeting May 18, 2006

**PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS!**  
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.



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Lanham, MD 20706

Monday - Friday  
7:30 am - 6:15 pm

### DAILY FIELD TRIPS

Six Flags  
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Roller Skating, Go Kart  
Movies and More

### FUN ACTIVITIES

Dodgeball, Tug-o-war  
Obstacle Course

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