

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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

JANUARY 14, 2010



PHOTO BY THOMAS X. WHITE

In accepting the award to CHEARS, Maggie Cahalan explains the proposal to bring people from all parts of Greenbelt together to address "good urban planting practices."

## Three New Project Grants Awarded by Foundation

by Thomas X. White

The winter awards ceremony of the Greenbelt Community Foundation (GCF) was held on Sunday, January 10 at the Camp Fire USA Community Center in Empirian Village. This was the sixth semi-annual grant cycle for the GCF since it was organized in June 2006.

In addition to representatives of the three organizations being awarded grants, the awards ceremony and reception was attended by friends and contributors to the Foundation. It was hosted by the Campfire USA organization at the Empirian Village apartments.

### Award Recipients

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) was awarded a \$1,500 grant for its Greenbelt Three Sisters Demonstration Project. The CHEARS project will involve residents in Greenbelt West, Greenbelt Center and Greenbelt East as they work together growing food and fostering more sustainable land care practices.

Grant funds will be used for public educational and design workshops in each of the three sections of the city and to purchase fruit and nut trees for initial plantings. Receiving the award on behalf of CHEARS, Maggie Cahalan expressed gratitude to

GCF; she described their project as an effort not only to improve the community's knowledge and awareness of good urban planting practices but also to address social and geographic divisions between the various neighborhoods of Greenbelt.

CHEARS will work with Greenbelt city staff and other organizations in the three sectors to coordinate project activities and select appropriate sites for the proposed plantings.

Transitions Theatre, Inc. was awarded its first GCF grant award (\$3,750) for the theatrical arts to support their project to produce "Greenbelt Voices," a collection of monologues about transitional life events of Greenbelt residents showing how their experiences affected them and their community. The project envisions that the personal narratives would come from a diverse group of people in all areas of Greenbelt and embracing all time periods.

Misha R'Kingsley, president of Transitions Theatre, Inc., accepted the award, expressing appreciation for GCF's decision to fund their innovative project. Andrew (Sandy) Irving, treasurer of the Greenbelt Arts Center, was

See **GRANTS**, page 6

## Loss of Electricity Empties 98 Apartments at Empirian Village

by Mary Willis Clarke

At the January 11 city council meeting, councilmembers were informed that 59 Greenbelt families, residents of Empirian Village, have been displaced from their homes because their apartments have no electricity. The city declared the units unfit for habitation.

Additional information indicates that the electrical problems are even more extensive than reported at the council meeting. Seven buildings of 14 units each (98 apartments) are without electric power in Empirian Village. Without electric power the units affected would have no lights, heat or hot water. Empirian Village management has rented blocks of rooms, 72 in all, at the College Park Clarion and Quality Inn hotels. Families were notified of the alternate living arrangements beginning on Saturday, January 2. There are not as many hotel rooms as vacated apartments since not all affected residents have moved to the hotels; some have found other housing on their own.

### Resident Hardships

For many of the displaced residents, transportation from the

new locations is very difficult. Initially children were missing school because they couldn't get to Springhill Lake Elementary School from the College Park hotels. The school system has now classified the affected children as homeless making them eligible for transportation and certain other services. In order to access transportation and other services the parent or guardian must go to the child's school to complete a homeless education form.

Meals are also a hardship. Only about half of the hotel units have microwaves and small refrigerators. Otherwise there is no provision for meal preparation. The hotels are providing breakfast. While the children receive lunch at school, those not in school do not. Families are also on their own for the evening meal. Empirian Village management is not providing meals beyond the hotel breakfasts.

### Assistance to Displaced

According to a letter delivered January 11 to those in the hotels, it is anticipated that the electrical issues will be resolved by January 19. However this goal is dependent on PEPCO completing the transformer and power upgrades. The letter provides contact information for agencies which might provide assistance to the displaced residents but does not indicate whether management will refund rent for the time units were not fit for habitation. In the meantime, those wishing to help the displaced residents can donate fast food gift cards and foods in

pop-top cans or other nonperishable items that can be eaten cold. Over the coming holiday weekend, contributions can be left at the Greenbelt police station. Grocery store card gift cards would be helpful when tenants are able to return to their apartments. Greenbelt CARES will see that the donations get to the intended recipients. Gift cards should be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Empirian Village" and given to the police communications officer just inside the front door of the station.

### Electrical Problem

The News Review has learned that management at Empirian Village sought to convert from central heating and air conditioning to more energy efficient individual units with utilities paid by the tenants. The new units required more power to the buildings than the previous central systems provided. PEPCO was to upgrade transformers and other electrical elements in October to support the new heating systems. The power upgrades were not completed as planned and the electrical system failed when it could not sustain the heavy power draws caused by the extremely cold temperatures at the end of December.

### No New Tenants

This extensive power failure is just the latest in an escalating series of maintenance issues at the large apartment complex. Director of Planning and

See **APARTMENTS**, page 11

## City of Greenbelt

December 15, 2009

Empire American Holdings, LLC  
c/o David Teiler  
25 Phillips Parkway  
Montvale, NJ 07645

Re: Expired License  
Empirian Village Apartments  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Mr. Teiler:

The City of Greenbelt is responsible for enforcing property and housing standards. Through this program, we administer an annual rental housing licensing and inspection program. We are writing to convey to you our grave concern with the operation of the Empirian Village apartment complex in Greenbelt.

Your license to rent apartments in the City of Greenbelt has expired and will not be renewed. Any units now vacant or that become vacant in the future may not lawfully be occupied without prior written approval of the City of Greenbelt. Please provide us with a list of all vacant units at this time.

The violation notice you were issued on 04/17/09, specified a compliance date of 5/18/09 that you were unable to meet. You were issued State of Maryland Uniform Civil Citations (municipal infractions) for failing to

See **LETTER**, page 11

## Empirian Property Management

August 24, 2009

Dear Residents,

We've made a few changes to better serve your needs.

Service to your home:

Empirian Village Apartments is now offering scheduled service appointments from 9 PM to Midnight. We've extended our service hours to better accommodate your schedule. To take advantage of this opportunity, you can either contact the office at 1-888-233-6750 or through email at [evmaintenance@epmapartments.com](mailto:evmaintenance@epmapartments.com).

Secondly, we are aware that many residents are dissatisfied with the response time from maintenance. As a result, many residents have been calling the City of Greenbelt expecting a faster response time. Unfortunately, when you exercise this option the Greenbelt Inspectors are writing monetary fines for Empirian Village and for you the resident. If it is found that the infraction is the result of something that has been caused by the resident, then management will charge the fine and the cost of those repairs to the residential account. The charges will be due on the first of the following month with your rental payment. Some items that could be charged from the inspections include:

- Housekeeping challenges,
- Holes in the walls not associated with the complaint,
- Broken windows, etc.

Please feel free to contact the maintenance department at the number and e-mail address above with questions.

## What Goes On

Thursday, January 14

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

Monday, January 18 – City and GHI Offices Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Wednesday, January 20

7 p.m., APB Meeting to Discuss Citywide Pedestrian and Bike Plan, Community Center

8 p.m., Council Worksession re: City Manager Update on Pre-budget, Community Center

Saturday, January 23

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

# Letters to the Editor

## In Defense of GCGC

I am writing in response to letters by Harriette Phelps and Colette Zanin regarding the Greenbelt Community Garden Club (GCGC). Both writers seem to expect the GCGC to provide services far beyond its ability or mandate. In addition, Ms. Phelps' letter is full of factually incorrect statements that need to be addressed.

I think my family's experience speaks to the value of the GCGC garden plots, despite the GCGC being a fairly minimalist organization and the gardens somewhat frumpy. I have been a GCGC member since 2000. Since then, my wife and I have grown most of the vegetables we consume year round (this month's selections include fresh kale, carrots and salad greens; stored potatoes, onions and garlic; and diverse canned and frozen vegetables). Other gardeners share this same level of dedication and success. Thus, I am interested in the continued successful gardening opportunity the City of Greenbelt provides to dedicated gardeners and hope the letters by Ms. Phelps and Ms. Zanin do not leave News Review readers the impression that the gardens and the GCGC do not provide an important service to the Greenbelt community.

It is important to understand the current status of the GCGC. The person in charge of allocating the plots (the sole role of the GCGC at that time) for many years moved away in 2007. Since then a new group of garden coordinators has stepped up, though somewhat reluctantly — they are busy people — to fill the leadership void. Thus, although the GCGC has been around a long time, in its current incarnation it is a nascent organization feeling its way toward a new structure, new leadership and new ideas.

The people in the new leadership positions were elected, set up a listserv to facilitate communications among members, have held a number of meetings to specifically address Ms. Phelps' and others' concerns and have been meeting regularly to develop a group structure, including developing bylaws. Ms. Phelps is aware of these meetings and has attended many of them, so her accusation that the group meets only once per year, as well as her other accusations, are bizarre and unfounded.

Ms. Phelps' comment that the GCGC leadership did not support her proposals is accurate.

Her statement that "due to active opposition by the Greenbelt Garden Club" her proposals "were never considered," however, is a complete fabrication. The membership as a whole discussed her proposals at two lengthy meetings and on the listserv. It quickly became apparent that her interests were not broadly shared by the membership (e.g. perimeter fence) and that there were important details not adequately addressed in her proposal (e.g. how to meter and pay for water). Though encouraged to incorporate these ideas into her proposal and again share the proposal with the membership, she did not do so. These deficiencies are the reasons the leadership (and the membership) did not support her proposals. For her to now lambaste the GCGC members and the process itself is a slap in the face to those of us who spent many hours providing feedback to help her improve the proposal.

Finally, both letter writers refer to the challenges of gardening and the lack of support from the GCGC in alleviating these challenges. As any experienced gardener knows, there are many challenges to growing healthy plants. There are deer, moles, turtles, groundhogs, caterpillars, fungi, bacteria and a host of other critters more than happy to eat what we plant. The weed competition in this area is incredible. The soils are poor. The weather is challenging — e.g., we had 10 weeks in 2007 with essentially no rain while 2009 was much too wet. There are ticks, mosquitoes, the sun is hot and it is often very humid. Both letter writers seem to suggest that the GCGC should help them battle these challenges. The GCGC has very few resources and it is not the job of the local garden club or its members to garden for you. I suggest that if you are not willing to deal with the adversities inherent to gardening, a better way for you to support local food production would be to shop at the Greenbelt Farmers' Market or to become a member of the local CSA (Community Supported Agriculture [http://www.calvertfarm.com/csa\\_info.htm](http://www.calvertfarm.com/csa_info.htm)).

However, if you are willing and able to take on the challenges of gardening and working together cooperatively to improve gardening options in Greenbelt, then help us build the nascent GCGC by bringing construc-

tive ideas, positive energy and a cooperative approach to GCGC meetings. Meeting locations and times are advertised in the News Review.

Michel Cavigelli

## On the Garden Club

Greenbelt residents first formed a garden club in the fall of 1938. I have been a member since the 1970s, was once an officer and wrote what was probably the first Garden Club bylaws. I suppose I knew some of the earliest members of the group.

At times this club has promoted interests beyond basic gardening. At other times, the group does only the basics, assigning plots and providing a focal point for gardeners of the community. The leadership of the last several years has carried on the basic responsibilities but also encouraged and sponsored related activities from time to time, such as group purchases and other activities.

Recent letters to the editor include unkind comments about the leadership and direction of the Greenbelt Garden Club. I will discuss several points: (1) the Garden Club leaders deserve praise, not criticism, (2) gardening is hard work if done correctly and (3) those wanting assistance in gardening should pursue this in a positive manner.

All Garden Club leaders are volunteers. It is unfortunate the recent letters criticize them. I believe the current leaders are carrying on in the best traditions of the club and doing their best to maintain and promote community gardening, while also providing control and organization in the gardening arrangement as it generally has existed for almost 75 years. The articles seem to propose several things that would impose additional requirements on the members. I'm sure that if the members agreed, they would encourage the leadership to pursue the requested goals.

If I understand what is now being proposed, it would include more involvement of the city, the county and local businesses. While admitting that the city might want to provide financial or other sponsorship for the ideas being promoted, I think those who support this can work for it without criticizing the leadership of the Garden Club and those who have worked so strongly

See **LETTERS**, page 8

## Grin Belt



"Sorry, but we can't take those pine cones on the plane. They look like fireworks."

## NAMI Workshop Looks at Court

On Thursday, January 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hanco Building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road, New Carrollton, the local chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) will hold a workshop on the Prince George's County Mental Health Court. The presenters will be Judge Patrice Lewis and the mental health court team.

The mental health court team will explain how the court works within the correctional system as well as benefits and services for mentally ill inmates and their families. Join in to obtain current information on this new program.

## Correction

In one of the photos of Greenbelt New Year 2010 Rock This Town celebration in last week's paper, we misidentified the school attended by the group On Strike in the top photo on page 8. Three of the four are Greenbelters and all four On Strike members Jake Tuthill, Brad DePrato, Stephen Cox and Danny Parisi, are proud students of DeMatha Catholic High School and its highly ranked music program.

The News Review regrets the error.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887  
301-474-4131 • FAX 301-474-5880  
email: [newsreview@greenbelt.com](mailto:newsreview@greenbelt.com)  
website: [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

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

Jon Aerts, Jackie Bealle, Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell, Rebecca Boggs, Judi Bordeaux, Jessi Britton, Sharon Carroll, Mary Willis Clarke, Paula Clinedinst, Agnes Conaty, Bill Cornett, Cynthia Cummings, Peter Curtis, Patricia Davis, Fredda Dingle, Elizabeth Eny, Joan Falcão, Chris Farago, Eli Flam, Kathleen Gallagher, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, Erin Gatewood, Denise George, Bernina McGee Giese, James Giese, Marjorie Gray, Carol Griffith, Pat Hand, Stacy Hardy, Shirl Hayes, Solange Hess, Karl Hille, Rebecca Holober, Barbara Hopkins, Larry Hull, Elizabeth Jay, Ginny Jones, Sharon Kenworthy, Suzanne Krofchik, Meta Lagerwerff, Sandra Lange, Jane Larrick, Tami Le, Susan Lesser, Kathleen McFarland, Emma Mendoza, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Diane Oberg, Linda Paul, Leonie Penney, Altoria Bell Ross, Ann-Marie Saucier, Jon Sham, Brian St. George, Angela Stark, Helen Sydavar, Nancy Tolzman, Heba Toulan, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Thomas X. White, Marie Wong, Bay Woods and Renata York.

CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

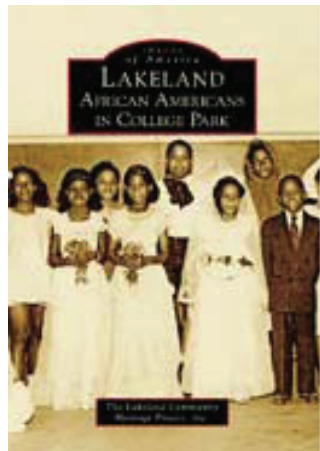
## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Carol Griffith, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Mary Willis Clarke

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.

## GREENBELT MUSEUM



## Lakeland: African Americans in College Park

Tuesday, January 19  
7:30pm

Greenbelt Community Center  
Room 201 **FREE!**

Learn about nearby Lakeland, the historical African American community of College Park formed around 1890. Members of the Lakeland Community Heritage Project will discuss the history of Lakeland and their new book which will also be for sale. For information call 301-507-6582, or visit [www.greenbeltmuseum.com](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.com). Sponsored by the FOGM Dorothy White Lecture Fund.

## OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF JAN. 15

Young Victoria

(PG)

Friday

\*5:15, 7:30, 9:40

Saturday - Monday

\*3, \*5:15, 7:30, 9:40

Tuesday - Thursday

\*5:15, 7:30

\*These shows at \$6.00  
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745  
129 Centerway  
[www.pandgtheatres.com](http://www.pandgtheatres.com)





Greenbelt members of the Community Garden Club were saddened to hear of the death of Gardener Jack Andrews on January 6. A resident of Beltsville, he was a regular at the Hamilton Place gardens.

Our sympathy to Thomas X. White on the death of his sister, Teresa White Dobson of Vienna, Va.

Our sympathy to News Review staffer Sue Krofchik of Fayette Place on the death of her aunt in Pittsburgh on January 5, 2010.

Congratulations to Dr. Stuart D. Jordan, who was elected along with 15 other notable figures in science and skepticism to the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI), publisher of Skeptical Inquirer science magazine. Chosen for "distinguished achievement in science and skepticism," all have made major contributions to science and reason, critical inquiry and public education. Included are people in a wide variety of scientific and scholarly fields and prominent writers and investigators from five nations and eight U.S. states. CSI promotes scientific inquiry, critical investigation and the use of reason in examining controversial and extraordinary claims.

Best wishes to News Review staffer Nancy Tolzman of Orange Court for a speedy, uneventful recovery from surgery.

We wish a speedy recovery to Bill Souser, who had surgery this week.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

— Kathleen McFarland

### Legion Post #136 Upcoming Events

On Friday, January 15 from 8 p.m. to midnight The Martones will be playing classic rock and oldies. John and Joe Martone enjoy playing with family and friends and bringing back old memories from growing up in Greenbelt. They look forward to seeing old time Greenbelters and new Greenbelters. (See ad on page 3 for information.)

There will be a membership meeting for the Sons of American Legion Squadron 136 on Tuesday, January 19 starting at 7 p.m. On Thursday, January 21 at 7 p.m. there is a general membership meeting, to which all veterans and members are welcome. The Ladies Auxiliary Unit 136 meeting is also held on Thursday, January 21 at 7 p.m. A free meal for members starts at 6:15 p.m.

On Saturday, January 23 from 8 to 11 p.m. there will be dancing to music by DJ "Rock'n Ron." No charge; everyone is welcome.

Greenbelt Post 136 is at 6900 Greenbelt Road. Visit the website at www.greenbeltmdpost136.org or call 301-345-0136 for details.

### Berwyn Concert Held on Saturday

The Berwyn Concert Series is preparing to host its next performance at Berwyn Presbyterian Church, 6301 Greenbelt Road, Berwyn Heights. This free performance will be on Saturday, January 16 (Snow Date: January 23) at 2 p.m. and will be a violin and piano duet. Natasha Bogachek-Dasha Gabay Duo is a musical partnership that celebrates the true spirit of collaboration. Formed in 2003, they perform a varied repertoire that spans the Baroque Era to the 20th Century.

The concert will feature the Tartini Sonata in G-minor ("Didone abbandonata"), Prokofiev Sonata #2 in D-major, Tchaikovsky Meditation Valse-Scherzo Gershwin-Heifetz and five pieces from "Porgy and Bess."

### Wii Bowling Is a Hit, Tournament Coming

Seniors at Green Ridge House and the Community Center are having a great time with Wii Bowling. Starting at Green Ridge House back in May and at the Community Center in June, both now have their own Wii systems. Due to the popularity of the game, a Wii Bowling Tournament pitting a Green Ridge House team against a Community Center team has been set for spring.

Wii bowling is played at the Community Center every Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and at Green Ridge House from 1 to 3 p.m.

Come practice for the tournament – the more players, the better the tournament will be.

For questions or more information call Karen Haseley at 301-397-2208.

### In Memoriam – Jack Andrews

Jack was very giving with his time with the Greenbelt Community Garden Club, especially at the Hamilton Place Gardens. He and his friend Kenny put in many volunteer hours over the years trimming weeds and brush, improving paths and roadways and hauling debris. Jack was also always willing to lend a helping hand to other gardeners and he was very willing, too, to stop and talk awhile about gardening.

His vegetable garden was impressive and always immaculate. He was a very dedicated gardener and a friend to the Greenbelt Community Garden Club.

Our sympathies extend to his friend Cindy Keppel of Greenbelt and to all of his friends and family. He will be missed by his fellow gardeners.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held on Saturday, January 16 from 1 to 5 p.m. at College Park Moose Lodge #453 at 3700 Metzert Road in College Park

— Robert Trumbule, Greenbelt Community Garden Club

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
 Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
 www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410  
 Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00am    Worship Service 10:00am  
 Prayer Meeting Sun. 9:45 am

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads  
 Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
 www.greenbeltucc.org  
 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..."

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday 8:15 am    Worship Service  
 9:15 am    Sunday School/Bible Study  
 10:30 am    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: Rev. Walter J. Tappe  
 Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd

**Congregation Mishkan Torah**  
 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

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

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.  
 Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults.  
 Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children.  
 Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program.  
 Opportunity for leadership development.  
 Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors.  
 Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities.  
 Interfaith families are welcome.

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
 3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi  
 Phone: 301-937-3666    www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 17, 10 a.m.  
 "When the Wind Lifts Your House" by Rev. Diane Teichert with Marilyn Pearl, worship associate and the choir.  
 A wonderful story in the autobiography of Georgia Congressman John Lewis (a comrade of Martin Luther King, Jr.) gives us inspiration and a sermon title.

Release yourselves, O nightingales of God, from the thorns and brambles of wretchedness and misery, and wing your flight to the rose-garden of unfading splendor. (Baha'u'llah)

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community  
 1-800-22-UNITE    301-345-2918  
 Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com    www.bahai.us

**Greenbelt Baptist Church**  
 101 Greenhill Road  
 Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212  
 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Welcome!

Sunday 9:45 am    Sunday School  
 Sunday 11:00 am    Worship Service  
 Wednesday 7:00 pm    Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!  
 "Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"

**St. George's Episcopal Church**  
 Join us around a table where all are welcome!

Services

- Sundays
  - 8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)
  - 10 a.m. main service (music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)
- Wednesdays
  - 7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)

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

**Hope Fellowship**  
 ... living life together

**Bible Study & Worship**

9:30 "Good Morning! Coffee and Snacks  
 10:00 a.m. Bible Study    11:00 a.m. Worship  
 Pastor Nigel C. Black, MDiv.

99 Centerway Greenbelt Rec Center  
 (Behind the Community Center)

BE A PART OF OUR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION!  
 301-474-4499

**Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS**

Sundays 10 A.M.  
 Municipal Building

**Call for Donated Yarn For Charity Stitchers**

Stitch for Charity, a Greenbelt Community Center program, uses donated yarn to stitch many items, then donates them to veterans' homes, senior citizen homes and hospitals.

Anyone who has leftover yarn they do not need is asked to donate it to Stitch for Charity. Yarn donations may be dropped off at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

For questions call Karen Haseley at 301-397-2208.

**NAMI Support Group Meets**

The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) New Carrollton area support group will meet at the Hanko Building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road, New Carrollton on Monday, January 18 from 10 a.m. to noon. This supportive work group prepares the mailing and provides other volunteer tasks while sharing their experiences, challenges and solutions.

For more information contact Marge Owens at 301-345-1572.

**Museum Presents Book Discussion**

On Sunday, January 17 at 2 p.m. join Larry E. Tise at the College Park Aviation Museum as he discusses his new book, "Conquering the Sky: The Secret Flights of the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk." The book follows the Wright brothers' rise to fame on the historic Outer Banks, to the quickly expanding role of the world press and the flights' repercussions in war and military technology. This event is free with museum admission.



College Park Arts Exchange  
**ARTS WORKSHOP: LATIN DANCE**  
 Saturdays, Jan. 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 3:30-5 pm  
 at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park  
 Send \$15 and contact info to College Park Arts Exchange,  
 PO Box 784, College Park, MD 20741.  
 www.cpae.org • 301-927-3013 • info@cpae.org



# City Information

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City Offices will be closed Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

**REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE**

Week of January 18

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday

Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday

Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday

Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, January 22.

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

Vacancies exist on: Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Board, and the Youth Advisory Committee

For more info call 301-474-8000.

**CITY OF GREENBELT JOB OPENING**

Aquatics Coordinator I (\$43,326/A) F/T Responsible for the staffing, training, supervision, programming and mechanical operations of the Aquatic & Fitness Center. Must have experience in marketing programs. Bachelor's degree in Recreation or related field and one year of progressively responsible related experience in an aquatic facility, or any combination of education and experience may be accepted. Must have current ARC Lifeguard Training Certification and First Aid Certification. Must have ability to obtain a Prince George's County Pool Operator's License and American Council on Exercise Certification required within three months of employment. ARC Water Safety Certification preferred. Apply at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) EOE

**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES.**

In observance of the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Greenbelt City Council and the Community Relations Advisory Board join President Obama and others by encouraging residents to take part in community service opportunities. During these challenging economic times, the demands on service organizations are greater than ever. Throughout the City's history, Greenbelters have generously volunteered their time for the betterment of our community.

You can use the links below to find more information on service opportunities in our area.

**The online home of President Obama's "United We Serve" initiative: [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)**

**Prince George's County Volunteer Center: [www.princegeorgesvolunteer.org](http://www.princegeorgesvolunteer.org)**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov)**

**MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 18-22**

Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, at the Community Center. On the Agenda: Discussion of the Citywide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: City Manager Update/Pre-Budget**, at Community Center.

*This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000 or contact the City Clerk at [cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov).*

**ELECTRONICS RECYCLING**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 23rd 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at Public Works Yard**

City residents can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items. Bring your items to the collection bins located at Greenbelt Public Works, 555 Crescent Road.

Accepted items include: TVs, CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptop computers, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, fax machines, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, CFLs and fluorescent tubes 4' and under (residential only), alkaline batteries taped on one end. Also accepted – expanded polystyrene (block "Styrofoam" #6).

**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE FOR DROP-OFF OF MORE THAN 10 ITEMS OR ITEMS OVER 50 LBS. PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE.**

**For further information, contact the Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8308**

**75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

The celebration of the City's 75th Anniversary will occur in 2012. Applications are being accepted from residents interested in serving on this volunteer planning committee. Applications are available on the City website, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), or at the City Office Building, 25 Crescent Road. Council will begin interviewing applicants soon.

**GREENBELT SENIOR CENTER TRIP OPENINGS**

There are still seats available to see "I Love You, You're Perfect Now Change" at Toby's in Columbia (10am-4pm) on Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010 AND "Ain't Misbehavin'" at Toby's in Baltimore (9:30am-4:30pm) on Thursday, Feb. 25. Each show is \$60 residents and \$70 non-residents and both are now open to any adult who would like to join us. The cost includes transportation, lunch, show, and all gratuities. The bus leaves from the library parking lot at the beginning times listed above.

The Greenbelt Senior Center has just set up a new trip to see the Terra Cotta Warriors at National Geographic on February 18, 2010. Registrations for any senior citizen are now being accepted on a first come, first served basis. If you are interested in joining us, the \$27 resident rate includes transportation, entrance to see the warriors and an individual audio tour listening device. Lunch is on your own at the California Grill. The bus will leave from the library parking lot at 10:30am and return by 3:30pm. You may register at the Greenbelt Community Center. Please call 301-397-2208 for more information. Remember, seats are limited and this is first come, first served!

**CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION**

Your discarded Christmas Tree can be recycled. Please bring trees to any of the pick-up areas listed at [http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/public\\_works/Refuse\\_Recycling/holiday\\_tree\\_collection.htm](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/public_works/Refuse_Recycling/holiday_tree_collection.htm) by February 5, 2010.

**ANIMAL SHELTER PETS OF THE MONTH**



**Congratulations to Bucks on his adoption!**

**Duke:** 1 year old neutered male long haired tuxedo. Good with other cats.

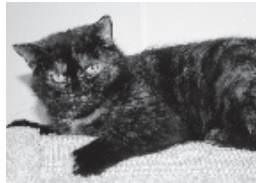


**Pumpkin Pie:** Buff and White colored long haired female. Very friendly.

**Cinnamon:** High energy and very playful female

1 1/2 years old white Jack Russell mix.

**Shannon:** Long-haired female torti. Beautiful cat!



**Become a fan of the Greenbelt Animal Shelter on Facebook! Greenbelt**

**Animal Shelter, located behind the Police Station at 550-A Crescent Road, is open on Wednesdays, from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment. For more information on any of these pets, call 301.474.6124. The shelter is in need of kitty litter. Please drop off at the shelter any time.**

**FUN N' FITNESS AEROBICS**

High/low impact aerobics, kickboxing, toning and weights. Babysitting available. Class is held Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9:30am-10:45am at the Greenbelt Community Center. Winter session begins January 25th. Call 301-397-2208 for information.

## GRANTS continued from page 1

on hand at the ceremony as fiscal agent for Transition Theatre, Inc. He noted that the GAC is enthusiastic about the opportunity to be the venue for Greenbelt Voices.

### PTA Project

The third grant award (\$4,000) was given to the Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) Parents and Teachers Association for their sponsorship of an Arts in Action Project, allowing teachers to access funds to bring qualified local artists into GES classrooms through artist in residency programs, to purchase art supplies and to support other activities bringing arts of all genres into the classroom.

Mimi Noorani, president of the GES PTA, accepted the award, describing the excitement and joy the award will bring to the classroom environment.

Noorani was joined in acceptance of the grant award by GES Principal Kimberly Seidel and teacher Beth Novick. Novick described how grateful she was for the Foundation's efforts, in its first three years, to have such a great impact on the life of the Greenbelt community.

The Awards Ceremony was conducted by the officers of the GCF Advisory Board. Co-chair Emmett Jordan welcomed GCF contributors, guests and city and county officials attending the

function. He provided an update on GCF accomplishments, noting that since GCF was organized, it has raised over \$145,000 in contributions and has been able to award \$52,000 in grants to worthy community organizations and projects. With the three new awards GCF has provided grants for 17 projects, ranging from as little as \$450 to \$4,000.

### Founding Mission

Co-chair Sylvia Lewis focused on GCF's adherence to its founding mission statement – to maintain, improve and enrich the quality of life in Greenbelt. In particular they would promote cooperative endeavors and undertake projects that celebrate, respect and build upon the legacy and ideals of Greenbelt – cooperation, citizen involvement, collaborative self-sufficiency and community participation.

She also noted how the first 17 projects have fostered new organizations in the city's life, focused on several programs for Greenbelt youth, directed funds for improvement of the environment and addressed social and community issues. All 17 proj-



**Mimi Noorani, Greenbelt Elementary School PTA president receives a \$4,000 grant from Sylvia Lewis, co-chair of the Greenbelt Community Foundation.**



**Misha R'Kingsley, accepts her grant award from co-chair Emmett Jordan left, for her proposal to present "Greenbelt Voices" at the Greenbelt Arts Center. She is accompanied by Andrew Irving, representing the Arts Center.**

PHOTOS BY THOMAS X. WHITE

ects awarded thus far, she said, have "comported marvelously" with the original mission.

GCF Vice Chair Eulalie Lucas, the last speaker, viewed her role as reminding everyone that the good work of the Foundation would not have been possible without the many donations and pledged contributions that have helped the organization grow in

its first three years. She urged potential donors to contact GCF at PO Box 234, Greenbelt, MD 20768 or visit the GCF website at [www.greenbeltfoundation.net](http://www.greenbeltfoundation.net).

For those interested in grant award applications, the next application deadline is April 15. In a recent action by the GCF Advisory Board, the maximum

for a grant award has been raised to \$5,000.

Application information can be obtained at [info@greenbeltfoundation.net](mailto:info@greenbeltfoundation.net) or by a mail request at GCF, PO Box 234 Greenbelt, MD 20768.

*Thomas X. White is a board member of the Greenbelt Community Foundation*

## New Play: Reunion Of Survivors

For years playwright Nicole Burton kept a tattered newspaper obituary about an African American soldier who liberated a concentration camp. One day she was compelled to write the play that became Fred and Frieda.

"I spent months researching at the U.S. Holocaust Museum and interviewing Jewish friends who'd escaped Germany," said Burton. The fictional play, a composite of research and first-person interviews, tells the story of an African American soldier who rescues a German Jewish girl in 1945 when his Black tank battalion stumbles onto her concentration camp.

Throughout her life, Frieda denies being a survivor but a visit by her grandfather's ghost and a tale told at her synagogue convince her she must tell her son the truth before it's too late. Yet when she tries, she can't remember the harrowing rescue. Haunted but determined, she calls on Fred to describe the day his "Black Angels" broke through the Ohrdruf fence and saved her.

Reuniting with Frieda, Fred must face his own demons but this time, not alone.

The play has had five successful readings in the Washington area, giving the playwright opportunities to listen to audience members who in many cases lived through the experiences she dramatizes. Celebrating the transforming power of memory and storytelling, it has been called "poignant" and "deeply moving."

Fred and Frieda will be produced at the Greenbelt Arts Center on April 15-18. "We're hoping lots of students and synagogues and veterans' groups will come because a 70-minute play is a creative way to teach WWII history and the history of segregation in the U.S. Army," said Burton. A short discussion will follow each performance.

– Ginny Zanner, director

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Fresh Lean Beef Boneless Top Round London Broil	<b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	Fresh Value Pack Chicken Leg Quarters	<b>69¢</b> lb.	Fresh Value Pack Southern Style Pork Spare Ribs	<b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	Kunzler Sliced Bacon Assorted 1 lb.	<b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>

**Dairy**

Tropicana Pure Premium Orange Juice Assorted 64 oz.	<b>\$2<sup>69</sup></b>	Smart Balance Vegetable Spreads Assorted 15-16 oz.	<b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>
Kozy Shack Assorted Puddings 22 oz.	<b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>	Silk Assorted Soymilk 64 oz.	<b>\$3<sup>00</sup></b>

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Willow Brook Chicken Breast Roll	<b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> lb.
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Deli Gourmet Mini Colby Longhorn Cheese	<b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b> lb.

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Swanson Hungry Man Dinners Assorted 15-18 oz.	<b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>	Birds Eye Steam Fresh or Regular Vegetables Select Varieties 10-16 oz.	<b>\$1<sup>25</sup></b>
Turkey Hill Ice Cream Assorted 1.5 qt.	<b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>	Marie Callender's Complete Dinners or Pot Pies 10-21 oz.	<b>\$3<sup>00</sup></b>

**Health & Beauty**

Western Family Multi Purpose Contact Solution 12 oz.	<b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b>
Herbal Essences Hair Care Products Select Varieties 6-17 oz.	<b>\$3<sup>00</sup></b>

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Fresh Catch Wild Caught Sea Scallops	<b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b> lb.
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Fresh Store Baked Italian Bread loaf	<b>\$1<sup>19</sup></b>
Breakfast Treat Iced Cinnamon Buns 6 pk.	<b>\$2<sup>79</sup></b>

**Grocery Bargains**

Ragu Pasta Sauce Assorted 16-26 oz.	<b>\$1<sup>25</sup></b>	San Giorgio Assorted Pasta 12-16 oz.	<b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>	Kellogg's Original Corn Flakes or Crispix 12-18 oz.	<b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>	Tide 2X Liquid Laundry Detergent 50 oz.	<b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b>	Thomas' Original English Muffins 6 pk.	<b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>
Del Monte Canned Vegetables Select Varieties 11-15 oz.	<b>75¢</b>	Bumble Bee Chunk Light Tuna 5 oz.	<b>75¢</b>	Hellmann's Mayonnaise Original or Easy Out 22-30 oz.	<b>\$3<sup>00</sup></b>	Progresso Traditional Soups Select Varieties 18-19 oz.	<b>\$1<sup>50</sup></b>	Nabisco Chips Ahoy Cookies Assorted 14-15 oz.	<b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>

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## LETTERS continued from page 2

within the current organization for many years.

It is my understanding that the garden plots always have been approximately 50 feet by 50 feet or 2500 square feet as reported in "Greenbelt, History of a New Town, 1937-1987," p. 78. I don't consider this huge, as reported in two letters.

Many members share plots if they do not want to use a whole plot. Traditionally, once members have their plot, they can retain it from year to year. The Garden Club does not force them to take a different plot each year. Members who garden in the same area year after year often share tilling, mowing, mulching and clean-up chores. They give each other advice. They generally do this without complaining about what others do or don't do. Since about the 1980s deer have been a problem. I am among those who believe that only an 8-foot fence can ward off a deer (except perhaps for spreading human hair all over your garden).

Until recently I had never heard the idea of the city erecting fences and otherwise assisting in gardening work. Perhaps the city could support those who wanted to garden but were physically unable to do the work. The city could set aside a new area for gardening for persons who wanted only a very small amount of space, fence it off, till it, provide water and otherwise control the area. Perhaps the city also could provide even more help to those who need assistance in hoeing, weeding and so forth. Maybe Greenbelt CARES could provide such a service. I believe that GHI and some of the other organizations and associations also have the facility in place for supporting such activities. Perhaps support for such ideas could be done while leaving the typical Greenbelt garden activities undisturbed and could be fostered in a positive rather than a negative manner.

*Wayne Williams*

### Good Ideas

The letters submitted by Harriette Phelps and Colette Zanin regarding the Greenbelt community Garden Club bring up some good ideas that deserve attention from the club and the city but also put forth some unfair characterizations. Among the good ideas – a fenced area with smaller plots, communal tools, member volunteer service and a source of water. Making these ideas reality will require teamwork and attending to some practical issue like location – where can the smaller plots go? What water source makes the most sense and where should it be located, etc.? Needs should be assessed and goals established by the club, something that will undoubtedly be easier if, rather than simply complaining and flinging insults, members work together respectfully to solve problems.

While there is an occasional problem with claimed but unused plots, likening long time gardeners to squatters (Zanin 1/07/10) is simply unfair and offensive. It can take several years to build healthy, fertile soil and some gardeners lovingly tend their plots year after year; they are caretakers not squatters. Small plots would be best

for some gardeners while others are capable of gardening larger areas; both types of plots can be accommodated. The overall tidiness of the gardens has improved dramatically over the past several years and continues to improve as a result of twice-yearly clean-up days. I strongly disagree with Ms. Zanin's description of the gardens as dump. I personally have never had a problem reserving a plot when I could not make the annual meeting and as for communication with other members, we have a listserv for that purpose and it has worked quite well so far. Some of the other issues mentioned – ticks and mosquitoes for instance – can be minimized but not eliminated and weeds – well, that's just part of gardening.

I have been a member of the garden club for eight years and it has been a rewarding experience. I find the other gardeners friendly and helpful, sharing advice, tools and even physical labor when another needs help.

The club may be experiencing some growing pains as we transition from an informal organization to a more structured and formal one but I'm confident that, working together, we can satisfactorily address the needs and concerns of all members.

*Renata Atkinson*

### Not a Tidy Hobby

As a member of the Greenbelt Garden Club and a gardener for over 17 years I feel that having an opportunity to garden is one of the best things that ever happened to me. I am very appreciative of the City of Greenbelt for allocating these plots to people in the community who want to garden. The chance to garden means a lot to me.

Greenbelt gardeners usually must install a fence around their plot, are aware that they will have to tolerate heat and bugs and accept that they will have to carry their own water. The gardeners I have come in contact with are helpful and encouraging. I have seen gardeners lend a hand to fellow gardeners when they need help with physical tasks. The fee is \$10 for a plot (50 ft. x 50 ft.) and it can be shared with other gardeners. Gardening is hard work. You have to love it.

I remember when we had a very bad drought a few years ago and I decided to walk around to see what other gardeners were able to grow in such difficult conditions. I was amazed at what I saw. The talent and perseverance were amazing to me. I saw all kinds of wonderful things growing despite the hardship caused by the drought.

Many of these talented gardeners also put in fall gardens and I have seen plots with vegetables such as lettuce, kale and collards growing even in the winter.

The garden club has scheduled two clean-up days per year, which I think is a great idea so we can keep our plots in order. Gardening is not a tidy hobby, so it's natural that plots will appear untidy at times.

I am glad to be a member of the Greenbelt Garden Club and I thank the City of Greenbelt for making this land available to those of us who love to garden.

*Donna Almquist*

### Dangerous Dogs Present a Threat

A warning and reminder to pet owners – last Saturday, as I finished a walk with my Cairn terrier (think Toto), I started up the path that leads from the bridge to Lakeside Drive. About two-thirds down that path a lady stood holding two very large dogs, one black and one brown. When I asked, the woman said the dogs were Cane Corsos, a type of Italian mastiff which, upon research, I found usually weigh between 85 and 100 pounds.

She asked if I was coming up the path and I said that I was. She asked me to wait while she moved her dogs off to one side of the path. As my dog and I walked past on the far side of the path, the woman was unable to control her dogs and they viciously attacked my dog. I was able to rescue my dog from the attacking dogs but not before he had been seriously bitten, requiring a visit to the vet.

My veterinarian said that he could have easily been killed by the two dogs. The purpose of this letter is not only to warn you about those two dogs but also to remind owners of small dogs, as well as parents of small children, not to take for granted that owners of dogs can always control them and to be vigilant when approaching animals with which you are not familiar.

*Jim Cowan*

### School Showcase On Special Programs

On Wednesday, January 20 from 6 to 8 p.m. the Prince George's County Public Schools will offer a showcase in Upper Marlboro on its specialty programs and public charter schools and lottery details. It will be held at the Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School, 12650 Brooke Lane in Upper Marlboro.

Representatives from each program area and public charter school and the biomedical and international baccalaureate programs will be at the showcase to share information. Brochures and applications for the Specialty Programs and Public Charter Schools 2010-2011 lottery will also be available online at [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org) and in schools, offices and public libraries by mid-January.

## Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or [http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly\\_report.pdf](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf). Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Attempted Robbery

An attempted robbery occurred January 7, 5:32 p.m. in the area of Beltway Plaza Mall. Two males approached a person, displayed a knife and demanded the person's jacket. They were chased off by the person they were robbing and are described as two Hispanic males approximately 17 years old, 5'7" tall with thin builds wearing dark jackets and tan pants.

### Concealed Weapon

January 6, 1 p.m., 7600 block Hanover Parkway. A resident juvenile was released to a parent pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services after being petitioned for carrying a knife.

### Burglaries

December 30, 3:25 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace. Laptops, an iPod and a cellphone were taken.

January 4, 6:38 p.m., 8100 block Mandan Terrace. A non-resident juvenile was released to a parent pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services after being petitioned for first degree burglary after breaking into a home.

January 5, 4:17 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Drive. A television and camera were taken.

Attempted burglaries occurred on January 4 in the 6100 block Springhill Terrace and on January 5 in the 5900 block Cherrywood

Terrace and 100 block Westway.

### Vandalism

Rocks were thrown through windows on January 3, 2:36 p.m., in the 6100 block Springhill Terrace and on January 4, 6:54 p.m., in the 6000 block Springhill Drive.

### Disorderly Conduct

January 2, 2:35 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. A 26-year-old nonresident male was arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and released on citation pending trial.

### Vehicle Crimes

On January 3 a blue 1995 Honda Accord with MD tags was reported stolen from the 6200 block Breezewood Drive.

A silver 1998 Lincoln Navigator with MD tags reported stolen from the 6000 block of Springhill Drive on January 7 was recovered the same day in the 5000 block Litton Avenue in College Park with no arrests made.

Thefts from autos were reported in the 8000 block Mandan Road (GPS unit), 9100 block Edmonston Road (MD tag), 9200 block Edmonston Road (purse), 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace (expiration sticker), 9100 block Springhill Lane (car stereo).

There were two reports of vandalism, 7800 block Mandan Road (car window was broken) and at Beltway Plaza Mall (car was scratched).

*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. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.*

Currently five specialty program areas are offered in the school system: biotechnology, creative and performing arts, French immersion, Montessori and talented and gifted (TAG). There are four charter schools: EXCEL, Imagine-Foundations, Imagine-Lincoln, and Turning Point Academy, with two new charter schools, Possibility STEM Preparatory Academy and Sojourner Truth Preparatory, sched-

uled to open for the 2010-2011 school year. Space in the programs is limited with participation through the annual lottery process. Participation in the Creative and Performing Arts program also includes an audition process. Applications must be submitted to the Department of Pupil Accounting and School Boundaries by 5 p.m. on March 24 to be entered into the lottery drawing on April 15.

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**NOTICES**

90-hr CHILD CARE COURSE, Greenbelt Children's Center. M/W, 6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. Starts January 25. \$425 includes textbook. Deborah Wood, 301-576-3423.

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
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The Marquise de Merteuil (Jaki Demarest) and the Vicomte de Valmont (Joshua Engel) scheme to exact revenge in GAC's current play "Les Liaisons Dangereuses."

**A Review**

**A Scheme for Revenge Stirs Plot of GAC Play**

by Carol Griffith

Greenbelt Arts Center's current play "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," a steamy tale of intrigue and seduction amid the French aristocracy in 1785 is perfect to allay the chill of this winter.

In it the beautiful and powerful Marquise de Merteuil has plotted a scheme to get revenge on her husband for having left her, enlisting the help of her old friend, the Vicomte de Valmont. Her plan involves seducing two women: one an innocent young woman who has just left a convent school and the other a young married woman known in the court for her piety and virtue.

The Marquise's and Vicomte's self-absorbed scheming, in the guise of giving advice and befriending those they seek to ruin and their depraved behavior leads to a tragic ending.

Originally written in 1782, the play was popular among the French aristocracy it depicts. It was adapted to the English stage by Christopher Hampton, who changed the setting to 1785 and added content referring to the French Revolution.

Several movies have been made from that adaptation, most famously "Dangerous Liaisons" with Glenn Close, Michelle Pfeiffer and John Malkovich in 1988.

The very experienced cast members, many of whom are new to the GAC stage, give great performances. Jaki Demarest as the Marquise gives a chilling portrayal of the cold and soulless woman who rationalizes her behavior as the only way

a woman can gain any control, given women's precarious positions in society.

Joshua Engel is a wonderful Vicomte. His voice seems to drip evil as he uses those around him for his depraved purposes. Shannon Riley and Morrigan Condo are perfect as the two victims of the plot with just the right amount of emotion.

Greenbelt's Amityyah Elayne Hyman and frequent GAC performer Melissa B. Robinson turn in great performances as well.

Director Stephen Cox and producer Sheila Crossley-Cox, well-known to GAC, have put on a topnotch production. The staging and costuming are excellent.

The play is nearly three hours long with one intermission. The action builds quickly and sustains the tension. The scenes are quick – nine to each act – and powerful.

Because of its sexual content the play is inappropriate for children and young teens.

"Les Liaisons Dangereuses" will play on the Friday and Saturday evenings of January 15 and 16, 22 and 23, and 29 and 30, at 8 p.m.

Two Sunday matinees are scheduled: January 17 at 2 p.m. and January 31 at 3 p.m. Reservations may be made through the box office at 301-441-8770 or at the Arts Center at 123 Centerway, located beneath the Co-op supermarket.

**Next Reel and Meal Film Is Foodmatters**

The next movie in the Reel and Meal at the New Deal film series will be Foodmatters, to be shown at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 18. There is no charge for the film; an optional vegan meal is available for purchase starting at 6:30 p.m.

Foodmatters is a hard-hitting, fast-paced look at health. Urging people to take healthcare into their own hands, the film makes the point that despite billions for funding and research into cures, people continue to suffer from chronic ills and everyday maladies. The film focuses on what is called a worldwide trillion dollar "sickness industry" and suggests that nutritional therapy can be more effective, economical and less harmful and invasive than conventional medical treatment.

The film features interviews with medical experts worldwide who discuss natural approaches to preventing and reversing cancer, obesity, heart disease, depression, mental illness and many other chronic conditions. The film urges viewers to find out what works, what doesn't and become informed about choices for themselves and their families.

For more information call Cam MacQueen at 301-345-6293 or email worldisvegan@aol.com.

**Menu for Senior Nutrition Program**

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals need to be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for January 18 through 22 are:

Monday – All sites closed for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Tuesday – Orange juice, stuffed cabbage, whole boiled potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit cup.

Wednesday – Minestrone soup, turkey cutlet with gravy, cornbread stuffing, okra and tomatoes, fresh tangerine.

Thursday – Orange pineapple juice, baked tilapia with butter sauce, seasoned cabbage, home-fried potatoes, strawberry parfait.

Friday – Cranberry juice, beef stew with gravy, yellow rice, California blend vegetables, fruit salad with coconut.

**Explore Sleep Apnea**

Snoring can be serious – a nuisance to some, for others it can signal a potentially serious medical condition. The Friday, January 22 session of Explorations Unlimited will focus on sleep apnea. This is a common disorder characterized by brief interruptions of breathing during sleep and affects 12 million Americans according to the American Sleep Apnea Association.

Dr. Riad Dakheel, Medical Director of the Sleep Center at Doctors Community Hospital will discuss symptoms, health risks and how to diagnose and treat sleep apnea.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. This presentation will be held in the Senior Classroom, Room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are encouraged.

Call 301-397-2208 for more information.



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**LETTER**

continued from page 1

comply with that notice on two different occasions. As of today, those fines have not been paid. It was agreed that if the violation dated 04/17/09 and later updated on 8/4/09 showing what violations were remaining, were corrected and all the fines paid that were over twenty (20) days old, a license would be issued.

Unfortunately since that time, complaints at the property continue to be called into this office at a historically high rate. Inspectors are finding that violations issued as a result of complaint inspections are not being completed. This has gone on for over a month, leaving the City with no other option but to continue to write fines.

"Section 4-288 (c) of the City Code. Revocation; reinstatement; expiration" states "In the event that an occupancy license is allowed to expire by fault of the property owner due to the failure to pay the required fees by payment due date, or for failure to comply with correction orders or notices of violation without a reasonable cause, a reinstatement fee of one hundred dollars (100.00) per licensed address shall be imposed as established by the city and shall be payable with all other fees." Because you allowed your license to expire you will incur a \$100.00 per unit fee that must be paid before a license will be issued.

You must immediately bring the above referenced property to full compliance with all property maintenance standards. All violations that were issued municipal infractions will have to be paid and brought into compliance, plus the \$100.00 per address fee (\$287,700.00) will have to be paid. Until then no vacant apartments or apartments that become vacant will be allowed to be occupied.

If you have any questions, please call me at 301-345-5417.

Sincerely,

James Sterling  
Assistant Community Development Director, MCO

**APARTMENTS**

continued from page 1

Community Development Celia Craze informed the News Review that Empirian Village incurred \$40,000 in fines during calendar year 2009. On December 15, 2009, the City of Greenbelt notified the owners that its annual occupancy license had expired and would not be renewed until the property is brought into full compliance with all property maintenance standards. The notice stated that the owners have incurred a \$100 per unit fine because they allowed the license to expire. The fees must be paid before a new license will be issued, a total of \$287,000. Without an occupancy license it is unlawful for vacant apartments to be occupied by new tenants.

**Contact Discouraged**  
Even before the city refused to renew its occupancy license code enforcement efforts of the city struck a nerve with the management of Empirian Village. A letter from them to residents dated August 24, 2009, noted that many residents were calling the City of Greenbelt expecting a faster response time (for maintenance calls). The letter told residents that if the city inspectors imposed any fines on the apartment complex as a result of such a call and the infraction was something that was caused by the resident, management would charge the fine and cost of repair to the tenant. The letter indicated that holes in the walls or broken windows were the kinds of items that could be charged to the tenants.

Phone calls from the News Review to Empirian Village management were not returned.

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**Aviation Museum Holds Lego Day**

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For details call 301-864-6029.

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# Local Man Is in the Spotlight

by Paula Clinedinst

Tom McArdle is wary of visiting the Greenbelt Library and for good reason: He's afraid they may take his library card away. McArdle, 85, recently returned a book to his elementary school library he checked out when he was 12. Fortunately for him, the Southmoreland Elementary and Middle School of Scottsdale, Pa., waived the \$3,000 late fee, saying having the book back was priceless.

Written in 1936, the book, "The Birth of Rome," says McArdle, "is what turned me on to history." His sixth grade class was given a writing assignment and McArdle was to write about Rome. The historical fiction book told the story of Romulus and Remus, a set of abandoned twins discovered by a she-wolf who fed them her milk.

The twins were then found by a shepherd who raised them. When they became adults, the boys created a town on the site where they had been found, along the bank of the Tiber River. In a fight for leadership of the town, Romulus defeated Remus and became the first leader of the town he named after himself – Rome.

"I kept telling myself I would return it," says McArdle. He left Scottsdale when he went into the Navy and upon returning home, discovered that his mother had maintained a collection of his books that included "The Birth of Rome." When he got married his book collection went with him.

Each time McArdle relocated – from Pennsylvania to New York to Arizona to Maryland and parts in between – the book collection traveled with him. Recently, he discovered the book on a bookshelf in his home and realized his error. He mailed the book to a cousin who still lives in Scottsdale, asking him to return the book to the school library.

Apparently, the school librarian was so impressed that she called the local newspaper. Enter the World Wide Web; the news spread quickly and the story was picked up by the ABC and NBC local affiliates, WTAE and KDKA, respectively, in Pittsburgh.

## Word Gets Out

The McArdles received a call from their grandson, Joe, who told them to check the news from Pittsburgh to see the story. At the time, the McArdles knew nothing of the story that was spreading. "I Googled 'book return,'" says Jeanne, McArdle's wife of 59 years. She was amazed at what she saw.

Soon after the book's return became news, McArdle received a phone call from Diane Sawyer's manager, who told him that Sawyer wanted to include the



**Tom McArdle, age 12, the year he checked "The Birth of Rome" out of the school library.**

story as a human interest piece in a segment of her show, World News Tonight. He was asked for photographs of himself, one from when he was 12 and a more recent one. Since he does not use the internet, he was not able to electronically send the requested pictures. That was the last he heard from anyone affiliated with that show.

Instead of telling the story of McArdle and his book, World News Tonight aired the story of the ten panda cubs that survived the Woolong earthquake and have been sent to Shanghai for the World Expo. He assumes that without the requested photos his segment was cancelled and he has had his "15 minutes of fame." Although McArdle continues to receive phone calls from relatives all over the place, the hubbub has died down. He hopes now that this new celebrity will give him a chance to reconnect with old acquaintances who may have seen or heard the story.

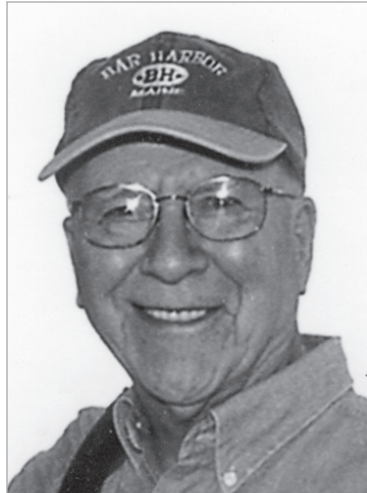
## Greenbelt "Home"

The McArdles moved to Greenbelt for the first time in the '50s. They lived in Lakewood while he worked for the federal government. While living in Greenbelt he was part of the city Grievance Committee, appointed to this position by then-Mayor Francis (Willie) White.

In 1961 the family moved to White River, Arizona, where he ran the federal welfare program on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. After a stay in Arizona the McArdles moved back to Maryland and lived in Bowie "because there was no vacancy in Greenbelt."

McArdle was the Contract Administrator for the D.C. Department of Human Resources. McArdle's responsibility was to find treatment residences for troubled wards of the city in an area extending from New York to Florida, facilitate the contracts and then monitor each situation. He retired in 1987.

In the mid-80s the McArdles moved back to Greenbelt and into GHI. "We love it here," he says and a big reason for that is "the stable, long-term residents."



**Tom McArdle, age 85, the year he returned "The Birth of Rome" to the school library.**

A son, Mike, lives in Bowie with his family. The McArdles' daughter Nancy died seven years ago. At the time of her death she was a law librarian at the American University School of Law. Three of her four children still live here in Greenbelt; one is in California.

His favorite field is history, McArdle says, but "I read everything." He is currently reading about the history of religion. Favorite authors include John Updike, Leo Tolstoy and William Shakespeare.

During the time McArdle lived in Boston, he purchased a lot of used books. The proximity to Harvard Square gave him easy access to many used book stores and he became fond of checking the old books to see who might have written his or her name in the book.

A book purchased years ago at a Greenbelt Labor Day book sale had the signature of Luther Youngdahl written inside the cover. Youngdahl was the Governor of Minnesota from 1947 to 1951 and became a United States District Court Judge for the District of Columbia.

In a similar situation, one day McArdle's copy of "The Birth of Rome" may be sold at a used book store and have the same effect on someone else: at age 12, McArdle stamped his initials onto it.

## History Buff

McArdle says this was the only overdue library book on his many bookshelves. He jokes that all the others were legitimately purchased or given as gifts. "I'm almost sorry it's gone this far," he says.

The McArdles enjoy going to Williamsburg; they rarely miss a year. "It's in line with my interest in colonial history."

Now McArdle himself is part of history – Southmoreland Elementary and Middle School now has the book – and the story of its return – on display before putting it back into circulation. He and the school hope that other students will find a love of history as he did by reading "The Birth of Rome."

## Strategy Games Club Features Mahjong

Greenbelt's free Strategy Games Club for players from age 10 and up meets every Tuesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Youth Center multi-purpose room. This week's featured game is mahjong.

Mahjong is a game for four players that originated in China. Mahjong involves skill, strategy and calculation, as well as a certain degree of luck. (Depending on the variation played, luck can be anything from a minor to a dominant factor in winning.) In Asia mahjong is also popularly played as a gambling game.

In the game each player is dealt either 13 or 16 tiles in a hand, depending on the variation being played. On their turn players draw a tile and discard one with the goal of making four or five melds (also depending on the variation) and one pair or head. Winning comes on the draw by drawing a new or discarded tile that completes the hand. Thus, a winning hand actually contains 14 (or 17) tiles.

Club nights are a chance to exercise the brain playing a variety of strategy games like Carcassonne, Go, mahjong, Ticket to Ride, Blokus and Cloud 9. Traditional strategy games like chess, checkers, backgammon and jenga are also available.

There are also blind-friendly versions of some of these games available. The Strategy Game Club has a deck of Braille cards, a brailled deck of Moose in the House, an adapted checker set and a homemade blind-friendly set of Go. Go is a game of conquering territory. The rules are simple but the strategy is very complex.

For further information call 301-397-2208.

## City Notes

Planning staff continued working with PEPCO representatives on the GHI right-of-way abandonment project.

Recreation staff reports minutes from the pre-bid meeting for the Braden Field tennis court renovation project were sent to a number of contractors interested in the project.

The Youth Center reports there were 483 tickets sold for the Greenbelt New Year celebration, 232 fewer than last year. Nonetheless, both the Scholarship Café and Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club made money on food sales.

Arts staff reports the second section of a new after-school art class at Springhill Lake Elementary School has begun. Over 130 students will be accommodated in four sections of this class, funded through the Mary Purcell Geiger Scholarship Fund.

Community Center staff reports the gym and dance studio floors are currently being sanded down to the wood. The process requires both rooms to be closed for three weeks.

## New Deal Café Upcoming Events

Pianist Amy C. Kraft plays Thursday Mid-Day Melodies from noon to 1 p.m. on January 14, followed by the weekly open microphone session from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Friday, January 15 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Piano Man John Guernsey plays his regular upbeat jazz and blues (repeats every Friday and Saturday). Then from 8 to 11 in a battle of the bands, Ash Lovelies, an indie/pop singer/songwriter collective of 10 varied musicians will trade sets with Greenbelt's favorite Djesben band, with Katy Gaughan's hands-only drum solos.

Saturday, January 16 features Buck Hill accompanied by jazz pianist Michael Arenstein from 8 to 11 p.m. Warm-ups come earlier, from 1 to 2:45 with Steve Pollack on the guitar and from 4 to 6 p.m. Bruce Kritt on classical guitar, a regular Saturday act. Sunday, January 17 the Not 2 Cool Jazz Trio serenades Sunday brunch goers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. From 3 to 4:30 p.m. there's the debut of the Onion Jazz Workshop, a "straight-ahead" jazz trio formed from Café jazz jams – with Brian Bullock on piano, David Whitaker on bass and Jeffrey Swers on sax. (Also appearing on Sunday, January 24.) From 5 to 8 p.m. Jack Couldn't Make It makes it again as usual, with this Americana gang making for a rousing interactive good time with wide-ranging music and humorous philosophies and gab.

For more information call Chef Karim Kmaihha at 301-474-5642 or visit [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com).

## Afternoon Aviators: Weekly Kids' Program

The College Park Aviation Museum offers its "Afternoon Aviators" program every Friday from 2 to 4:30 p.m. This children's program for ages 5 and up is free with museum admission. Join in for fun, hands-on aviation themed activities.

## Preschool Education Fair in College Park

On Saturday, January 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. there will be a free preschool education fair at the College Park Community Center, sponsored by the City of College Park's Education Advisory Committee. This will be an opportunity to meet teachers and parents from local preschool programs.

The College Park Community Center is at 5051 Pierce Avenue in College Park. Park at Paint Branch Elementary School.

For details call 301-474-6424 or email [joricsic@yahoo.com](mailto:joricsic@yahoo.com).

## CARES

The Strengthening Families program held a graduation, with eight families completing the program. Mayor Judith Davis attended the ceremony and distributed graduation certificates to the children.

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