



Presentations, Reports, Business Make Long Night for City Council

by Thomas X. White

The May 14 Greenbelt City Council meeting went until close to midnight despite a light business agenda. All seven councilmembers were in attendance.

Presentations

The ACE Student Awards program was held before the meeting which did not end until 9 p.m. A scheduled Maryland General Assembly Legislative wrap-up was postponed until the city's legislative representatives could attend.

The annual American Legion Post 136 commemoration of Memorial Day was scheduled for May 28 at Roosevelt Center. Rosita Dietrich and the Post's Auxiliary officers, in attendance, presented poppies to council and inaugurated their traditional request for donations with com-

memorative poppies throughout the city leading up to the Memorial Day ceremonies.

Greenbelt's Chief of Police James Craze recognized three police employees for awards they had received at the April 12 Police Chiefs Association of Prince George's County Chief's Awards Ceremonies.

Master Police Officer Gordon L. Rose was named "Officer of the Year" for his outstanding work on an innovative program helping to combat auto theft in the region. Corporal Timothy L. White was honored as the "Community Services Officer of the Year" as a result of his efforts in improving the quality of life for residents of Franklin Park in Greenbelt West.

Communication Specialist

Lindsey L. Keifline was named "Civilian of the Year" for her alert and conscientious efforts in averting a potential suicide while manning her communications position at the Greenbelt station.

Craze also used the opportunity to announce that crime in Greenbelt is down by 27 percent this year.

Petitions, Requests

Mary Ann Cantor registered her concern with Potomac Electric & Power Company (PEPCO) plans to cut down or trim trees in the Lake Park-Crescent Road areas. She noted she had seen markings on about 156 trees in the area and was not sure what sorts of actions the markings predicted for the trees or what

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

Greenbelt Day Weekend Offers Activities for All

As one of its 75th birthday celebrations, Greenbelt Day weekend is full of activities from Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3. With something for everyone, the weekend's activities are sponsored by the city and local community groups.

The Aquatic and Fitness Center will be open throughout the weekend, opening at 6 a.m. and closing at 10 p.m. on Friday, June 4 with the outdoor pool opening at 11 a.m. and closing at 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday the center reopens from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., with the outdoor pool available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There is a fee. Facility admission is restricted to Greenbelt residents, pass holders and their paying guests (three guests per person).

Baseball

Join the crowd to cheer on a favorite local team. On Friday at 6 p.m., the Indians play the Athletics at McDonald Field. Braden Field #2 hosts two games, the Orioles and the Giants at 6 p.m. and the Parents vs. the Coaches game at 8 p.m. On Sunday, June 3, the Greenbelt Baseball All-Star Game will take place at 1 p.m. at McDonald Field, as the American League All-Stars battle the National League All-Stars.

Youth Triathlon

At 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning, athletes ages 8 to 15 can participate in a triathlon sponsored

by the Recreation Department. The event will begin with a swim (ages 8-11: 50 meters; 12-15: 100 meters) at the Aquatic and Fitness Center. After the swim the youth ride their bicycles through a marked off-road course of 1.5 miles (mountain or hybrid bicycles are strongly recommended). All riders must wear a safety helmet. The race concludes at the Buddy Attick Park bandstand after a run (ages 8-11: .7 miles; 12-15: 1.3 miles) on the lake path. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. There is a fee.

Tennis

The Greenbelt Tennis Association's first singles tournament of the season starts on Saturday, June 2 and continues on Sunday, June 3 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (both days) at the newly refurbished Braden Field Tennis Courts. There is a fee.

Presentation

"Need Help? How Greenbelt Responds to You," sponsored by the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. City employees will be on hand to explain how their various departments handle special requests.

Naturalization

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will administer the Oath of Allegiance

See **WEEKEND**, page 8

Council Tweaks Budget, Adjusts Pay, Keeps Tax Rate the Same

by Thomas X. White

On May 21 the Greenbelt City Council held the last of 10 Fiscal Year 2013 budget worksessions. The final worksession is customarily council's last chance to modify the budget presented to them at the last meeting in March.

In the intervening weeks council mutually added wish list items that may have come up during the sessions; some councilmembers may have their own wish lists; and the manager usually has last-minute updates on his proposed revenue estimates and expenditures. Out of that mélange arises a budget a majority of council can support when it adopts the FY13 budget on June 4.

All members of council, as well as City Manager Michael McLaughlin, Assistant City Manager David Moran and City Treasurer Jeff Williams, were present

for that final meeting. All city department heads attended as well except Police Chief James Craze, who had another engagement.

The main information guiding discussion was the manager's compilation of eight wish-list items noted in earlier worksessions and his latest information on expected revenues and expenditures. Mayor Judith Davis brought along a slightly different list compiled with her preferences or items she questioned. Using these lists and latest information, McLaughlin and the department heads worked with council as it deliberated.

Revenue Items

The starting point for total expected revenues for FY13 was the \$25,542,700 in the manager's proposed budget. Added without

much discussion was a projected \$50,000 the city expects to receive from the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) from their tax shift that will disadvantage Greenbelt homeowners next year. (See article "1.75 Cent Tax Hike to City Proposed by M-NCPPC" on page 7 in the May 24 News Review.)

The next item affecting proposed revenue for FY13 was a proposal to reduce the expected amount of revenue from city implementation of speed cameras in Greenbelt school zones from \$500,000 to \$400,000. Although council and staff had the benefit of revenue experience of neighboring jurisdictions following their employment of speed cameras, councilmembers feared the \$500,000 projection was too ambitious.

Some felt the Greenbelt situations were not comparable, such as for cameras used on Ridge Road, where the allowable leeway for citations under the program just may not exist. Others were not certain when the program would be implemented and therefore wanted to lower revenue expectations.

Since those two items had the net effect of reducing expected revenue for FY13 by \$50,000, new proposed revenue would be \$25,492,700.

Expenditure Items

The first expenditure item was the culmination of the manager's efforts to achieve a reduction in

See **BUDGET**, page 7

Temporary Meter Deferral Available Now, PSC Says

by Marat Moore

Marylanders voiced their concerns about the health and privacy impacts of digital smart meters in nearly eight hours of testimony at a May 22 hearing in Baltimore before the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). Written testimony also was provided by PEPCO and BG&E. Analog electricity meters recently have been replaced with smart meters at most Greenbelt homes.

On May 25 the PSC issued interim order #84926, allowing state residents to request a temporary deferral of the smart meters in their homes or businesses, pending a final decision by the PSC on a permanent opt-out in Maryland. A final ruling which could be issued in about a month also would address the terms of any future opt-out program.

The PSC decision on deferring installation is effective immediately and affects customers who buy electricity from PEPCO, Baltimore Gas and Electric and Delmarva Power.

PEPCO told the News Review that the utility has installed 5,650 out of 6,526 smart meters in the city of Greenbelt or 86 percent

of homes and small businesses. Installation is due to be complete in the city by June 30. Currently the meters in Greenbelt are "non-mesh-active," meaning that they have not yet connected with the broader data network. However, as high-frequency wireless devices, they emit radio frequency (RF) radiation as soon as they are installed at a frequency rate similar to a cell phone (915 mega-Hertz to 2.4 giga-Hertz). PEPCO said the utility is working with the PSC for activation of the data collection component but no timeline is in place.

The nonprofit Maryland Smart Meter Awareness (MSMA) is leading the effort for an opt-out but is going further to seek a moratorium on all smart meter installations in the state. To take advantage of the PSC's interim order to defer installation of these meters, MSMA suggests customers visit its website (www.marylandsmartmeterawareness.org) with instructions on how to download a model letter to PEPCO asking for a deferral, to be sent by certified mail with a

See **METERS**, page 6

What Goes On

Friday, June 1 through Sunday, June 3 – Greenbelt Day Weekend, See City Information on page 5

Sunday, June 3

1 p.m., Naturalization Ceremony, Community Center

1 to 4 p.m., Artful Afternoon, Community Center

Monday, June 4

8 p.m., City Council Meeting and Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Adoption, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Wednesday, June 6

7:30 p.m., Advisory Planning Board Meeting, Community Center, Room 103

8 p.m., Council Worksession with Greenbelt Community Development Corp./Review of Police Department Monthly Report, Community Center

Letters

Men Marrying Men

In answer to the question that appeared in the May 24, 2012, News Review advertisement on page 7 from the Maryland Marriage Alliance, "Men Marrying Men OK with You?" –

Yes, men marrying men, and women marrying women, is quite OK with me. In fact, it vividly exemplifies a glorious celebration of love and commitment. I like what Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote, "What a happy and holy fashion it is that those who love one another should rest on the same pillow."

Michael Hartman

Helping the Co-op

I talked to some staff at the Co-op grocery store and they said there has been a useful reduction in the use of credit cards in the past few weeks. If it keeps up at this rate, it will make a difference of about \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year in their net income.

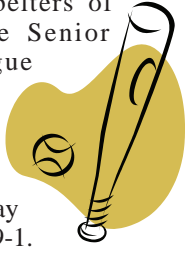
The Co-op pays fees totaling over \$100,000 a year on credit card charges. So things could be even better. If a lot more people used a debit card instead of a credit card, that would make a big difference. It would save a large part of that \$100,000. I'll bet that if people made a strong enough effort, the Co-op could make a significant profit this year.

Keep that in mind when you go to pay for stuff there.

Bill Jones

Belters Take Two From Bowie Gold

The Greenbelters of the Baltimore Senior Softball League swept a double header from shorthanded Bowie Gold on Wednesday, May 23, 17-2 and 19-1.



In the first game Willie White hit a towering three-run home run over the left field fence. Backing up pitcher Clyde Moody's walk-less performance, Gino Pinkney had three hits while John Benish, Jasper Pendergrass, Jim Dugan, C. Collins, Robert Colbert and Larry Dandridge had two each. Behind pitcher Sterling Tropp.

In the second game, Pendergrass hit a three-run homer and two singles, White doubled twice and singled and Barry Clark, Pinkney and Colbert had two hits each. Richard Bennof made a running catch of a Bowie Gold drive in the right field gap for the fielding play of the day.

Old Greenbelt Open House to Be Saturday

On Saturday, June 2 from noon to 4 p.m. the Old Greenbelt Community-Wide Open House will be held at Roosevelt Center near Curves. A group of local neighborhood realtors will staff a table with flyers and a list of homes available in Old Greenbelt. The Open House covers all of Old Greenbelt and is not limited to Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

Junior Park Ranger Applications Open

Greenbelt Park is accepting applications for its free 2012 summer Junior Ranger program, which is open to children 8 to 12 years old. The park is a 1,100-acre forest with 10 miles of trails, picnic areas and a 178-site campground.

Two camp sessions are held Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 11 through 14 and June 18 through June 21. Junior Rangers participate in nature hikes and learn about animals, plants and water.

Pre-registration is required, with the park reviewing all applications. They are available at the Greenbelt Park Headquarters Ranger Station, 6565 Greenbelt Road and online at www.nps.gov/gree. Deadline for applying for the first session is June 6, for the second June 13.

Free Arts Reception For 75th Anniversary

On Saturday, June 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) will hold a reception for "What Greenbelt Means to Me." GAC's reception is to meet artists who have entered works in the show, which will be displayed from June 2 to August 3 at GAC, 123 Centerway. For more information call 301-441-8770.

Correction

In the Transitions Theater call for volunteers announcement on page 3 last week, we incorrectly indicated the wrong starting date for its play Divine Intervention at Greenbelt Arts Center. Performances begin Friday, June 8 at 8 p.m. and will also run on June 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m., with 2:30 p.m. matinees on June 10 and 17. The matinee Sunday, June 10 is a special show followed by a question and answer session with the actress and directors.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE WEEK OF JUNE 1

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13)
Two Reel Comedy Festival

FRIDAY

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
*5, 7:30, 9:50

SATURDAY

Classic Film Series
Today at Noon
All Seats \$5.00
Two Reel Comedy Festival

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
*2:30, *5, 7:30, 9:50

SUNDAY

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
*2:30, *5, 7:30

MONDAY – THURSDAY

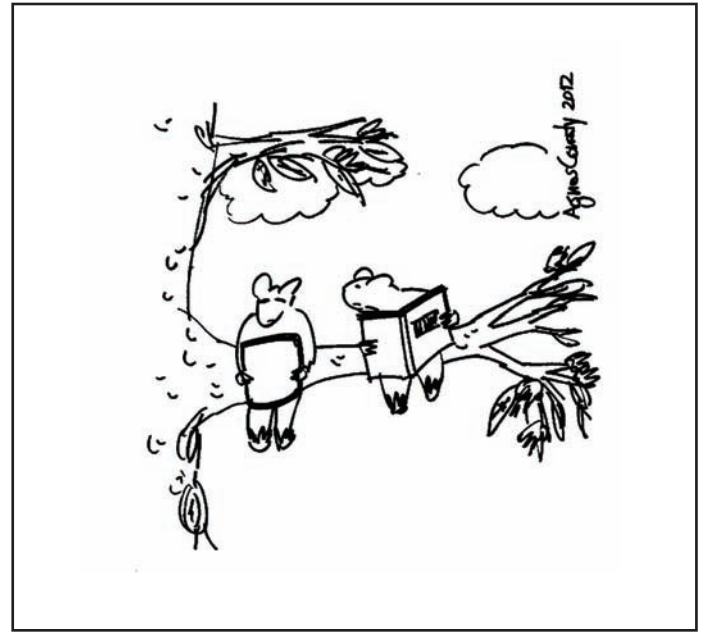
Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
*5, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.50

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Grin Belt



"I should have consulted my ancestral pine cones about that Facebook IPO. . . ."

New Anniversary Choir Begins Rehearsal

A special combined choir is being formed for the Greenbelt 75th anniversary celebration. It will begin rehearsing on Thursday, June 14 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Church. A special activity of the Greenbelt Combined Choir, the choir invites singers throughout the city to participate as they prepare for a Saturday, September 22 anniversary celebration.

Musical selections for this event include a patriotic medley, songs from musicals of the 1930s and other music chosen with the Depression era in mind. James Roosevelt, Jr., grandson of Franklin D. Roosevelt, will be the featured speaker then.

For more information call Greenbelt Combined Choir Director Jean Cook at 301-345-2597.

Greenbelt NewsReview
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TO

Sunday June 10th 10am-2pm

- Behind Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt
- Sponsored by the Baha'i Community of Greenbelt

For info contact Roya at roya19@verizon.net

Your bike could help someone get to work or school!

Sewing machines, usable bicycle spare parts & accessories, bike books, and bike tools accepted.

A \$10 per bike donation is suggested to defray the cost of shipping to overseas charity partners, which recondition the bicycles and distribute them to people who need them to get to work, school, and health services.

Bikes for the World is a sponsored project of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, a 501(c)(3). A receipt will be provided for all material and cash donations. Checks accepted.

BikesfortheWorld.org

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 301-474-1526

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Renata York, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Denise George

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—\$40/year.

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

Community Events

GHI Notes

Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting

Saturday, June 2, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Room

Monday, June 4, 7 p.m., Additions Maintenance Task Force

Wednesday, June 6, 7:15 p.m., Unauthorized Rentals Task Force

Thursday, June 7, 7:30 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby

Friday, June 8, Office Closed – For Emergency Maintenance Service call 301-474-6011

Wednesday, June 13, 8 p.m., GHI/City Stakeholder Meeting

Thursday, June 14, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting

Note: Committee and board meetings are open and held in the Board Room. Members are encouraged to attend.

At the Library

Adult Programs

Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m.: Dr. Joel Fuhrman-Crisis Magazine multi-city health tour seminar “Save Your Life.” (See story at right).

Tuesday, June 5, 7 p.m.: Historian and author/lecturer Carroll R. Gibbs presents an audio-visual lecture for adults and older children on “Sweat, Toil, & Tears: The Story of the Black Farmer” in this weekly series of talks through June 26 on African American history and culture. In the 21st century, most African Americans have lost their ancestral ties to the farm, but this was not always so. See how this ancient relationship began, how it was nearly lost and what some are doing to keep this legacy alive.

Teens

Tuesday, June 5, 7 p.m.: Teen Advisory Board meeting for teens ages 13 to 19 who want to make a difference at the library. Service hours can be earned for participating.

Storytimes

On Wednesdays and Thursdays a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and props.

Wednesday, June 6, 10:30 a.m.: Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years.

Thursday, June 7, 10:30 a.m.: Toddler Time for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver.

Space is limited; pick up a free ticket for Storytime events at the information desk.

Summer Reading

The summer reading program is in full swing for all ages from birth to the eldest person. Sign up online at www.pgcmcls.info or in person at the library.

For more information on any of these programs or events visit the library, call 301-345-5800 or visit www.pgcmcls.info.

New Chicago Dance Holds Open House

On Saturday, June 2 from noon to 3 p.m., the New Chicago Dance Studio will hold an open house and student appreciation cupcake, dancing and discounts party in Suite 003 at 7505 Greenway Center Drive.

This free open house is to thank New Chicago students for a great year of dance and to show visitors their four seasons of dance programming. There will also be dance games; new students are also welcome.

Dr. Fuhrman, Crisis Health Tour Here



On Saturday, June 2 at 10 a.m. the Greenbelt library will be the site for the only Maryland stop in the Crisis Magazine-Dr. Joel Fuhrman multi-city health seminar series traveling the U.S. in a special health outreach to African Americans.

Nationally acclaimed nutrition specialist Joel Fuhrman, M.D., will conduct a seminar entitled “Save Your Life” hosted by the NAACP’s The Crisis Magazine, the Prince George’s County NAACP and the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. The Greenbelt stop is the second leg of Fuhrman’s 2012 tour intended to combat the especially high illness and mortality rates of African Americans.

Fuhrman, a graduate of University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, is based in Flemington, N.J. He is the author of seven books including New York Times bestseller “Eat to Live: The Amazing Nutrient-Rich Program for Fast and Sustained Weight Loss” and has just published “Super Immunity: The Essential Nutrition Guide for Boosting your Body’s Defenses to Live Longer, Stronger and Disease Free.” He hosts the national PBS television program 3 Steps to Incredible Health and has made numerous appearance on Dr. Oz, the Today Show and Good Morning America. He offers recipes at www.drjfuhrman.com/library/recipes.aspx.

Attendees may bring a lunch to the seminar. Seats are limited. Pre-registration is available by calling 1-410-580-5121 or online by emailing name, email address and number of seats to attendoday@yahoo.com.

Greenbelt Concert Band Performs

There will be a performance of the Greenbelt Concert Band conducted by G. Thomas Cherrix on Sunday, June 3, Greenbelt Day, at 3 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center Gym. The performance will include the Greenbelt Concert Band, the Greenbelt Wind Ensemble, the Greenbelt Brass Choir and the Greenbelt Saxophone Quartet.

Guest clarinetist Keith Northover will perform Carl Maria von Weber’s Concertino, opus 14. Northover grew up in the area and played with the Greenbelt Concert Band during his high school and early college years.

More information is at www.greenbeltconcertband.org.

June Is Peace Month In Greenbelt

With the issuance of the Greenbelt City Council proclamation Tuesday, May 29 of June as Peace Month, activities are planned by various community groups to commemorate peace. Starting with Artful Afternoon Sunday, June 3 which is also a special 75th anniversary celebration for Greenbelt Day, the Recreation Department and Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition will lead a peace dove paper-folding craft from 1 to 3 p.m., followed by a peace-themed concert by the Greenbelt Concert Band at 3 p.m.

Later in the month the Baha’i Community will hold its annual Bikes for the World collection to gather donated bicycles for developing countries.

Roosevelt High School’s Students against Destructive Decisions will hold a session in Roosevelt Center on teen dating violence and ending bullying on Sunday, June 10.

On June 15 the Greenbelt Writers Group meeting will revive articles, essays, poetry and song lyrics from the peace movement of the 1960s and 1970s. June 18’s Reel & Meal at the New Deal will screen the documentary “Why We Fight” analyzing recent wars through Iraq with Peter Deccy development director of National Peace Action leading the discussion afterward.

Extraordinary Women At Greenbelt Museum

On Sunday, June 3 at 1, 1:30, 2 and 2:30 p.m. alight dance theater will present Hometown Heroes: 75 Years of Extraordinary Greenbelt Women. In honor of Greenbelt’s 75th Anniversary, the dance delves into oral histories and documentation of the lives of Greenbelt women. From the annals of local history, dancers present women’s experiences and stories. There is a fee.

Performances will be at the Greenbelt Museum, 10 Crescent Road #B.

For more information visit www.alightdancetheater.org, www.greenbeltmuseum.org or call 301-507-6582.

June Artful Afternoon Features Alight Dance

Artful Afternoon, a Greenbelt 75th anniversary celebration, will be held on Sunday, June 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center featuring a Greenbelt-centric dance performance by alight dance theater, hands-on crafts, remarks by the mayor and music by the Greenbelt Concert Band.

The Greenbelt Museum and alight dance theater will put on the original, interactive dance, “Hometown Heroes: 75 Years of Extraordinary Greenbelt Women,” in and around the museum’s historic house at 10-B Crescent Road at 1, 1:30, 2 and 2:30 p.m. More details and other performance dates are available at www.greenbeltmuseum.org.

There is a fee for the tickets, which should be reserved in advance by calling 301-507-6582 or emailing museum@greenbeltmd.gov with the date, time and number in the party. Using oral histories, period props and costumes, “Hometown Heroes” celebrates the stories of women who lived in Greenbelt as young mothers and homemakers in the late 1930s and early 1940s to the present day.

Peace Month Crafts

From 1 to 3 p.m. there will be paper bird making at the Community Center in Room 116 with the Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition and, in Room 113, a workshop with arts teacher Lucy Dirksen in making glass-like flowers with recycled, reverse-painted plastic water bottles.

At 3 p.m., Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis will give 75th Anniversary remarks in the Community Center gym, followed by the Greenbelt Concert Band



PHOTO BY ENOCH CHAN

Alight dance theater performs this weekend.

performing a concert of rousing selections.

Other Activities

There will be a drawing for two tickets to a performance of “Hometown Heroes” on Sunday, July 22. Enter the drawing at the Community Center Art Gallery now through 2:30 p.m. on June 3.

Artful Afternoon features a studio open house and sale with the nine artists-in-residence. Their work in many styles and media is inspiring and would make unique gifts for dads and grads.

The museum’s current exhibition on view at the Community Center is “Green from the Start: A History of Gardening in Greenbelt.”

For more information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts or call 240-542-2057.

More Community Events throughout the paper.

Coming Soon to the Greenbelt Arts Center!

Divine Intervention

June 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8PM
June 10 and 17 at 2:30PM

Ticket prices:
\$12 general admission for all,
\$1 off the ticket price if you come in your pajamas

For information & reservations, call **301-441-8770**
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org
or **BOOK TICKETS ONLINE** at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Coming Soon:
June 28 - July 1, 2012 - Dear Delinquent

123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
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FEATURES & SHOW TIMES FOR:
WEEK OF JUNE 1

FRI. – THU.
SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN, PG-13 (!)
11:45, 12:20, 2:40, 4, 5:55, 7:25, 9, 10:10
MEN IN BLACK 3 in 2D, PG-13 (!)
11:20, 1:45, 4:20, 7, 9:25
MEN IN BLACK 3 in 3D, PG-13 (!)
12:05, 2:20, 4:50, 7:30, 10
CHERNOBYL DIARIES, R (!)
11:45, 1:50, 4:10, 7:25, 9:30
BATTLESHIP, PG-13
11:55, 4, 7, 9:50
THE AVENGERS in 2D, PG-13
11:25, 2:15, 7:15, 10:10
THE AVENGERS in 3D, PG-13
12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45
THE DICTATOR, R
5:10

Mowatt Has Dinner Theater Production

On Saturday, June 2 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Mowatt United Methodist Church will offer a dinner theater production of "Make A Joyful Noise." Its first dinner theater production, about Jesus rounding up his band of disciples, offers an evening of food, fun and entertainment for young families. The event is free of charge although a free-will offering basket will be in the room.

All are invited. More information is available at www.gbmg-umc.org/mowatt/ or by calling 301-474-9410. The church is at 40 Ridge Road.

Greenbelt Park Trails Maintenance Project

Greenbelt Park and REI are partnering for National Trails Day on Saturday, June 2 from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Volunteers can participate in a trail maintenance project or remove invasive plants in the park. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the trail projects starting at 9 a.m. The invasive plant removal program begins at 11 a.m. Participants are asked to pre-register online at rei.com/stores/27.

For more information call Greenbelt Park at 301-344-3944 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/gree/>. Greenbelt Park is at 6565 Greenbelt Road.

Community Walk Supports Police

Chelsea Wood and Windsor Green residents are invited to meet at 8445 Greenbelt Road at Chelsea Wood Condominiums and continue through the Windsor Green Community up to the Community Center on Saturday, June 9 starting at 5 p.m. They will walk with the Prince George's County District II Police and the City of Greenbelt Police through both communities. The goal of the walk is to build stronger relationships between the communities and local police departments, to forge stronger ties between residents and the police department, open a dialogue in communities and help curb crime.

Peace and Justice To Meet June 7

Thursday, June 7 the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 103 at the Greenbelt Community Center.

The meeting will include final planning for Greenbelt Peace Month, discussing the youth outreach project and an exploration of new ideas for summer programs focused on Africa. Community members interested in these and other progressive social change topics are invited to participate.

For more information call Donna Hoffmeister at 301-441-9377 or email Lucy Duff at justpeacepg@earthlink.net.

Concert to Benefit David Chapman to Be Held June 9

On Saturday, June 9 a concert will be held at 8 p.m. at the University of Maryland's Memorial Chapel in College Park for the benefit of Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist (PBUU) Church Music Director David Chapman. He was diagnosed in February with stage IV cancer and is currently in treatment. Many medical and living expenses are not covered by his health insurance or sick leave.

Chapman has served as music director at the church for nearly 10 years and has been a leader in advancing vocal music in the Washington, D.C., area.

"Listen to the Music" was organized by friends, students, colleagues and PBUU congregants. The artists performing have all worked with Chapman in his musical capacities and include dramatic soprano Alessandra Marc, violinist James Stern, flautist John Lagerquist, pianist Frank Conlon and soprano Nancy Peery Marriott, among others.

The concert is open to the



David Chapman

public and free of charge but the group will accept donations the night of the concert. Donations can also be made at <http://www.listentothemusicdcbc.com/> or mailed (payable to David Chapman) to Marcie Washburn, Treasurer, Listen to the Music Fund, PO Box 1660, Beltsville, MD 20704-1660.

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

Worship Service 10am

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

BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. James Lawton - Pastor
 301-474-7573
 6301 Greenbelt Road
 Berwyn Heights, MD 20740
berwynpresbyterian.net

Worship : Sundays at 11:00 am -- Child Care Available
 Sunday School: Sundays at 9:30 am
 Office Hours : M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"

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"

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
 6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111
www.myholycross.org • myholycross@verizon.net

Summer Schedule
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a traditional Bible-believing, Christ-centered congregation! Join Us!
 Join us on Facebook at Holy Cross Lutheran Greenbelt


Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS
 Sundays 10 A.M.
 Municipal Building
ALL ARE WELCOME.

City Notes

Planning staff met with the city manager, city solicitor and representatives from Prince George's County about Greenbelt Station North Core and began review of Franklin Park's request to construct a new path connecting section 9 with Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Refuse/Recycling/Sustainability staff attended COG's recycling meeting on promoting waste reduction. Greenbelt is now at a 60 percent diversion rate and has a goal of 63 percent by 2015. This exceeded other cities in attendance.

Community Center staff reports the supervisor attended a department meeting. There are currently five Center Leader shifts open; interviews are being scheduled. Follow-up emails, prize distribution and thank you letter were handled by staff involved in the Bike to Work Day event.

Church Gives Gas To First 100 Cars

On Saturday, June 9 at 8 a.m. the MCF Community Church in College Park is giving five gallons of 87-octane gas free to the first 100 vehicles at College Park Auto Service, 9891 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park.



There is a five-gallon limit per vehicle with only 87-octane available with full service pumping and windshields cleaned. MCF Community Church, which meets on Sundays at 11 a.m. at the College Park Hampton Inn, says this is an opportunity in difficult economic times for them to serve the community and demonstrate God's love.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
 Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

Sunday at 10 a.m.
Rev. Diane Teichert
 See our website: www.pbuuc.org

There are certain pillars [that are] the unshakeable supports of the Faith of God. The mightiest of these is learning and the use of the mind, the expansion of consciousness, and insight into the realities of the universe and the hidden mysteries of Almighty God. (Abdu'l-Baha)

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

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..."

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

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.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
June 4, 2012 - 8:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting and Budget Adoption
Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

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.)

Minutes of Council Meetings

Administrative Reports

Council Reports

Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- Adoption of the Budget
- An Ordinance to Adopt the General Fund, Building Capital Reserve Fund, Cemetery Fund, Debt Service Fund, Replacement Fund, Special Projects Fund, Green Ridge House Fund, Capital Projects Fund, 2001 Bond Fund, and Community Development Block Grant Fund Budgets for the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Appropriate Funds and Establish Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Rates for the Fiscal Year 2013 Beginning July 1, 2012 and Including June 30, 2013
 - 1st Reading, Suspension of the Rules
 - 2nd Reading, Adoption

OTHER BUSINESS

- Heritage Area Wayfinding Signage Proposal
- Revised Detailed Site Plan – Sign Request for CVS at Greenway Shopping Center
- Proposed Breezewood Drive Improvements Associated with New Greenbelt Middle School
- Other Reports
- * - Reappointments to Advisory Groups
- * - Resignation from Advisory Group

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 cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 4-8

Monday, June 4 at 8:00 p.m. **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ADOPTION OF THE FY13 BUDGET**, at Municipal Building 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Wednesday, June 6 at 7:30pm, **GREENBELT ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 103. On the Agenda: Greenbelt Station – Reconsideration of Preliminary Plan of Subdivision, Traffic Conditions and Pedestrian & Bicycle Master Plan – Updated Draft and Next Steps

Wednesday, June 6 at 8:00 p.m., **COUNCIL WORK SESSION** with Greenbelt Community Development Corp. / Review of Police Dept. Monthly Report at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

Public Hearing on Greenbelt Middle School

Monday, June 11, 2012 at 8:00 p.m.

Greenbelt Municipal Building
 25 Crescent Road

The Greenbelt City Council will conduct a public hearing on the possible future use of the Greenbelt Middle School facility by the City.

Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Employee Relations Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, and Public Safety Advisory Committee

For information call 301-474-8000.

Visit and "Like" the City of Greenbelt on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt

Visit Greenbelt CityLink at www.greenbeltmd.gov

NOTICE OF ROADWORK

CHERRYWOOD LANE ROUNDABOUT

Construction on the Cherrywood Lane Roundabout is scheduled to begin on June 4, 2012, and will take approximately 90 days to complete. The Cherrywood Lane roundabout is intended to improve traffic operations at the intersection of Cherrywood Lane and Metro Access Drive. For questions/information contact Celia Craze, Planning and Community Development Director, at 301-345-5417 or ccraze@greenbeltmd.gov.

CPR COURSE



Hosted by the Public Safety

Advisory Committee

Saturday, June 9
8 a.m.

Greenbelt Fire Dept.

This course will be taught by an American Heart Association certified instructor.

Cost for this course is \$20 per person.

Put your name on the list by contacting Laura Kressler at GreenbeltP-SAC@yahoo.com. Fee collected on the day of the course. Cash or Check only. Walk-ins are accepted if spaces remain.

GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND-FRIDAY, JUNE 1 - SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Join us in celebrating Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary!



Friday, June 1

6am-10pm Aquatic & Fitness Center Open
11am-8pm Outdoor Pool Open. Please visit the Welcome Desk at Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center for more information on summer membership, annual membership, and daily admission prices.

GREENBELT BASEBALL
 6pm: Orioles vs. Giants, Braden Field #2
 6pm: Indians vs. A's, McDonald Field
 8pm: Parents vs. Coaches, Braden Field #2

Saturday, June 2

8am-9pm: Aquatic & Fitness Center Open
9am-10:30am: Swim Lesson Pre-Evaluations
 Before lessons start bring your child for a free evaluation of his/her skills to make sure you are registering them for the appropriate level.

Greenbelt Tennis Association SINGLES TOURNAMENT, 8am-4:30pm Braden Field Tennis Courts

GTA'S first singles tournament of the season starts on Saturday, June 2- Sunday, June 3. Fees: GTA members - \$5; Non-members - \$10
 Membership is free for Greenbelt residents and \$15 per person per year for non-residents. For more information, visit www.greenbelt.com/tennis.

9:30am: YOUTH SPRINT TRIATHLON

Sponsored by: Greenbelt Recreation Department. Race begins with a swim (8-11: 50 meters; 12-15: 100 meters) at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center. After the swim, children ride their bicycles through a marked off-road course of 1.5 miles (mountain or hybrid bicycles are strongly recommended). All riders must wear a safety helmet. The race concludes at the Buddy Attick Park bandstand after a run (8-11: .7 mile; 12-15: 1.3 miles) on the lake path.

Time: Race Day Registration begins at 8:30am. Race begins at 9:30am.
Age: 8 - 15 years old
Fee: \$10/participant

10am-8pm: Outdoor Pool Open. Saturday and Sunday: Facility admission restricted to Greenbelt residents, pass hold-

ers, and their paying guests (3 guests per person)

1-3pm: NOT FOR SENIORS ONLY: Need Help? How Greenbelt Responds to You, Greenbelt Community Center room 201 sponsored by: The Senior Citizens Advisory Committee.

Do you have any special requests that you'd like the city to respond to? City employees from a variety of departments will be on hand to explain how their departments handle special requests and the types of requests each department is responsible for.

Sunday, June 3

1pm: GREENBELT BASEBALL ALL-STAR GAME (McDonald Field) Come see the City's finest ball players compete in this Greenbelt tradition as the American League All-Stars battle the National League All-Stars.

1pm : Naturalization Ceremony, at Greenbelt Community Center. Sponsored by: USCIS the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will administer the Oath of Allegiance to U.S. citizenship candidates as part of a formal ceremony. For naturalization information or to contact USCIS: 1-800-375-5283.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON

Celebrate Peace Month and Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary Activities at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. **Sunday, June 3** All ages welcome. FREE.

1-4pm Hands-On Crafts!

Make flowers out of recycled water bottles in room 113 for a community art project. Make paper cranes and other birds with the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition in room 116.

3pm Greenbelt Day Address & Greenbelt Concert Band

Mayor Davis offers remarks commemorating Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary. Following the address, Greenbelt's large community band performs a rousing tribute to our fair city under the direction of conductor Tom Cherrix.

1-4pm Artists' Studio Open House

Paintings, cut paper illustration, pottery, fiber arts and more available to see, enjoy and purchase.

1-4pm 75th Anniversary Items For Sale

Greenbelt 75th Anniversary commemorative items available for purchase in the lobby. Limited edition art tiles, tote bags, T-shirts and more.

Ongoing: Green From the Start: A History of Gardening in Greenbelt, Greenbelt Museum exhibition on the first floor.

Special Event at the Greenbelt Museum historic House, 10-B Crescent Road



alight dance theater premieres their new work Hometown Heroes: 75 Years of Extraordinary Greenbelt Women

A series of performance tours which explore the experiences of the women who lived in Greenbelt as young mothers and "homemakers" in the late 1930's and early 1940's to the present day.

Performances at 1pm, 1:30pm, 2pm, 2:30pm.

Space is limited, timed tickets required. \$3 general admission, free for museum members/seniors. Advance purchase strongly recommended. Contact Megan Searing-Young, 301-507-6582.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

leverage the city might have with regard to the fate of trees marked for removal. She felt there should have been more notice by the city, PEPCO and in the News Review about threats to the trees.

Mayor Judith Davis responded that there had been notices in the paper regarding PEPCO's program to reduce the risk of power outages by protecting the utility's wires and poles from damage by trees and tree limbs. She also noted that PEPCO held a public meeting on their program.

Davis assured Cantor the city's horticulturist was monitoring PEPCO's activities and that actual removal of trees would require a permit. Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested the city request another public meeting with PEPCO to better understand their plans.

Street Basketball

Another request was made by Edwin Brown of the Greensprings II neighborhood for council to address a longstanding problem in his area with a neighbor who places in the street a portable basketball backboard that is used by adults. He wanted council's help in resolving a problem which he feels is getting out of hand.

City Manager Michael McLaughlin responded that the problem in dealing with this neighborhood issue is that though such blocking of traffic in a city street is listed as a "criminal" offense, it is a difficult action to pursue. Staff is considering amending city ordinances to make such an offense a "municipal infraction," he said, "a change providing a more efficient method of addressing such offenses."

Greenbelt Police Captain Carl Schinner, who was in the audience, briefed the council on efforts the department is taking to mitigate the problem. He told council his approach would be one that "changes behavior, rather than having to take punitive actions throughout the city."

Meeting Minutes

Molly Lester wanted council to explain how there had been a recent letter from McLaughlin to the Board of Education (BOE) indicating the city's interest in "entertaining negotiations" regarding a potential lease of a portion of the soon-to-be-vacant Greenbelt Middle School, since the sense of council at its April 23 meeting was that no negotiations could be held before a public hearing on the topic. (Such a hearing is now scheduled for June 11.)

Davis responded was that there had been recent "rumors" concerning the BOE entertaining offers from some charter or other schools' potential use of the middle school. The intent of the communication from McLaughlin was to have a discussion with Schools Superintendent Dr. William Hite to gain information on the school system's intentions regarding the building once it is vacated this summer.

Business Items

Introduced by Councilmember Edward Putens for first reading was a resolution dealing with adoption by the city of the Maryland Municipal Public Works Officials Association (MMPWOA) Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA).

The goal of the MMPWOA is to have all municipalities with Public Works Departments adopt and sign the agreement as part

of their emergency management plan. It is understood that such action would satisfy regulations of both the Maryland Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

While participation in an MAA does not obligate a municipality to respond to any emergency situation, the federal and state regulations stipulate that municipal departments that respond to assist other municipalities during a state of emergency can only be reimbursed for assistance rendered if an MAA is in place.

Friends School

The Friends Community School was built in 2007 on a 17.43 acre site adjacent to the Westchester Park residential development and to Greenbelt Park and just outside the city boundaries. A detailed site plan proposes a one-story 5,200 square-foot addition that would be nestled into the front of the existing school. The addition would enable increasing the school's maximum enrollment to 240 students.

Larry Taub, a local zoning attorney, and David Whapple, architect, represented the school at the meeting. They said a traffic impact analysis had been done which showed no significant impact to the Kenilworth Avenue/Westchester Park Drive intersection. Nor would there be any impact on sensitive environmental features at the site. Design/construction techniques, they said, will respect the LEEDS standards on which the original building was based.

Putens commented on the history of the site and an earlier desire that the parcel be left as green space and assumed into the Greenbelt Park property. He expressed concern that this request for expansion may not be the last.

School representatives answered that there were no plans for expansion beyond the current proposal. They felt any further expansion would be very costly and would have to use a multi-story approach.

Roberts moved that council express approval of the Detailed Site Plan. The motion was approved 6 to 1 with Putens opposed.

CSX Intermodal

Roberts requested that an item concerning a CSX Intermodal Facility be included on the agenda. Council had already communicated by letter to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) opposing the location of such a train/truck facility at a site in nearby Beltsville. In a recent development on the controversial project, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake of the City of Baltimore is now urging MDOT and CSX Transportation to locate the proposed rail intermodal facility in Baltimore.

Roberts moved that council communicate support for the Baltimore site to MDOT and CSX. Putens seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Watershed Grant Request

An item on a watershed grant had been added to the agenda by Councilmember Leta Mach. She requested that council send a letter in support of a recent Anacostia Watershed Society grant request for funding a Green Infrastructure Master Plan project for the Anacostia Watershed. This grant would help improve storm water management programs in the area. Council approved her request.



Condolences to the family and friends of Richard E. Craig of Lakeside, who died May 26, 2012; sympathy especially to Louise, his wife of 54 years.

Greenbelters were saddened to learn of the death of longtime resident Susan Jones, 71, of 33 Ridge Road earlier this month. She was formerly active in Greenbelt activities including preservation of the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Our sympathy to Don Comis and family on the death of his brother, Howard Lee Comis, who died in New York City just before his 60th birthday.

Congratulations to:

– Maura Warner, daughter of Jeremy and Stephanie Warner, who graduated from Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., May 12 with a liberal arts degree in computer science.

– ERHS student Gabrielle Kirlew, who has been awarded a National Security Language Initiative for Youth scholarship to study Mandarin Chinese in China for six weeks this summer. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of State, provides merit-based scholarships to high school students to learn less commonly taught languages; it includes all costs including travel, host family accommodations and cultural activities focusing on language-learning.

– Jo-Anne Fournier, who graduated on May 12 with a Master's Degree in Distance Education from the University of Maryland University College. (She earned the degree in distance education via distance education, a new discipline exploring learning by methods where the participants are separated by distance).

– Former resident Paul Sabol, now of Erie, Pa., his hometown, who was presented with the Sister Gabriel Koch Award for Outstanding Volunteerism at Mercy Hilltop Center. He also volunteers at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle State Park and gives talks to seniors on weather-related subjects. When he lived in Greenbelt, Paul was an active volunteer in many places and organizations, including the Knights of Columbus and the Greenbelt Golden Age Club.

– the 42 Springhill Lake Elementary School students (one in each class) showing most improvement. They celebrated with a pizza party, gift certificates from the county council and public recognition at the school on Tuesday, May 29. Way to go!

– the Greenbelt Elementary students who received awards at the county 2012 STEM Fair: fourth grader Adrian Clements (third place ribbon), fifth-grader Ana Fernandez Napp (honorable mention) and sixth-grader Elizabeth Gardner (second place ribbon and Excellence in Math award).

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We'd especially like to hear from our neighbors in Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West (Franklin Park). To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@verizon.net or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

METERS continued from page 1

copy sent to the PSC.

Greenbelters who oppose smart meters but who already have them can send letters to the same addresses asking PEPCO to remove the smart meter immediately and replace it with an analog meter, MSMA said.

Pepco's Response

PEPCO responded to questions from the News Review related to the PSC ruling and regarding customers whose smart meters have been installed but who prefer not to have them.

"As the Commission considers the question of whether to allow customers in the affected service territories to opt out of smart meter installations, we want to remind them they have not reached any decision on whether to permit the customers of the utilities in these cases to 'opt out' of receiving a smart meter permanently or, if so, what the terms of any possible future opt-out might include," Courtney A. Nogas, senior media relations manager at PEPCO Holdings, Inc. stated in an email.

"We will comply with the PSC's interim decision and we are actively putting our processes in place to comply with the interim order," Nogas wrote.

Customers must make opt-out requests in writing to Pepco, 701 9th St. NW, Mail Stop EP7642, Washington, DC 20068. Emailed requests also will be accepted "if the customer asks," Nogas said, and emails should be sent to correspondence@pepco.com. Emails will be forwarded to the escalated complaint team at mdoptout@pepco.com.

Although Vermont recently approved a free opt-out, PEPCO is not considering a free option. According to Nogas, PEPCO has provided information to the PSC about "initial cost estimates of a customer opt-out as well as the benefits those customers would lose because of the opt-out." That information can be accessed online from the PSC; visit www.psc.state.md.us and search for case #9207. The PSC interim order on deferrals can be accessed by searching for case #84926.

Testimony

PEPCO has repeatedly stated that smart meters are safe with lower exposure than cell phones and has cited studies by the Edison Electric Institute, an industry group. Maryland residents who testified on May 22 noted that smart meters have never been tested for the impact on human health of exposure to high-frequency microbursts of RF radiation.

In testimony Cindy Silberman

described health effects she experienced immediately after PEPCO installed a smart meter on her Silver Spring home. Her meter emits the non-ionizing RF radiation but is not yet collecting data.

Silberman, who holds a master's of science from Johns Hopkins, researches the impact of ionizing radiation such as that comes from nuclear power plants and CAT scans; less is known about the effects of non-ionizing RF emissions.

Although she sent PEPCO a written notice that she did not want a smart meter, the utility installed one without her knowledge on March 7. "On March 15, I began having health problems. I didn't know they'd done the installation. For 10 days I slept only four hours a night and then would wake up both ravenously hungry and nauseous," she said. Her husband also had health impacts.

Desperate for relief, she and her husband decided to shut off power to their bedroom at night, "and I slept 10 hours like a baby," she said.

Some Maryland residents are forming "meter share" groups to collectively buy high-end instruments to measure smart meter radiation. The Silbermans obtained this type of meter to read the radiation emitted from their smart meter. The smart meter on their home emitted radiation about three times a minute, with peaks that exceeded their wireless router by about eight to 10 times and exceeded their cordless phone by two or three times, she said.

When smart meters are connected to the data network, the levels of radiation will increase significantly, according to MSMA. The Silbermans also tested a smart meter that is mesh-active in Washington, D.C., to compare the radiation readings, and videotaped both measurements. "The mesh-active meters were much higher than ours," she said. "They had higher peaks and more frequent emissions."

Privacy issues also were raised at the May 22 hearing, about the potential transfer and sale of personal data including use of medical devices, whether a family was at home or not; the use and age of household appliances.

PEPCO has stated that smart phones provide many benefits, including greater access to and control of energy use in the home.

For more information contact Maryland Smart Meter Awareness at 410-358-4616 or 410-922-6535; or visit PEPCO at www.pepco.com.

Dress for Safety

**Wear White
At Night**
so drivers can see you!

A Senior Tells of His Day

On a breezy May morning he grabbed his slim Nordic poles, stumped out the front door, turned up Lakeside Drive and swung onto the bumpy, black-topped, greenery-splotched path that angled up to the area's highest point. He breathed deeply on approaching Ridge Road – and pulled up short.

Hey! The sprawling, wild-growing mulberry bush at the edge of the woods was gone. That killed off future summer harvest pluckings enroute to Roosevelt Center.

On the other side of Ridge he eased down the sloping, tree-girded walkway. Halfway along a couple working on an adjacent garden blocked the way. The woman apologized. "It's in a good cause," the walker said, waving away her concern.

At the Community Center's senior lounge he joined a half-dozen men and women sitting in a circle; they'd been meeting Friday mornings under the rubric, Current Issues: Lively Discussions (for ages 60-plus). Another man with a beard eyed the poles and said he walked around town mostly with a cane. He smiled wryly; better safe than sorry was his joshing attitude.

A woman quoted from newspaper clippings she had brought in. The group raked over the onerous Greek debt battle and other concerns near and far before a couple stood up, with the tall, heavy-set man soon heading for his security job at Leisure World in Silver Spring. The pole-man clumped down to Braden Field.

Now his pace was pokey. He managed to reach the far ball-field and galumphed to a seat on a metal bench. Home was a longish haul via the Greenbelt Lake trail. He looked around.

In the distance five people wrestled with a mysterious mess of tangled yellow line. A few foursomes whapped away on the nearby tennis courts. Up came a young couple with a baby in a carriage plus three border collies. Two broke loose to twist and cavort like mad, stirring up the dirt on the infield. The third dog, said his master, was trained – but throw him a soccer ball and he could play for hours.

And me? thought the man. Leaning on the poles, he ratcheted up and strode heavily to the trail. Sticking along, he reached the final bend near home and saw the bench was missing. A thick slab of wood notched into two king-sized trunk rounds, it had been frittering away but still had life. Now gone, like the mulberry bush. But to the side a few new trees had been planted . . .

The man stumped home and stowed the poles in the umbrella stand by the front door. What would the next outing bring?
– Footloose

BUDGET continued from page 1

next year's premium for employee health insurance. He reported that negotiations with CareFirst had lowered the expected increase from 29 percent to 14 percent.

Although this exceeds McLaughlin's original budget estimate of a 10 percent increase, he projected an increase at \$40,000. He advised council that costs may be lowered further with changes in the plan but felt that eventuality could be too disruptive at this time. The \$40,000 was added to expenditures.

The only other program expenditure additions included:

\$ 5,000 – Renewed donation to West Lanham Hills Fire Department for coverage in Greenbelt

\$ 3,000 – Additional funding for Certified Emergency Response Team training

\$12,000 – GED/ESOL programs for Springhill Lake Recreation Center

In an exchange between the mayor and Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze, Davis questioned the possible deletion of the vacant assistant director position (at \$108,000).

Craze responded that would be OK with her if she could hire

another Community Development inspector. That looked like a money saver.

Several wish list items were not supported:

\$30,000 funding for a Juvenile Delinquency Outreach Counselor was placed on hold. \$16,000 for the purchase of a License Tag Reader for Parking Enforcement was deferred. A \$35,000 proposal to make a part-time Animal Control Officer full time with benefits was also placed on hold.

Employee Compensation

Several proposals regarding pay increases for Greenbelt employees were discussed. Because of the weak economy, Greenbelt's classified employees have not received a cost of living adjustment (COLA) since Fiscal Year 2010.

In Fiscal Year 2011, under the Collective Bargaining Agreement with police officers, the only thing funded was for deferred compensation. For other classified employees that year, there had been performance or merit pay at up to three percent. Last year all employees received a lump sum bonus (net one percent for all employees).

The manager's proposed bud-

get included \$200,000 for compensation without denoting how it would be allocated (COLA, performance or bonus). Council discussed various permutations based upon different percentages. In the end, however, the approach was to fund a one-percent COLA and one-percent performance pay.

When all modifications to the budget were accounted for, estimated total expenditures came to \$25,490,800. The manager seemed pleased with the outcome, a +\$1,900 difference. As proposed, there will be no increase in the city property tax rate for FY13.

Public participation at the worksession included the caution to council that the city needed to prepare for continued hard times ahead and for "looming" capital improvements on the city need list.

Another resident asked if there would be funds for any FY13 visioning activities. McLaughlin responded that funds were available to support the visioning process.

The agreed items from the final budget worksession will be translated into a modified FY13 budget council will adopt at its regular meeting on June 4.

The Bus

Seniors and Customers with Disabilities **RIDE FREE**

College Park Farmers' Market

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Green Ridge House Brings Budget Queries, Laughter

by Jim Link

"Economics is the dismal science," said Thomas Carlyle, and sometimes it's easier to tango on a dime than to balance a budget.

Nevertheless a good time was had by all at the Green Ridge House (GRH) annual budget meeting on May 16 attended by 35 residents, three or four GRH staff members and all of the Greenbelt City Council except for Silke Pope, who was out of town on personal business.

First, City Manager Michael McLaughlin gave a summary of GRH's use of last year's monies and the general good health of GRH's proposed budget. Then council peppered McLaughlin and GRH staff members Patty Ramberg (secretary), Lynette McGrath (HUD realty representative) and Kim Potts (building manager) with budget questions, after which the residents peppered council and their GRH staff with further budget questions.

Then Pat Unger, president of the residents association, invited everyone to snack and schmooze briefly with council before it hied itself off to the Municipal Center for an executive session meeting at 9 p.m.

The adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2012 was \$1,370,300 with a total expenditure of \$1,351,500. The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013 is \$1,429,300; council is still tweaking it.

GRH is part of HUD's (Housing and Urban Development) section 8 federal housing program and receives 73 percent of its revenue from HUD; the remain-

ing 27 percent is paid for by the residents. Rents are approximately \$1,173 per month for the approximately 150 residents.

Bill Sullivan, secretary of the residents association, said the turnout was "pretty good, considering that a lot of us are tired out from our cruise on the Odyssey from Maine Avenue to Georgetown."

The meeting was punctuated by laughter and applause. The residents' first question was "How about a jacuzzi?" Mayor Judith Davis answered, "Maybe, if councilmembers are allowed to use it. No, you don't want to see me in a bathing suit." (Laughter)

New maintenance engineer Leonard Baldwin was introduced to warm applause. Hired in February, Baldwin said that working at GRH "is great!"

One resident complained that the new Pepco so-called smart meters gave her headaches and caused voices in her head.

Ten treatments for bedbugs at \$350 each were necessary this year, solving the problem completely. But no money was spent for snow removal because of our mild winter. (Applause)

One resident praised the educational classes at GRH – ceramics, tai chi, yoga. Davis asked, "Do you feel more serene?" "Sure," responded the resident. (Laughter)

When asked what life at GRH is like, resident Rose Carr said, "It's good; some things are not so good, but it is very safe here."

WEEKEND continued from page 1

citizenship candidates as part of a formal ceremony at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. For naturalization information contact USCIS: 1-800-375-5283.

Arts Reception

The Greenbelt Arts Center will hold an artists' reception for the exhibit, "What Greenbelt Means to Me," from 1 to 3 p.m.

Artful Afternoon

Celebrate Peace Month and Greenbelt's 75th anniversary on Sunday, June 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Hands-on crafts include making flowers from recycled water bottles and creating peace dove paper-folding crafts. There will be a Greenbelt Day Address by Mayor Judith Davis at 3 p.m., followed by a performance by the Greenbelt Concert Band.

The artists' studio open house will have paintings, cut paper illustration, pottery, fiber arts and more available to see, enjoy and purchase. Anniversary

items will be sold.

Green From the Start: A History of Gardening in Greenbelt, sponsored by the Greenbelt Museum, will be on exhibit on the first floor.

Hometown Heroes

The Greenbelt Museum hosts alight dance theater's premiere work, Hometown Heroes: 75 Years of Extraordinary Greenbelt Women, with performances at 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. There is a nominal fee. Advance purchase is recommended. For more information call Megan Searing-Young at 301-507-6582.

More Info

Brochures concerning weekend activities can be found at the Community Center, the Youth Center and the Municipal Building, as well as online at www.greenbeltmd.gov.

For more information about weekend activities call 301-397-2200. The weather hotline number is 301-474-0646.

GCAN Topic Is Energy Audits

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 13 in Room 114 at the Community Center will feature a presentation by John Lippert on "Slash Your Home's Energy Usage, Cut Your Energy Bill and Help the Environment."

Lippert is chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES) and owns Clean Currents, an independent contracting business signing up businesses, organizations and local government for renewable wind electricity. He has 30 years' experience writing about, disseminating information and doing outreach on how to save energy, use renewable energy and other sustainability issues.

Lippert's talk will include how to get a quick home energy check-up free or a more comprehensive home energy assessment that meets state home performance under Energy Star Program criteria. Hear how to determine at the time of purchase which appliances and electronic devices will save money. He will also talk about electronic devices that have vampire energy loads that add to monthly electric bills and how to reduce this energy waste.

For more information call Lore Rosenthal at 301-345-2234 or email lore@simplicity-matters.org.

ASG Venus Transit Evening at Goddard

On Tuesday, June 5 there will be a rare transit of Venus crossing the face of the Sun as a black dot because Venus orbits closer to the Sun than Earth. The transit will begin a little after 6 p.m.

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG), Goddard Astronomy Club and other interested people will meet to observe the transit at Goddard Space Flight Center's Visitors Center, ICESat Road, off Md. 193 east of the main Goddard entrance. In addition to an excellent western horizon (essential because the transit occurs at sunset) Goddard offers live coverage from the SDO spacecraft, presentations by Goddard scientists and hands-on activities for children of all ages.

Participants will begin setting up solar telescopes at about 5 p.m. The black dot of Venus crossing the face of the Sun will be visible at about 6:20 p.m. and continue for several hours. By the time the transit is over, the Sun will have set. The next Venus transit event is not until 2117.

Library Now Loans OverDrive eBooks

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) was the first library system in Maryland to provide Amazon Kindle compatible eBooks to patrons as part of the OverDrive WIN initiative – a series of enhancements that support the library's virtual branch website.

By visiting <http://www.pgcmls.info> and clicking the Online Library link at the top of the page, library patrons can download audio books and eBooks. The newly implemented enhancements will allow most OverDrive eBooks to be read on Kindle readers or by using free apps on the iPhone, iPad, Android and other mobile devices.

PGCMLS currently has over 6,800 eBook compatible titles. The eBooks expire at the end of the patron's lending period.

Handbills Pose Nuisance To City, Cameras to Us

by James Giese

At the April 18 worksession on budgets for the Planning and Community Development department, council discussed a wide range of issues unrelated to the budgets then under consideration with staff. Some of these matters relating to city streets are reported here.

Present at the meeting were all councilmembers, Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze, City Manager Michael McLaughlin and Finance Director Jeff Williams.

Signs, Handbills

The difficulty with deterring the placement of illegal handbills on cars or at doors is that, even though a law may hold a business owner responsible, judges in court are reluctant to convict one for illegal distribution of handbills. It must be the person who actually distributed them, according to Craze.

However, staff has found it effective to complain to businesses responsible for the handbills and believes the number distributed is now less than it had been.

The same is true with signs illegally placed along the roadside, usually advertising real estate or special sales – so-called snipe signs. The best deterrent there, according to Craze, is a continuing effort to remove quickly and confiscate such signs, as they cost the business money. Councilmember Edward Putens noted, however that the city has limited funds and other tasks to be done that are more important than removing snipe signs.

Speed Cameras, Sentries

Resident Molly Lester asked if the \$500,000 of estimated revenues to be realized by enforcement of speeding in school zones through the use of cameras was realistic. McLaughlin said that the estimate was up for the new fiscal year from that for the current year because cameras have been operative for only part of this year. While still not operative, McLaughlin expects to obtain a full-year of revenue in the next fiscal year.

Councilmember Emmett Jor-

dan suggested that data might be obtained from that data collected from speed sentry signs – the electronic signs posted for motorists to see how fast their vehicle is moving. McLaughlin noted that such sentries have not necessarily been placed in the same locations as have the cameras.

One of the city speed sentry signs will be upgraded at no cost to the city. The new unit is smaller although the sign face is the same size. It will thus be enclosed in the old sign frame. While the upgrade will take place at no cost to the city, the city will pay for the data the new sign collects on traffic speeds, McLaughlin said.

Currently the city has three sentries but one is frequently out of service. Twice a sentry has been stolen but eventually returned – probably by a parent who left it on the Public Works doorstep late at night.

GHI Rights-of-way

When the federal government sold Greenbelt, it dedicated the street rights-of-way to the city by plats of dedication based on original plans that did not reflect actual construction. As a result, dedicated rights-of-way in some places within the original housing (GHI) are well off-center of actual street locations, in some instances, making homes to be located partially within public streets. These discrepancies are becoming of greater concern to lenders of property loans.

Working with GHI and residents, the city has corrected the situation along Crescent Road but work at other locations must still be done.

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University of Maryland Campus

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www.ListentotheMusicDCBC.com

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Donny Meadow Vole's Scary Adventure in the Underpass

by Don Comis

"Isn't any use to cry! Not a bit! Not a bit! Wipe your eyes and wipe 'em dry! Use your wit! Use your wit! Just remember that to-morrow Never brings a single sorrow. Yesterday has gone forever And to-morrow gets here never. Chase your worries all away; Nothing's worse than just today." — A favorite song of Danny Meadow Mouse, from Thornton W. Burgess' "The Adventures of Danny Meadow Mouse" [1915].

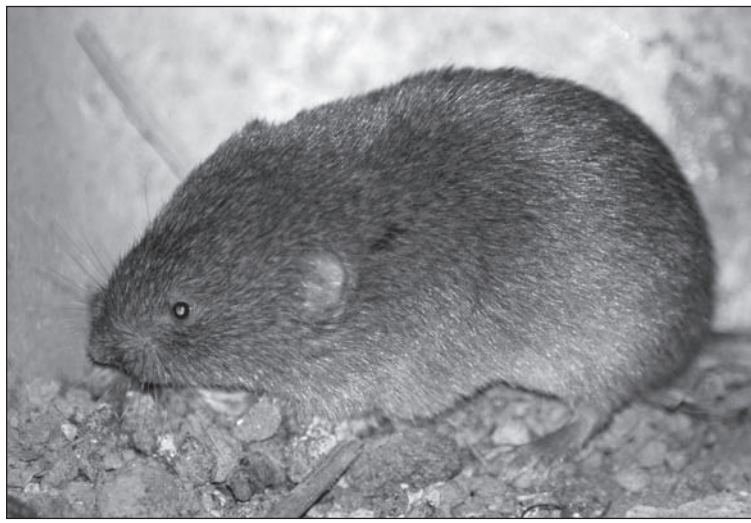


PHOTO BY DON COMIS

[Note: I stumbled into "Donny Meadow Vole" while returning from a short walk through the Hillside Underpass on Saturday evening, May 19. I used my binoculars to help me see the poor creature. I could see he was confused about which way to run. I tried shooing him out one end but at times he walked very near me. After going home for my camera and taking several shots of him, I came back home and looked him up in the "Complete Field Guide to American Wildlife" [1959] and found this intriguing comment under "Meadow Vole": "This is Danny Meadow Mouse of the 'Burgess Bedtime Stories'."

Later I learned that in Maryland there are two species of voles, the meadow vole and the pine vole. Meadow voles are also called meadow or field mice. They look like mice with short tails but are not mice, nor are they moles or shrews.

I read "The Adventures of Danny Meadow Mouse" and that gave me the idea to write about my

encounter with the Hillside tunnel vole in the same vein as the darling but scary old bedtime story.]

One day Donny Meadow Vole was running down the path near Hillside Road when he saw the biggest tunnel he had ever seen in his life. That's saying a lot because voles spend all their lives burrowing through tunnels, in dirt and in snow.

"Hmmm. . .," Donny thought. "I'll have to check this out. I should be safe here since I'm usually safe in tunnels, unless Gray or Red Fox or Outdoor Cat digs me out or Black or King Snake crawls in with me. But neither Red Tail the Hawk, nor Cooper Hawk, nor Crow, not Wily Coyote . . . not even Barred Owl can touch me in a tunnel," Donny thought.

So chubby little Donny with his short tail crawled into the tunnel, slowly at first, then he started to gain confidence and scamper faster. But, "What's that!" Donny muttered. "Thud, thud" came the

sounds, echoing in the tunnel. He turned to see a two-legged people monster coming toward him. He had never been in a tunnel with these monsters. They were too big for the tunnels he digs. He tried to crawl up the wall of the tunnel just as he always did but this time the wall was so hard that his feet couldn't grab anything and he couldn't crawl up. He tried to dig down but the ground was too hard for that too. Now Donny was very scared. This tunnel was different in every way from any tunnel he had ever made or been in.

". . . Nothing's worse than just to-day . . ."

The monster came toward him and Donny started to run one way, then he changed his mind and ran this way. Sometimes he was running right near the monster. The tunnel was so long he couldn't see either end and he was so scared that he got all confused.

Finally, all Donny could think

to do was to just not to move. He pressed his nose into a groove of the tunnel and all the monster could see was his big brown backside. Soon the monster left. But Donny was too afraid to move. He stayed there with his face pressed into the tunnel wall just like a school boy wearing a dunce cap in the corner.

Then the footsteps returned. The monster was back but he was carrying stuff now. Donny could barely dare to peek. The man had something in his hand that he pointed close to Donny. Every few seconds there would be a flash like the sun in the tunnel. Then the man unzipped a package and Donny could see he took out something that soon had three legs. He placed the flashing thing on the three legs and made more flashes.

Another loud sound but not footsteps. A second monster was coming, with two legs and two wheels. This monster stopped to talk to the first monster. Soon two more monsters came walking in, bringing a four-legged monster with them.

How Donny wished he had run out of the tunnel sooner or had never gone in. But after a while, all the monsters were gone. None of them had grabbed him like his enemies would have.

Donny resolved he would never explore this tunnel again – at least not today! After all, he sang, "Just remember that to-morrow Never brings a single sorrow . . ."

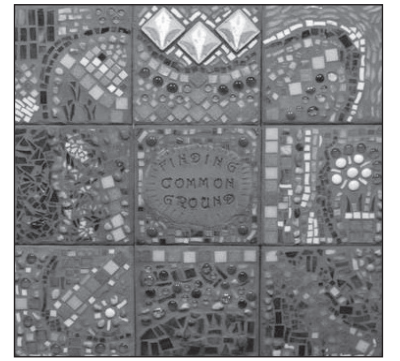
[Note: You can download a copy of the original story from Amazon for \$1.90 or get a free copy from www.gutenberg.net.]

Reception for Green Man Group Exhibit

On Sunday, June 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. there will be a public reception at the New Deal Café for more than 14 local artists exhibiting in the Green Man Group Exhibit.

The theme of this year's Green Man art exhibit is "finding common ground in the gardens of life." The works range from small paper constructions by Greenbelt Middle School students to paintings, drawings and photographs and a collaborative mosaic (shown below) done for the show. The works give a peek into the diversity of the artists' connections with nature.

The Green Man Group Exhibit will be displayed at the New Deal Café until July 2, with most works available for purchase.



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Fresh Value Pack Bone In N.Y. Strip Steaks \$5⁹⁹ lb.	California Crunchy Carrots 1 lb. bag 89¢	Shurfine Pure Butter Quarters 1 lb. \$1⁸⁸	Stouffer's Asst. Lean Cuisine Entrees 6-11.75 oz. \$2⁵⁰	Quick Frozen Haddock or Cod Fillets \$4⁹⁹ lb.
Shurfine Boneless Center Cut Ham Slices \$1⁹⁹ lb.	Red Ripe Seedless Whole Watermelon each \$3⁹⁹	Dannon Assorted Yogurts 6 oz. 60¢	Turkey Hill Ice Cream Assorted 48 oz. \$2⁵⁰	SeaBest Special Crabmeat 1 lb. \$12⁹⁹
Grocery Bargains			Grocery Bargains	
Mueller's Asst. Spaghetti & Macaroni 12 oz. 88¢	Ragu Pasta Sauces Assorted 16-24 oz. 3/\$4⁰⁰		Bumble Bee Chunk White Albacore Tuna 5 oz. \$1⁰⁰	Bull's Eye Barbecue Sauce Assorted 18 oz. \$1⁰⁰
Thomas English Muffins Select Varieties 6 pk. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Tide 2X Liquid Laundry Detergent 50 oz. \$5⁹⁹	Shurfine Jumbo Soda Assorted 3 liter \$1²⁵	Hormel Compleats Microwave Meals Assorted 10 oz. \$2⁰⁰	
Deli	Bakery	Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Beer & Wine
Hatfield Cooked Ham \$3⁶⁹ lb.	Fresh Store Baked Egg Onion Pockets 6 pk. \$2⁴⁹	Haddon House Hearts of Palm 14.1 oz. \$2⁵⁰	Nature Made Asst. Vitamins & Supplements 60-200 pk. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Yuengling Beer 6 pk.-12 oz. cans \$5¹⁹
Land-O-Lakes American Cheese \$5⁹⁹ lb.	Sweet Treat Lemon Cake Roll each \$2⁹⁹	Mrs. Renfro's Salsa & Dips Select Varieties 16 oz. \$1⁹⁹	Herbal Essences Shampoo or Conditioner Assorted 6-17 oz. \$3⁰⁰	Mike's Hard Lemonades Assorted 6 pk.-12 oz. \$7⁹⁹

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

Robbery

May 20, 12:00 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. Three men approached a person and demanded money. The robbers are described as black males, one of whom was 6' tall, weighing about 180 pounds.

Drug Arrest

May 17, 4:42 p.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. A Greenbelt youth was petitioned for possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and trespassing on posted property. He was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services. A 20-year-old D.C. man was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on citation pending trial.

May 18, 8:40 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. A 45-year-old Laurel man was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia after a traffic stop. He was released on citation pending trial.

DWI/DUI

May 18, 10:23 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. A 28-year-old Fort Washington man was arrested and charged with alcohol-related and other offenses after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

May 19, 2:15 a.m., 7700 block Greenbelt Road. A 28-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with alcohol-related offenses, among other charges, after

a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

May 20, 2:04 a.m., Greenbelt Road at Lakecrest Drive. A 44-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related offenses, among other charges, after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

Burglary

May 18, 11:58 p.m., 200 block Lakeside Drive. Jewelry and electronics were taken.

May 21, 12:10 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Terrace. Electronics were taken.

May 21, 9:17 a.m., 7800 block Mandan Road. An attempted burglary occurred.

May 23, 11:25 a.m., 100 block Westway. Electronics and currency were taken.

Vandalism

May 21, 9:35 a.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. A sliding glass door was broken.

Vehicle Crime

One vehicle was stolen, a gold 2006 Nissan Maxima with MD tags, taken from the 6200 block Springhill Drive.

Catalytic converters were stolen from two vehicles, one in the 9000 block Edmonston Road and the other in the 7800 block Walker Drive. Electronics were taken in the 8000 block Mandan Road.

Vandalism occurred in the 6100 block Breezewood Court, where a window was broken.

Upcoming Events At New Deal Café

Friday, June 1 jazz pianist John Guernsey plays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then Bushmaster Blues plays funky blues rock to the café from 8 to 11 p.m. The TV John show tapes on Saturday, June 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Bruce Krittr plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. John Guernsey plays jazz and blues piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by The Joy Bodycomb Bank with blues, rock, country and a touch of jazz from 8 to 11 p.m. On Sunday, June 3 the Koontown Killing Caper Concert and book signing is from 2 to 4 p.m. From 7 to 9 p.m. is the public reception for the Green Man Group Show artists.

Next Week

Ruthie & the Wranglers play American Roots music on Tuesday, June 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. On Wednesday, June 6 Jackson Unplugged! performs American-based folk rock from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, June 7 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays mid-day melodies from noon to 2 p.m. There will be an open microphone session with Buck Stone from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, June 8 John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then the Sligo Creek Stompers headline with a raucous but refined blend of traditional roots music from 8 to 11 p.m. The Saturday, June 9 schedule begins with Bruce Krittr on classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. John Guernsey follows with up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and The Galt Line takes over from 8 to 11 p.m. with rockabilly, Western Swing, Jump Blues and Gypsy Jazz. The Petrified Pickers play bluegrass and country classics with some of the area's best pickers Sunday, June 10 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Pepco Pays Customers Recycling Appliances

Pepco is reminding customers they can get \$50 rebates plus save on energy and subsequent electric bills by replacing old, non-energy saving appliances. The program also proves free at-home pickup of old, inefficient refrigerators and freezers at a time of their choosing. Old room air conditioners are included with \$25 rebates and are available for up to two units.

In addition to the refund check, Pepco says a new energy-saving appliance can potentially save as much as three times that amount each year in lower energy costs. The program offers up to \$150 in payments (for two large appliances and two a/c units). Refrigerators and freezers must have inside dimensions of 10 to 30 cu. ft. and must be plugged in and working when the collection crew comes for them. To schedule a pick up call 1-877-395-5540 or visit www.pepco.com/ApplianceRecycling.

Recycled appliances are disassembled and the raw materials repurposed, with safe extraction of toxic substances by a Pepco-contracted company specializing in this field.

National Gallery Hosts Jack String Quartet

The National Gallery of Art will offer a free concert on Sunday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. The Jack String Quartet and student musicians from the University of California will perform in the East Building Annex.

There is an urgent need! GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE

Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
Beltsville Seventh Day Adventist Church,
4200 Ammendale Road,
Beltsville

Saturday, June 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
Metropolitan Seventh Day Adventist Church,
6307 Riggs Road,
Hyattsville

Tuesday, June 5, 3:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.,
Laurel Regional Hospital,
7300 Van Dusen Road,
Laurel

Friday, June 8, noon to 6 p.m.,
Wells Ice Rink & Pool, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway,
College Park

Thursday, June 14, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Doctors Community Hospital and Greenbelt Lions Club,
8100 Good Luck Road,
Lanham

1-800-RED-CROSS

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

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

COG Sponsors Green Garden Photo Contest

The metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Lawn and Garden Blog is sponsoring a "Green Gardeners Make a Difference Photo Contest," inviting area gardeners to show off their eco-friendly landscape for a chance to win one of two prize packages, worth \$700 and \$400 respectively. The deadline for website submissions is June 15. From June 25 to July 6 website visitors can vote for the photo which best represents the benefits of growing green.

The first-place winner prizes are a rain barrel, utility cart, compost tumbler, sprinkler timer, a garden store gift certificate and the first-place photo framed and printed on canvas. The second place winner receives a utility card, sprinkler timer, garden store gift certificate and their photo printed on canvas and framed. More information about the contest and how to enter is available at <http://gardening.mwcog.org>.

Planetarium Program To Celebrate Venus

The Howard B. Owens Science Center will host Celebrate Venus, a planetarium program for parents, students and community members on Friday, June 1 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Venus will pass directly between Earth and the Sun on June 5, visible as a small dot gliding slowly across the face of the sun. Historically, this rare alignment is how the size of the solar system is measured. The next such alignment doesn't happen until 2117. Doors open at 7 p.m. for pre-planetarium show activities. There is a nominal fee for this event, reduced for seniors and students. Age 3 and under are free.

The Howard B. Owens Science Center is at 9601 Greenbelt Road, Lanham. For more information visit the website at www1.pgcp.org/howardbowens/, call 301-918-8750 or email rusell.waugh@pgcps.org.

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Ice Cream available for a \$1.25 additional charge

All Dinners Include choice of Dessert

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Local Legion Members Visit Baltimore

by Rusty Beeg

A day full of activity greeted American Legion Auxiliary National President, Kris Nelson of Minnesota, as she made an official visit to Maryland May 15.

The day began with a contingent from Greenbelt's Post #136 American Legion Auxiliary and a tour of the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) in Baltimore. This facility trains, rehabilitates and educates formerly homeless and impoverished veterans with a goal of returning them to society as fully functioning citizens. The Auxiliary also serves homeless veterans in the Baltimore area not ready to commit to the full course of training and rehabilitation offered but who need a meal, a place to stay off the street, a shower or some clothing. Based on a holistic approach to treatment, each resident (termed a student) is assigned a case worker who supervises their health, education, work schedules and goal setting. Students furnish all the work required to keeping the facility running smoothly from cooking to cleaning to security and even laundry.

In existence for 25 years, MCVET has assisted over 6,000 veterans from around the country. Their success rate for those remaining in the program for at least 30 days and returning to their communities to lead productive lives stands at 72 percent. Because of their success, MCVET has been named a national model and serves as a training site on homeless veterans' issues for national and international agencies. There is room for up to 17 female and 250 male occupants with plans to increase female facilities in the near future.

Donations Sought

Greenbelt's American Legion Auxiliary Unit has supported MCVET through the years with donations of clothing and funds. Clothing, especially clothing suitable for job interviews, is welcome and may be donated by calling Unit President Rusty Beeg at 301-602-7214.

Naturalization

After lunch at MCVET, Nelson's entourage moved to the Baltimore War Memorial where the American Legion Auxiliary hosted a naturalization ceremony in conjunction with staff from the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Seventy new citizens from 42 countries became citizens of the United States. It was the first time for many in the audience to witness such a service. Post #136 member Wayne Miller participated by singing the National Anthem as well as two other patriotic songs and past department president Eva Browning welcomed the new citizens, reminiscing about her own naturalization many years ago. After the ceremony, Green-



PHOTO BY SHARON HOLDER

Members of Greenbelt's American Legion family stand in for new citizens' absent family (l to r) Sandi Dutton, new citizen Sergy De Bonhomme, Linda Newsome, Rusty Beeg and Wayne Miller.

belt Unit members Sandi Dutton, Linda Newsome and Rusty Beeg greeted many of the new – and very excited – citizens.

The day ended with a banquet in Nelson's honor at a Baltimore County American Legion Post. The Greenbelt Unit members

who attended agreed that it was a day filled with memorable highlights that gave the national president much to talk about as she continues her travels around the world.

Rusty Beeg is the Post #136 Auxiliary President

CPAE Offers Tots Arts Playgroups

Looking for a playgroup with more arts for babies, toddlers and pre-K? On Friday, June 8 from noon to 1 p.m. the College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE) will offer a Baby Arts Group program on baby music with Melissa Sites. The Baby Arts Group is a lunch-hour program with arts activities led by trained professionals or caregivers for children 4 years old and younger. (Bring a lunch.) The program is free but a donation to help cover costs for arts teach-



ers is requested. Other meetings of this group will be held on June 15, 22 and 29.

The program will be at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park, one block from the College Park Metro (corner of Knox and Dartmouth; turn left at Rt. 1 by Smoothie King and follow Knox to dead end on Dartmouth). Parking permits are available inside.

For more information email info@cpae.org or call 301-927-3013.

Men Marrying Men OK with You?

Want a right to vote on this in November? Petition signers are needed for the referendum.

Read up at: MarylandMarriageAlliance.com

Please do not wait for the June 18 deadline!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Dental Implants - Don't Wait to Replace your Missing Teeth!



Dr. David McCarl, Dr. Clayton McCarl, Dr. Monica Mattson, Dr. Jay McCarl
McCarl Dental Group

Dental implants are today's standard of care for replacing missing teeth and securing removable dentures. In the past few years, improvements in dental implant technology have made implants **more reliable, more comfortable and more affordable**. There are circumstances for which a dental implant has replaced root canal therapy as the preferred dental treatment. When the root of a tooth is too short or too badly damaged to support restoration with a dental crown, it may be best to extract the tooth and place a dental implant. The implant will provide greater support for the restored tooth and improved long term success.

Dental implants are placed in the jaw where they fuse to the bone. They are effective for restoration of a single missing tooth or multiple missing teeth. In the past, dentists relied on procedures that were often temporary measures to repair badly damaged teeth. Now, in many cases, implants restored with crowns will last longer and cost less than ongoing repair efforts.

When you lose a tooth, your jawbone gradually loses strength and firmness. This leads to bone loss and can even cause changes in facial features. The loss of just one tooth can cause uneven chewing and an unstable bite. The remaining teeth shift and proper cleaning becomes more difficult. A misaligned bite can also contribute jaw joint dysfunction and headaches. Unlike a denture or bridge, a dental implant can prevent bone loss at the site of the missing tooth.

Many patients tell us that having a dental implant placed is more comfortable than they expected. Unlike teeth, the jaw bone does not have nerves. The type and density of bone varies from patient to patient and even within different locations in the same patient's jaw. Bone density will determine whether the dental implant can be restored immediately, or whether the implant needs to "sleep" and strengthen for several months before use. Allowing an implant to "sleep" and fuse to the jaw bone significantly adds to its strength.

There are advantages to having a properly trained general dentist place your implant. A general dentist will be restoring the implant and can determine

the type and size implant that is most suitable as well as optimal position for later restoration. When the implant is placed and restored by the same dentist, there are fewer visits to the dentist which results in lower cost and greater convenience for the dental patient. Many patients are pleasantly surprised that the cost of dental implants is much lower than they expected. If you are missing teeth, visit a properly trained dentist to learn how dental implants can improve the health of your smile.

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Greenbelt, Maryland

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75th Anniversary

Hijinks Carried the Day for Early Town Youth

by Leo Slaughter

This is part two about childhood pursuits of young Greenbelt pioneers. The writer, now in Front Royal, Va., was prompted by his younger sister, Joanne Kelaher, who still lives in town.

Marbles were a big thing for kids back in the Greenbelt day. Every boy carried a dozen or more in the pockets of his shorts or knickers. All boys in short pants carried scabs or scars on their knees; some still do. In the wintertime we wore knickers but our long socks never stayed up and usually rested around the ankles. I received my first pair of long pants in June 1944. I was 13-and-a-half years old.

There were two basic marble games. In one, you drew a rough 40-inch circle in the dirt. Then each player added a couple of marbles in a tight cluster in the middle. One at a time the shooters got down on one knee and, holding their "Shooter" between thumbnail and index fingertip, they flicked it toward the target cluster. If your shooter knocked a marble out of the ring, it was yours to keep. If your shooter stayed in the ring, you got to shoot again. Some kids could put a spin on their shooter so it would stick on impact and "run" the whole cluster. Girls played marbles, too.

The other marble game we played was called "Potsey." You dug a birds'-nest-sized hole in the dirt and marked a line three to five yards away. Each player then added a marble to the hole and tossed his "Bunker" (large marble) to the line. Closest bunker to the line played first. First bunker to roll in the hole got the marbles it contained. Then you started all over again. These games could go on for hours and only ended when the back lights came on.

Pre-teens in my day were great climbers. By age seven, I regularly shimmied up the drainpipe of our two-story home to see if I could impress my less agile friends. We would climb most anything. One of our many tree-climbing thrills was to find a 20-foot tulip poplar and climb until we ran out of limbs. Then we would reach up the main stalk, get a good two-handed grip and kick out. The tree would bend like a fishing rod while the climber hung on like an overweight Christmas ornament. The result was that the climber dropped the remaining eight to 10 feet to the ground or the treetop broke and the climber tumbled to the ground. Either result was perfectly satisfactory to the kid or his audience.

Since Greenbelt was quite isolated at that time and home entertainment was limited to radio, the playgrounds, ball fields and especially the lake took on greater importance for the outdoorsy kids. Starting way before the age of 10, we fished the lake and especially its spillway. I didn't own a clock so I would tie a string to my toe and throw the end of the string out the two-story window. About 5 a.m., one of my buddies would pull the string to wake me up. By daybreak, we were on the lake's floating dock (for as long as it lasted), dropping our handlines in the water. None of us ever owned a rod or reel. From there we would move to the end of the lake's concrete spillway

where erosion had formed a small four-foot deep puddle. Small fish swept over the dam's spillway ended up there and matured. We used the same drop lines and the usual bait was stale or moldy bread. By 10 o'clock the sun was hot, the fish stopped biting and we were eating the bait. After a quick sip from the lake to build our immunity, we began the two-mile walk home with an appetite.

Skating

In the colder winters of that time, the lake became our own personal 20+ -acre ice skating rink. One winter, the ice was two feet thick and cars drove out on it. The town at that time supplied large logs to make huge bonfires, one on each side of the lake so skaters at night could go from fire to fire to warm up, rest and party. The resident ducks kept a backyard-sized pool of water open. At night the pool was surrounded by roadside flare pots to prevent skaters from plunging into the icy water.

A couple buddies and I also used the lake in summer for frog gigging. Wearing shorts and old Keds sneakers, we waded into the water lilies and muck at the shallow end carrying a flashlight and a homemade bamboo spear. Speared frogs had to be pinned to the lake's bottom or they would slip off when the spear was lifted. They were then separated from their legs on the spot and the legless frogs swam away to the snapping turtle for his late-night snack. The legs were placed in an old onion sack to drop-dry. They would kick for hours but fried up, they were delicious.

In today's culture knives are a no-no, but in the late 1930s they played a very large part in a young boy's life and we all owned at least one and carried it everywhere daily. That included school. We played knife games at recess at the Center School in every grade. The games varied but all included tricks that ended with the knife sticking up from the ground. In one game the loser was required to "chew the peg," a wooden matchstick pushed entirely into the ground. The loser had to dig it out using only his teeth! We stuck knives in about anything. Throwing knives at large trees was a favorite sport. One day a bunch of us decided to play stick-up in a man's garage door. The target area was a square just above the lock. In a short while, a baseball-sized hole appeared. We were very good throwers. We only quit because a valuable knife was likely to go through the hole and become irretrievable.

That night Buddy Attick, the town's policeman, visited my dad and me for a little talk. That's all, just a talk. No charges, costs, fines or publicity. The town fixed the door. It was a different America.

Another time a boy and I were playing stick-up in a lengthy board we were standing on. We were facing one another when I missed the board and stuck the knife up in his foot right behind his big toe. We pulled the knife and blood gushed out of his sneaker. I rode him to the doctor's office on my bike and he was patched up. There was no ambulance call, expensive medical bill, lawyer or police action. Not even a call from the boy's parents, as most Greenbelters didn't yet own a phone. My parents never

found out about it. It was just considered a dumb kid's accident.

Give a bunch of kids the summer off without TV, computers, telephones and very little adult supervision and they will create their own fun and games. Early on we discovered an easy way to make a bang and a racket. You simply take a single-edge razor blade and remove the white tip off a bunch of wooden matches. Then you scrounge up a couple of long three-quarter-inch bolts and one matching nut. Thread the nut one turn on the bolt and fill the nut with match heads. Then screw on the other bolt and hand tighten. The unit is then tossed high in the air over a hard surface like asphalt and everyone runs because you don't know which way the unit is pointed on contact. When the unit strikes the hard surface, the match heads explode, sending the bolts high into the air or whichever way it happens to be pointed. After numerous damages were reported, the local town-owned grocery store took all matches off their shelves, ending some great fun.

All real boys could fire up one of these matches on the seat of his pants or with the flick of a thumbnail, cowboy-style. Firing one up on the tip of a tooth took a lot more nerve, although I did see a one-inch firecracker with a very short fuse held in the mouth for lighting. That was scary until the kid realized the blood and chunks he was spitting out were pieces of "cracker" and not his teeth!

When a kid could "gather" his father's can of lighter fluid, a crowd would gather to watch a flame-thrower demo, which always ended when the demonstrator's pants caught fire. One time a 10-year-old future engineer found a way to refigure a pair of snap clothespins into a match shooter. At about five or six feet, it propelled the match ammo into any wall, where it exploded on contact. At about that time, we owned an old Plymouth sedan that was impossible to start in damp weather. The six spark plugs sat in dimples along the top of the engine. Pop would place four of the large wooden matches head down into each dimple and then light all six groups causing six small fires. When they burned out, the car would then start. Even I knew there was a carburetor flooded with gas and fumes sitting among the fires. Playing with stick matches was always fun but always dangerous too.

School Days

Our grammar school was large for those times. We had about a dozen rooms plus a large gym with a full-size basketball court. There was also a library, workshop and shower room. All students went home for lunch. It was about a half mile to my house and uphill most of that distance. I ran that half mile each school day for seven years. Lunch in good weather was a peanut butter sandwich, cookie and milk. In bad weather it was chicken noodle soup, cookie and milk. There were no fat kids in the 1930s. Of the 30 or so first-graders that first year of school in 1937, twelve of us completed high school and received a special diploma. I remember only two teachers – Mrs. Garrett, the tough music teacher, and Mrs. Homes, who showed us a map of Japan

on December 7, 1941. We kids considered Japan's size and decided that the war would only last about two weeks.

Every spring a couple of Asians would show up in the town's center doing fantastic tricks with Yo-Yos. For the next two weeks, every kid in town had a Yo-Yo. Of course, we could never do all those fancy tricks but we were always tricked into trying again the following year. The war put an end to their yearly appearance.

In the early years of Greenbelt, Mr. McGregor was the town's head gardener. He was a nice man to us little kids. His office was in the row of garages behind the old gas station. During Christmas season, he would give a tabletop Yule log to any kid who asked. About two feet long, it came with three holes on one side for candles. All we had to do was glue on pinecones and evergreens and we had a gift for mom's Christmas table.

One summer the Japanese beetles were the worst that I have ever seen. Mr. McGregor was paying 25 cents a quart for dead ones and traps were in almost every yard. That was big money for young boys at the time, if you could endure the stink. And I can say it takes a lot of beetles to make a quart.

Walk-up Service

Twice each year, spring and fall, the knife grinder walked through town. He carried a grinding wheel mounted on four legs on his back. He walked along ringing a handheld bell that he hoped would attract customers. When one appeared, he removed the grinder and spun the wheel with a foot pedal.

We also had a bread, milk, vegetable and ice cream man. Peter, the bread man, was the stay-at-home mother's favorite. In addition to bread, pies, cupcakes, etc., he carried gossip and news from other areas of town. Remember, these mothers had no way to communicate outside their court. The day Pete left for war was a sad day for the neighborhood and the day he returned was something to remember. Grown women in groups cried. Now the war was truly over!

Air conditioning did not exist in early Greenbelt except at the movie theater. In summer kids slept out in the yard on quilts. Showers were taken under a hose or sprinkler using unheated water. Adults, sometimes on sweltering nights, slept on their home's ground floor with both front and back doors open to catch any draft. There was never any thought of crime or danger to the children.

Children's diseases were a serious problem before the war. One of the 10 greatest discoveries of all time in my view was that of antibiotics. Adults and children alike died of infections that are now easily cured with antibiotics. A boy I knew died of an appendix infection; the same thing almost killed my dad decades earlier.

Polio became the major fear of parents in the early '40s. A boy I had played with a couple days earlier ended up in an iron lung for years. The late '30s was still a very dangerous time for children and many died that could be treated successfully today. Many who survived the dangers of diseases

would succumb to the dangers of the coming war.

The War Years

On December 7, 1941, Greenbelt like the rest of America changed forever. Blackouts, rationing, shortages, scrap drives and the fear of bombing raids gripped the East Coast. Like all towns, Greenbelt started an airplane spotters group. The town built a set of wooden steps against the outside of the barber-shop where it meets the movie theater. On the flat roof above, they built a small wooden shack and installed a telephone. The phone was connected to operators in Washington. The shack was occupied every hour, day and night for over a year. The occupant's job was to report each airplane that passed to the Washington operator. In the days before radar, this was the early warning system used to detect an enemy air raid on Washington. When school was out in the summer of 1942, I joined the "spotters." My schedule was twice each week from 4 to 8 a.m. Even after 70 years, I can remember a typical call went like this: three bi-engines at 2,000 feet, heading east-southeast to north-northwest at 150 mph. Remember, it was likely dark and I was 11 years old!

By the summer of '42 the war effort and rationing were in full swing, and I started my first job. Each morning that summer and on weekends later, some of us boys who owned wagons would meet at the old grocery store and carry people's groceries. By that time, many housewives had found defense jobs and had to shop on weekends. Gas was rationed and people no longer wasted it just to get groceries. So we boys started making money by carrying shopper's food home for them. Unfortunately, every direction from the store was uphill, but that was why we were in great demand. When a shopper exited the store, the first wagon in line got the order and towed it to its destination, sometimes close and sometimes far. And uphill all the way. After he received his tip, he returned to the store and the end of the wagon line. The tips were usually a nickel or dime. One lady always tipped a quarter and it was a lucky wagon puller who got her order. On a busy day, pullers might get four pulls. The remainder of the time we sat in line, moving up with each order. If we were lucky enough to get a dime tip, we spent half of it, usually on a candy bar or a 7 oz. coke.

Best of all we learned the work habit and the value of money. We were also doing our own thing at a very young age. Our parents didn't know where we were most of the day and didn't give it much thought or worry. It was a different time and country that was rapidly ending, a great pity!

The war, defense homes, new Greenbelters and the doubling of the population changed old Greenbelt forever. The fall of 1942 ended the first five years of a completely new town.

The original 1930s members of our gang were Dotty Roeling, Helen Cline, Joanne Slaughter, Jerry Cowell, Leon Coggins, Billy Graham, Benton Havens and the Meek twins, Charlie and Freddy.

Greenbelt Residents Gather To Celebrate Memorial Day



A crowd listens to speeches at the War Memorial in Roosevelt Center.



Eleanor Roosevelt High School Air Force ROTC Color Guard stands at ease.



Steven Matera plays "Taps" at the Greenbelt Memorial Day ceremony.



Four wreaths stand behind the World War II Memorial. The smaller stone monument honors Korea and Viet Nam veterans.

Wildlife Comforts During Memorial Day Ponderings

by Don Comis

When my sister Cheryl was on her deathbed in a Honolulu hospital in January 2007, at age 60, a red-vented bulbul bird perched on her window sill, starting my practice of choosing birds as totems for loved ones who pass away. It also spurred me to devote more time to bird watching since it helped me deal with grief.

The birds I saw at the Honolulu cemetery, including parrots, as I arranged for cremation and picked up her ashes comforted me in a place Cheryl couldn't bear to go to make the arrangements herself. I bought a bird guide and learned that this cemetery was one of the island of Oahu's birding hot spots.

Wildlife Omens, Totems

I never intended to write about this because I thought these were just my own weird ideas. But as I talked to others over the years since I found others were also picking birds as totems or omens of death.

2007 was a year for bird totems for me. Before the year ended, my brother-in-law, Jim, drowned in a commercial diving accident in Sitka, Alaska. When I looked out of the windows of the fishing lodge we stayed at for the funeral, I saw a solitary diving cormorant in the body of water where Jim had drowned and I knew that would be his totem.

Then on May 24 this year, I found a coiled black snake in the throes of death after being hit by a car on Ridge Road. Two days later I learned my brother, Howie, was dead. Not about to choose the snake as his totem, I thought of another Hawaiian bird, the zebra dove, a small bird that reflected both Howie's small size and the "Zebra" nickname he adopted late in life.



PHOTO BY DON COMIS

The Turner family was among the early 18th century settlers in what is now Greenbelt. They named their property on the west side of Edmonston Road "Wild Cat Plantation." Purchased in 1759, the land remained in the family until it was sold in 1935 for the Greenbelt project. The Turner graveyard was later enlarged to create the Greenbelt Cemetery.

This Memorial Day I decided I might finally do some bird watching at Greenbelt's historic cemetery on Ivy Lane after the American Legion's ceremony. The words of one of the speakers convinced me to go – he invited us to mentally visit a Maryland cemetery. Then he read lines about the quiet place, the only sounds being birds singing in the trees.

So I physically went to the cemetery afterward. I was surprised by the density of the woods surrounding it. I sat on the cemetery's benches, including a stone one set by a grave and did some bird watching – and listening and meditating on my own personal Memorial Day.

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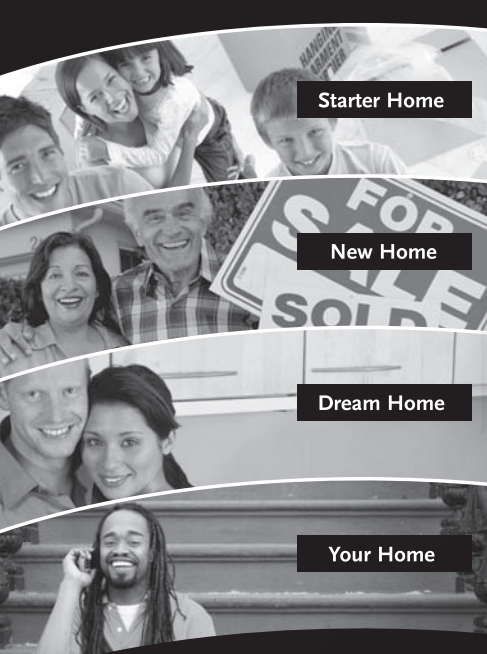
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Genealogy Society To Meet June 6

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society will meet Wednesday, June 6 at 7 p.m. in the New Carrollton Municipal Building, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway. After a brief business meeting, Tom Shawker will speak on Cartographic Records.

All are welcome to attend this free presentation.

For additional information see www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs or call 301-262-2063. The society meets on the first Wednesday of each month from September through June, except for January.

Early Morning Bowie Bird Walk Saturday

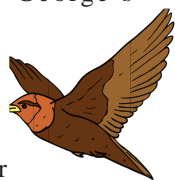
Meet at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 2 at the parking lot of the Fran Uhler Natural Area at Lemon Bridge Road just north of Bowie State University for a free Audubon Society monthly bird walk held on the first Saturday year-round.

Beginners and experts may see resident and migrating woodland and field birds and waterfowl, with good chances also to see raptor flyovers at this Patuxent River forested floodplain. There is also a chance to bird the nearby WB&A trail after the Uhler bird walk.

Waterproof footwear and binoculars are suggested. Call 410-765-6482 for more information.

Mid-Week Bird Walks At Lake Artemesia

The Prince George's Audubon Society will hold a free guided bird walk at Lake Artemesia to look for migrating and resident songbirds, waterfowl and other bird flyovers on Thursdays, June 7 and 21 at 6 p.m. The paved walk loops around the 38-acre lake and beside Indian Creek. Meet at the parking lot at Berwyn Road and Balew Avenue in Berwyn Heights. Beginners and experts are welcome. Binoculars are suggested. Call 301-459-3375 for more information.



Experimental Music At CPAE Program

The Stitch is a series of do-it-yourself coffeehouse shows between April and June sponsored by Yarnar Studio and the College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE). On Tuesday, June 5 at 8 p.m. Janel and Anthony will perform experimental music for cello and guitar. Their music has been featured on NPR and the BBC.

The event is free, although donations for the artists are encouraged. It will be held at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road (corner of Knox and Dartmouth, one block from Metro); parking permits are available inside.

For more information visit cpae.org.

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PHOTO BY MARY MOIEN

Drug Store Recollections Jog Readers' Memories

by Mary Moien

There has been quite a stir over the stories of memories. Old (and young) residents are talking in the Co-op and Roosevelt Center; people are stopping me on the street or emailing. Here are a few more memories I have recently received.

Joan Moore Brummer regaled us with stories in an earlier article. Here are some more she shared: "The drug store had a magazine section by the door that led out to the theater and I remember often sneaking a peek at the comic books that only cost a dime but it was a dime I didn't have. Around the corner was the beauty parlor, a candy store that also sold cigarettes and the barber shop.

"Going from the drug store in the other direction was the movie theater followed by a valet shop. When Greenbelt first opened, the valet shop was a furniture store from which my parents purchased a couch, two living room chairs, two bookcases, a desk and chair, a dining room set and a set of bunk beds. That furniture became known as 'Greenbelt furniture' and was made from quarter sawn oak. It only became the valet shop when the furniture was all sold. In the valet shop there was a shoe repair which later moved to the rear of the theater, around the corner from the barber shop."

Dee and Jack Downs have spent almost their entire married life in Greenbelt. They both shared some memories. Jack comments on his youth: "Time – the mid-forties, the 1940s. It was a big deal in the summertime. Do some lawns to get some money. Get together with some friends and hop on the trolley that ran from Mt. Rainier to Branchville. Then, take the bus to Greenbelt and go jump in the pool. What a way to spend a hot summer day! To top it all off, stop in at the soda fountain at the drug store (now Beijing) for a root beer float! Kids out of town loved coming here!"

Dee writes, "I met two of my best old buddies, Mary Geiger and Marge Feeney, over a coke at the old drug store back in late 50s. They were inviting me to join the St. Hugh's Sodality. I did and I had many good times with those two and with the Ladies in the Sodality and the folks at St. Hugh's."

Wonderful Memories

They must have made some very special drinks at the drug store. Diane Ronchi says she's lived here 65 years and "I have nothing but wonderful memories. What I remember most of the old

Greenbelt Drugstore was that they had the best lime rickies ever. Never found them anywhere else ever."

Mary Barcus Smith, now living in Annapolis, told the News Review, "It is great reading about the memories of Greenbelt. I enjoyed having a 'coke float' up at the counter at the drug store after school (St. Hugh's) with friends. I appreciated Robert Haslinger remembering my mom, Evelyn Barcus, working for Mr. Madden at Nationwide Insurance (in a recent letter to the editor). Nationwide was on the left upstairs and the beauty shop was located on the right."

Longtime Greenbelter Irene Fulton Pavlish found her career while working at the drug store: "I was a soda jerk at the Co-op drug store. It was sometime in 1949 and Peter Caruso was manager of the new Co-op grocery store. He came to the soda fountain/lunch counter for lunch. At the time there weren't any female cashiers in the new grocery store but as I got acquainted with Pete, he asked me if I'd like to be a cashier. So I was the first female hired in the store and I was called a 'checker.' They had female clerks in the old original store which is now the New Deal Café. I had already worked in the Little North End Store. I stayed at the Co-op for 38 years."

Total Freedom

Pete Boggs writes from Florida that he was six months old when he moved to Greenbelt after waiting for their house to be built in the 6 Court Ridge Road. He lived in the city for more than 30 years. He has a more general memory but idyllic like many of the stories. "When I was 7 years old, I had total freedom, could go anywhere in Greenbelt and the woods. Will always remember that. I used to swim in the pool every day in summer and every Saturday with 30-40 kids, stand in line at the movies for the Saturday morning Westerns. I went to Center School and Greenbelt Junior High. I confessed I brought the dead skunk into Center School. Everybody came out fast."

Memories seem to be moving from store to store in what is now Roosevelt Center. Let's expand into the other stores, as well as the theater and the upstairs offices. Send me new stories at mmoien@aol.com. I will try for more updates later in June. Identify the store by its current occupant and then share personal remembrance of the old (and not so old) days.

75th Anniversary Growing Up In Greenbelt

My family moved to Greenbelt in April 1942, when I was 3-1/2 years old. When we first moved in there was no grass at all, just dirt.

There were tons of kids to play with: Bobby Cherry, Sandra Cottone and Elaine Proctor were my best friends. We played in backyards making puppet shows, sledding down hills in the snow and making roads and towns in the sand with cars and trucks. We went out in the rain with raincoats and umbrellas, splashing in every mud puddle and then went inside, dried off and played in our rooms with blocks and Tinker Toys. We spent countless hours climbing trees and exploring in the North Woods. I made weekly trips to the town library in the Center School (the kitchen is there now).

I went to kindergarten at Center School. One of my favorite memories is marching around the room to music, using drums that we made out of oatmeal boxes with strings around our necks. I remember eating graham crackers and milk and taking naps on little mats or rugs.

All the kids in the neighborhood would play ball on the little field behind our court. Sometimes in the summer we got to play tag after dark, which was the best fun. We would be hot and sweaty but who cared?

Going to the drugstore in the Center and getting a cherry coke was a big treat. Later on when High's occupied that space, the treat was an ice cream cone.

When the federal government sold Greenbelt housing in 1952, I moved with my mother and two brothers to 2-L Eastway. It was only a block and a half away but it wasn't the same. All my friends moved out of Greenbelt and it was the end of an era. But it was a wonderful 10 years.

When my daughter turned 5, she also went to kindergarten at Center School. At that time the kindergarten classroom occupied what is now the News Review space. Ruth Bowman was the teacher and I would visit once a month or so as a parent helper.

— Judy Ransom Bell



Judy Ransom, age 3 and 1/2, poses in front of her Greenbelt frame home in the 46 Court of Ridge Road before grass was planted.

Finding Springhill's Lake

by Don Comis

I have to admit that I didn't believe there was a lake at Springhill Lake Apartments, now called Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station. My wife Helen told me there was but I didn't believe it until I saw it on Google Earth.

On Sunday morning, May 20, I found the lake. It was more urban and managed than I imagined, with plastic white picket fencing and beautiful landscaping neatly surrounding it. No aquatic weeds but two fountains.

At first I was discouraged about the possibility of finding much life here but I've learned never to assume, so I walked twice around the small lake. My first surprise was the great number of visible fish swimming in a shallow area near a footbridge where the lake spilled into a creek moving toward the Beltway and Edmonston Road. There were several minnows and more than 30 bigger fish.

Troll under Bridge

I almost became the troll under the bridge from one of my favorite fairy tales, the Billy Goat's Gruff, after crawling under the arched bridge with my backpack, tripod, camera and binoculars to get a better look at the fish. Children walked over the bridge and I hoped not to scare

them as I packed up and got out from under the bridge. Luckily they never noticed me.

My second surprise was two turtles sunning themselves on a tiny island formed by debris. I could get really close to them by sitting on a bench and steadying my camera on the fence railing.

On my second pass, I saw a big snapping turtle swimming in the water. A resident walking her small dog helped me spot the turtle. She didn't know there was a snapping turtle in her lake but could relate to turtles because she has a turtle named "George" in her apartment. When I told her this was my first time at the lake she said they had new management. I took that to mean she felt things were better and I should feel safe there.

Although the setting is urban, adjoining the complex' rental center and swimming pool, my patience was rewarded. The lake is alive with life including butterflies, dragonflies, robins, starlings, sparrows and grackles.

With a sidewalk and a fence surrounding the lake, it's a clean safe place to take a walk, take in the sights or just meditate. Before Memorial Day, only the turtles will be sunbathing.

To get to the lake, drive down

Cherrywood Lane and follow signs to the rental center, turning left on Springhill Drive. Park near the rental center, on the left, at 6220 Springhill Drive, across from the fitness center, which may still have a "Welcome" flag banner.



PHOTO BY DON COMIS

These turtles were found sunning themselves at Springhill Lake.



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75th Anniversary Dinner
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