

## \$26.1 Million Proposed Budget Avoids Property Tax Increase

by James Giese

City Manager Michael McLaughlin presented his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2016 to the Greenbelt City Council at its March 23 meeting. McLaughlin proposes a \$1.1 million increase in expenditures, but no increase in the property tax rate. The total proposed expenditures are \$26.4 million. While the city has not recovered from the financial hit of the 2008-2009 recession, which caused a 20.6 percent drop in property values, the loss of state revenues previously allotted to the city and flat budgets, McLaughlin believes a turn has been made in the city's economy; he projects an upward trend for future years.

With the printed budget document not available for the meeting, McLaughlin used a slide show to make his presentation. City staff forecasts revenues to increase 3.3 percent or \$830,300. This will be due primarily to increased property assessments for apartments (the best per-

forming type of housing in the recent market), \$320,000; new housing constructed, \$160,000; growth in income tax revenues, \$100,000; and increased revenue from speeding citations generated from new speed cameras installed on Cherrywood Lane and Greenbelt Road, \$110,000.

Those revenues will not be enough to cover proposed expenses, and McLaughlin proposes using a \$300,000 transfer from other city funds to make the balance and cover movie theater costs. If the legislature approves proposed legislation to supplement highway user revenues for distribution to cities and counties, McLaughlin anticipates that the city is getting an unbudgeted extra of \$265,000, which he proposes setting aside for needed capital projects.

### Employees

The budget proposal adds the equivalent of 2.9 full-time employees to the city workforce. That's still almost three few-

er employees than the city had before the recession hit. This increase will help fund a summer help program for students. McLaughlin has set aside an added 1.8 percent of payroll to use for cost of living and merit pay step increases.

McLaughlin put forth an eight-point work plan for the new fiscal year which begins on July 1.

1. To enhance the sense of community, he proposes a welcoming event for new residents at the South Core of Greenbelt Station and to incorporate the Greenbelt theater into city programs.

2. To improve the city's housing stock and assure economic sustainability, he proposes initiating an incentive program of grants or tax rebates for those undertaking residential reinvestment allocating \$50,000 to the proposal.

3. McLaughlin proposes furthering improvements to public

See **BUDGET**, page 6

## Grant Awarded to MakerSpace At Community Foundation Tea

by Charis Pannell

On Sunday, March 22 at the American Legion Post 136, Greenbelt residents, friends and community leaders including State Delegate Alonzo Washington gathered for the Greenbelt Community Foundation's (GCF) Annual Tea.

In the refurbished hall at the Legion, attendees sat around a dozen or so tables covered with white tablecloths, green napkins and daffodil centerpieces; sipped tea and coffee; and snacked on veggies, fruit, tea sandwiches and mini cupcakes as they listened to several thoughtful speeches.

Suzette Agans, chair, highlighted the Foundation's accomplishments and discussed the future.

"GCF has a busy year ahead," Agans said. "We recently completed a new three-year plan, which will put into action our new motto, Nourishing all of Greenbelt Neighborhoods." She noted they are also working to make sure more Greenbelt residents know about the Foundation and the grant opportunities it has available.

### Grant Award

George Boyce, president of Greenbelt MakerSpace, this year's recipient of the GCF grant, expressed his thanks for the funds allowing his organization to purchase a vinyl cutter, a CNC router and a plastic recycling system. The award was presented by

County Councilmember Todd Turner who assured the tea celebrants that he would continue his predecessor's contributions to GCF.

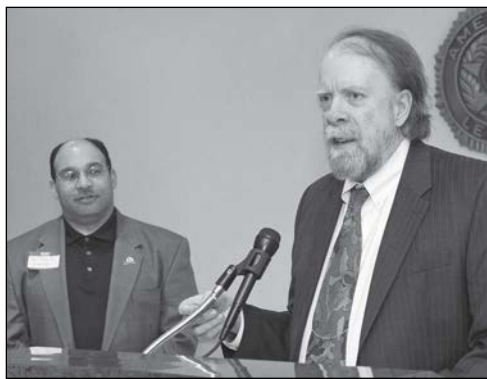
According to Boyce, the vinyl cutter will help in the creation of stickers, signs, banners and other materials. A CNC router, another tool used for cutting, uses a computer program to control the process.

The plastics recycling system will allow the MakerSpace to take plastic milk cartons and convert them into the rolls of plastic used in the 3-D printing process. "Not only is the resulting filament less than one percent of the retail price, but this method of recycling uses up to 90 percent less energy than our current recycling program," he said. MakerSpace has been working with their new 3-D printer, paid for by a private donation.

Boyce also informed attendees of another grant he was submitting for MakerSpace.

"Our next grant application has just been submitted to the Motorola Solutions Foundation. In this application we propose to

See **GCF TEA**, page 6



George Boyce (right) of the Greenbelt MakerSpace speaks about expanding the organization's workshops after accepting a grant from the foundation. Looking on is County Councilmember Todd Turner.

PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

### What Goes On

**Saturday, April 4**  
 10 a.m. sharp, Egg Hunt, Ages 18 months to 6th grade, Buddy Attick Park  
 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tree Protection Work Day, Buddy Attick Park  
 7 to 9:45 p.m., Contra Dance, Community Center (See city ad on page 5)  
**Wednesday, April 8**  
 7:30 p.m., Council Worksession with the State's Attorney, Community Center

## Women's History Month

In observance of Women's History Month, the News Review has been running articles about Greenbelt women of significant accomplishments whose stories are not well known. The series was coordinated by David Lange.

## Dianne Niedner Talks Of Career, Life and Latin

by Charis Pannell

The pleasant warmth in Dianne Niedner's Greenbelt home complemented her open personality, revealed as she reminisced about her life and career.

Niedner, the senior program officer in the Office of the Undersecretary for History, Art, and Culture at the Smithsonian Institution, began telling her story by mentioning her beloved alma mater, Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga.

"That was where I got my bachelor of arts degree in Latin, believe it or not," she said with a laugh. The influence of one of her high school English teachers, who had attended the women's college, made Niedner eager to do so as well. Another teacher influenced Niedner's eventual choice of major.

"There are people in our lives



Dianne Niedner

that really influence us and so certainly, when I was in high school, my Latin teacher was a very strong influence and I took four years of Latin," she said.

Though she did choose Latin as her major, she almost chose English until, yet again, influential women came

into her life and made her stick with the ancient language she has always loved.

"I came under the influence of a very forceful woman who was the chairman of the classics department at Agnes Scott and she also happened to be my freshman advisor, so she kind of got hold of me early." Two other female professors in the department also encouraged Niedner to stay on the Latin path.

See **NIEDNER**, page 7

## Theater Project Sees Light At the End of the Tunnel

by Kathleen Gallagher

If one looks closely, those just might be LED bulbs that are spilling more environmentally-friendly lighting from the period fixture in the foyer than would have been imaginable in 1938 when the Greenbelt Theater first opened. Still, the end is nearly in sight for what has been a long struggle with the surprises and limitations of an old building, as well as a challenge in balancing function with historical accuracy.

At its March 23 regular meeting, the city council approved on a 6-1 vote, with Councilmember Rodney Roberts dissenting, an increase to the budget for contracting services for renovation of the theater. Asked for his latest and best revised forecast for the likely reopening of the theater, City Manager Michael McLaughlin said he anticipates a soft reopening at the end of April and a grand opening in the middle of May. At this point, he said, the delay is all about the doors. Everything else is on target for being completed by then.

Since the contracts were

signed last year, quite a few change orders have occurred that will increase the total project costs by \$201,241. The extra amount that must be paid is only \$151,241 because the general contractor, Gardiner and Gardiner, handled the painting of the exterior of the theater building, which the city had budgeted as a separate project.

Even so, costs are 14 percent higher than the amount of the original contract, bringing the new contract total to \$1,265,775. Ordinarily a contingency fund would have been included in the budget to cover at least part of these costs. But because of the timing of the contracting last May and uncertainty about the upcoming city budget year, a contingency line was not included. As a result, council approval of the adjustments was required.

### Four Categories

According to McLaughlin, most of the adjustments fell into four categories: conditions

See **THEATER**, page 7



Photo by Tom Carter, April 13, 1995.

### Remembering Julie Ferguson

"Missing Roosevelt student found dead in Glenn Dale" read the front page headline in the News Review of March 23, 1995. The student was Julie Ferguson, 17, a Greenbelt resident and junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. On the evening of March 21, 20 years ago, friends stopped by her workplace in Greenway Center to drive her home. They found some of her belongings on the sidewalk, but Julie was not there. She was found dead early the next morning in a semi-rural area of Glenn Dale, lying by the side of the road. The crime was never solved.

Twenty years later a group of Julie's friends met at the Julie Ferguson Shelter in Glenn Dale to remember their friend.

## Letters to the Editor

### Through My Eyes as a New Greenbelter

After many years of living and working in the metro area from Bethesda to Annapolis, one of those synchronistic "accidents" has led me to this wonderful community! I literally took the wrong turn off the Beltway one day at the same time I was contemplating a move. Hmmmm..... funny how that works! It was a soft spring day and immediately I felt a bubble of peace as I strolled through Roosevelt Center. "WOW! This place is very different."

With roots in Seattle, Wash. (and never having found a home on the East Coast), it didn't take long to discover why my homing pigeon instincts were aroused: Green Man Festivals, Blues Festivals, artists and vendors in the Center, a Farmers Market, a Co-op that caters to vegans as well as all others, live theater, films, a terrific recreation center, fabulous library, countless classes for all age groups, spa services, good mechanics, professional services, our own observatory, a variety of eateries and last (forgive me if I have left anyone out) – but hardly least – the New Deal Café.

Music, dance and Lebanese food all feed my artistic soul, which has been in need of nourishment. The quality of venues and food coupled with the warmth of those who keep it all happening has been nothing but consistent. Where else can one find blues, Beatles, Stones, folk, country, Cajun, pop, soul, Middle Eastern, etc. in one spot? Not to mention the other community forums and special events woven into the monthly calendar. And the greatest beauty of it all? It is

all within walking distance!

At the heart, though, is what continues to grow in the 4½ months I have now been a resident: the sincere spirit and welcoming of new folks into the community. I see there is still so much to discover and countless committees one can join to enrich self and the community. We are all people from different backgrounds, cultures and viewpoints, but the willingness to work through issues to promote harmony is, in my mobile experiences, a rare gem.

Professionally, I am a clinical nutritionist and Doctor of Natural Medicine, exercise physiologist, 14 years Board Certified in diabetes management, Reiki Master who has now found my office spot in this wonderful town center at 115 Centerway.

Stop by April 9, between 3 to 7 p.m. for refreshments and to say hello.

Jane DeVane

### Thank You

This past winter was brutal. The coming of the cherry blossoms heralds warmer days of optimism. You have opened your hearts and hands in support of the Greenbelt Pantry and we thank you. As special friends known and unknown, you have eased the challenges we encounter. On behalf of our dedicated staff you are wished a Happy Spring, Happy Passover and Happy Easter.

Solange Hess, Chair  
The Pantry

### In Gratitude

Thank you so very much for

the tremendous outpouring of love, prayers and support we have received after the loss of our son, Kerry Douglas Mullaney. Kerry died on February 20 of a drug overdose. We remain in tremendous sorrow over his sudden death. We cherish our fond memories of his humor, his smile and many talents.

Kerry's memorial service was on March 15. The church service was standing room only and overflowing, well represented by his family members and Kerry's numerous friends from all walks of life. We thank each of you for thoughtfully and respectfully remembering Kerry and for your generous gifts of love and friendship to him, be it while exploring the world at Greenbelt Nursery School and Kindergarten, playing baseball at McDonald Field, skating with him at the Greenbelt Skate Park or anonymously becoming a devoted companion. It enriched his life immensely. Your friendship with Kerry truly made him who he was, a friend to all.

In Kerry's memory, we reach out to each of you in gratitude; and we revere life, both here in the "Belt" and beyond.

Sarah Powell Cooper

### Great Information

First, I love each week reading the Greenbelt News Review! I get it delivered to my GHI home but not usually until Saturday so I make a point of trying to pick it up at the Co-op or Safeway. There is so much great information in our wonderful paper and I like to make sure I don't miss what is happening Friday or Saturday before I have a chance to read it.

I recently found out there is a wonderful pharmacy, Demmy's Pharmacy at 5510 Cherrywood Lane. Dr. Ade is very personable and I went there to meet him as I work with seniors and thought this would be a great resource to know about since there is free delivery. I found a wonderful church, MCF, from reading about it in the Gazette and the News Review. I love finding what I believe to be the best kept secrets!

Thank you for all the wonderful stories, community events and more that your staff provides us weekly!

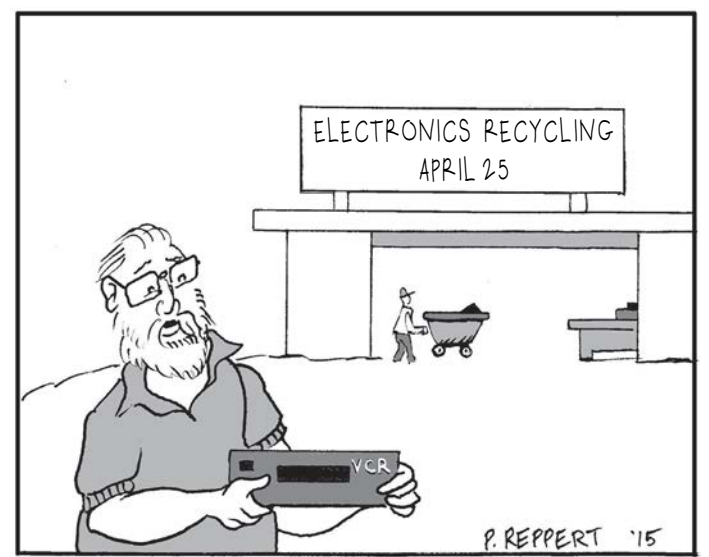
Beverly Long

### Small Space Living

Have you creatively used a small square footprint to live large in Greenbelt? We are seeking interested individuals who would share ideas through a community-oriented small space living tour focused on ways people are living large in small spaces through organizing, interior modifications, multi-use furniture or layouts and interior design. This would be similar to a home and garden tour, but focused on interior use of small spaces (under 1200 sq. feet).

If you have interesting ideas to share or to learn more about the potential tour, call me at 202-412-7942 or email melissaehreich@gmail.com.

Melissa Ehrenreich



"THIS IS YOUR FINAL RUSTING PLACE."

## Hillbilly Gypsies

at the New Deal Cafe

113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770

301.474.5642

Friday, April 10 8:30-11:30pm

We are so pleased to welcome back the fabulous

"Old Timey" West Virginia bluegrass band

Hillbilly Gypsies to the New Deal Cafe stage.

Dinner reservations recommended for this show.

## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas X. White, president; Cathie Meetre, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Tom Jones.

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—\$45/year.

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

**GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE**  
**Call 1-800-RED-CROSS**

# Community Events

## Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Thursday, April 2, MidDay Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. SAW Open Mic hosted by Paige Powell from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 3, John Guernsey plays American standards on piano from 7 to 8 p.m. Karikatura, a Café favorite from NYC, plays transglobal soul music from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Dinner reservations are recommended for this show.

Saturday, April 4, the TV John Variety Show from 11 a.m. to noon. Bruce Krittr plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. Guernsey plays jazz and blues on piano from 7 to 8 p.m. The 8-Balls offer up classic 60's and 70's rock from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

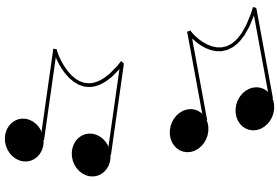
Sunday, April 5, Café closed for Easter.

Tuesday, April 7, The New Old Jamboree, hosted by Ruthie and the Wranglers, play old songs, new songs and feature special guests from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, April 8, Lonesome Pine Bluegrass Band performs blues, country and bluegrass music from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, April 9, MidDay Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Open Mic hosted by James and Martha from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 10, The Hillbilly Gypsies perform old timey West Virginia bluegrass from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Dinner reservations recommended for this show.



## GHI Notes

Tuesday, April 7, 8:30 a.m., Yardlines Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee Meeting, Board Room

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session), Board Room

Friday, April 10, OFFICE CLOSED. For emergency maintenance service call 301-474-6011.

Sunday, April 12, 1 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee meeting and Ice Cream Social, Board Room

## Contra Dancing, Live Music

The Greenbelt Recreation Department is co-sponsoring its third contra dance with the Folklore Society of Greater Washington, on Saturday, April 4 at the Community Center gym. The dance begins at 7 p.m. and welcomes beginners as well as experienced dancers. Beginner lessons start at 6:30 p.m. April Blum will call the music of Transatlantic Crossing (Anne, Jon and David Gardner). There is a fee, with children six and under free.

Contra dance is danced to live music played on an array of instruments. The caller calls the dance by doing a walk through with participants before each dance begins. The dancers repeat the pattern multiple times while the music plays. At the beginning of each evening's program, there is a 30-minute lesson to go over the basic steps that will be called.

Come enjoy this fun and social activity! Call 240-542-2054 for more information.

## Boxwood Village Scholarship Open

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a resident of Boxwood Village. It is available to graduating high school seniors and to full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship has been funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood Booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee composed of five Boxwood Village residents will choose this year's recipient. For further information and/or to pick up an application form, call Jean Cook at 301-345-2597 or Brenda Cooley at 301-345-1388.

## Explore Composting Science on April 10

Explorations Unlimited welcomes Beth LeMond on Friday, April 10 for a presentation on More Than Just Backyard Composting. LeMond, a Greenbelt resident, is an environmental scientist with a strong interest in composting and waste management. She will talk about the science of composting, as well as how composting is being scaled up in Maryland.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center. This presentation will be held in the Senior Classroom, room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club is looking forward to a busy spring. On April 8 there will be a Chinese Auction. Please bring your donation in early so the tables can be set up.

The Pot Luck Lunch will be held on April 15.

Our Anniversary Luncheon will be April 22 at the Holiday Inn, College Park. The deadline for RSVPs (reservations) is April 15. Bob Luddy, Civil War historian, will speak on Women Soldiers in the Civil War, a much overlooked subject. Come and enjoy the good food and entertainment by the Retro Rockets. Doors open at 11 a.m.

The club meets every Wednesday at the Community Center. We welcome guests and new members. Come and take part in luncheons, bingo, trips and interesting programs.

Remember, a cool mind and a kind heart make a wonderful combination.

After the long, cold winter, spring is here. Enjoy the sunshine and all the lovely flowers and trees here in Greenbelt and all the Golden Age Club activities.

## Computer Club

The Greenbelt Computer Club will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, April 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 112. Everyone is welcome to the discussions of computers and consumer electronics.



## GAIL Produce Giveaway April 2

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program will have a free produce giveaway on Thursday, April 2 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Green Ridge House, 22 Ridge Road. Enter in the right side entrance doors and bring rolling carts or sturdy reusable bags. Volunteers will be on site to help attendees load their cars. Please do not park in the parking lot.

## Lakewood Meeting April 13

The Lakewood Civic Association will hold a meeting and election of officers on Monday, April 13, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Baptist Church. All residents of the Lakewood community are invited to attend. Other topics on the agenda include finalizing plans for a Lakewood-wide yard sale to be held Saturday, April 18, and planning for the annual picnic.

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Blind, visually impaired or print handicapped qualify for this free service.  
Metropolitan Washington Ear  
301-681-6636  
No special equipment needed

**GVFD Ladies Auxiliary Bake Sale**  
April 4, 2015, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Greenbelt Co-op Ramp

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Greenbelt VFD is Having its annual and very popular Bake Sale  
We will again have our filled Cookie Jars  
Just in time for Easter and Spring

**DEL-MAR-VA DG CLUB**  
All American: Elegant, Art Deco, Depression-Era China, Glassware and Pottery Show & Sale

Sat. April 25, 10 am - 5 pm  
Sun. April 26, 10am - 3 pm

Duval High School  
Greenbelt/Good Luck Roads  
Lanham, MD. ADM: \$4.00  
301-565-2361 • 410-263-4192  
e-mail: ybrian@verizon.net

**Babe Ruth Baseball Signups**  
Players age16-18 call Bob @ 301 345-1033  
Email: [bbsonneveldt@verizon.net](mailto:bbsonneveldt@verizon.net)

Players age13-15 call Mark @ 301 755-3315  
Email: [mark.markowich@t-mobile.com](mailto:mark.markowich@t-mobile.com)

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2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204  
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Middle school kids get their chance  
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from 4-6PM at Beltway Plaza Mall

For more information, visit the GATe website or e-mail [greenbeltaccess@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltaccess@gmail.com) for fees, application and scholarship information.

See what's showing on Comcast 77 and Verizon FIOS 19 by visiting [www.greenbelttv.org](http://www.greenbelttv.org) and click on "schedule"

**Greenbelt Arts Center**  
COMING SOON

**CHOKING OUT THE KUDZU**  
A MUSICAL THE WILL AND THE COURAGE

by Betty Ladas and Billie Colombaro  
directed by Billie Colombaro

April 10-26  
Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm  
Sunday, April 12, 19 and 26 at 2:00pm  
Ticket prices: \$22 General Admission,  
\$18 Students/Seniors/Military,  
\$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)

COMING SOON

Celtic Concert by the Homespun Ceilidh Band - May 1  
A Raisin in the Sun - May 15-June 6 directed by Rikki Howie Lacewell

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email: [info@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:info@greenbeltartscenter.org) or  
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)  
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

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CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA  
301-220-1155  
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Most features are \$5.50 all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D  
R = ID Required  
(!) = No passes, (!!)= No passes weekend  
\* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows

**WEEK OF APRIL 3**  
FRIDAY – THURSDAY  
Furious 7, R (!)\*  
10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30,  
5:30, 6, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9, 9:30, 10  
Home, in 3D, PG (!!)  
2, 4:15, 6:45  
Home, in 2D, PG (!!)  
11, 11:45, 12:15, 1:20, 3, 3:40, 6, 8:15, 9  
Get Hard, R (!!)  
11:30, 1:50, 5, 7:20, 10:25  
Divergent: Insurgent, PG-13  
11:20, 2, 4:40, 7:20, 10

**Thomas X. White**

Thomas X. White died Sunday morning, March 29, 2015, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. A memorial service will be announced in the coming weeks.



Greenbelters were saddened to learn of the death of Thomas X. White, 80, former city councilmember and valued reporter for this paper, on Sunday, March 29, 2015, at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Our sincere sympathy to his wife Helen and their children and grandchildren, as well as to his many friends. A memorial service will be announced in the coming weeks.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards and honors to share with our readers. To send us information for Our Neighbors, email us at [newsreview@verizon.net](mailto:newsreview@verizon.net) or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

— Kathleen McFarland

**The Clarice Hosts Kreativty Open Mic**

A Kreativty Open Mic Night will be held on Friday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Cafritz Foundation Theater of The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.

Join the Kreators of the Kreativty Diversity Troupe for an open mic night full of music, dance and spoken word. Sign up to perform or take a seat and enjoy a night of entertainment from some of the most talented students in the metro area.

**Bladensburg Program On Joshua Barney**

The Audacious Joshua Barney will be discussed in a special free program on Thursday, April 9, from 1 to 2 p.m. Joshua Barney was not only a participant in the Revolutionary War, but also a key player in the War of 1812 at the Battle of Bladensburg. Come hear his story. This event will take place at the Bladensburg Waterfront Park, 4601 Annapolis Road, Bladensburg. Call 301-779-0371 or TTY 301-699-2544 to register or for more information.

**College Park Offers Easter Bunny Brunch**

The College Park Arts Exchange will host a brunch with the bunny on Saturday April 4 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fun affair will be held at the College Park Community Center, 4501 Pierce (In Lakeland, near Paint Branch Elementary). CPAE will provide crafts.

**Art Afternoon Offered in Mt. Rainier**

The Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a free Art Afternoon on Wednesday, April 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. From graphics to media, explore the arts, exercise talents and discover new ones. This program is for ages 8 and up, and will be held at the Mt. Rainier Nature and Recreation Center, 4701 31st Place, Mt. Rainier.

Call 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.

**UMD Offers Free Sax Clinic**

Tia Fuller will offer a free Jazz Clinic on Friday, April 10 at noon in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall of The Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts.

**Easter Sunrise Service Planned**

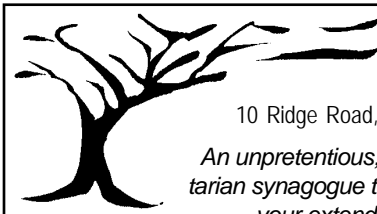
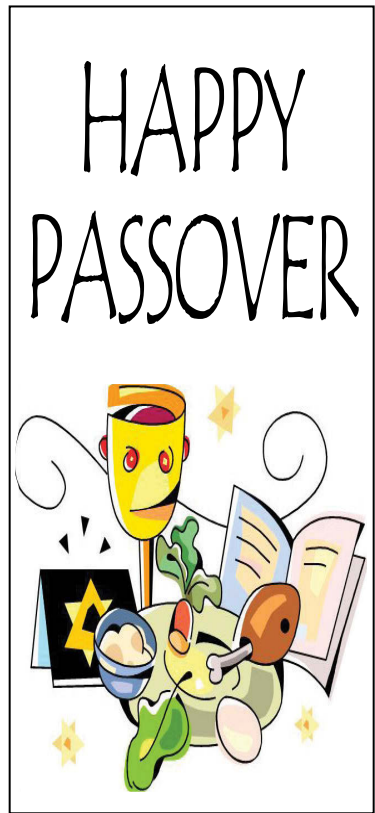
An ecumenical Easter sunrise service will be held on Sunday, April 5 at 7 a.m. at Buddy Attick Park. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. Rain location will be the Greenbelt Community Church, Hillside & Crescent Road.

**Learn to Effectively Read the Bible**

The Christadelphians are offering free weekly classes, Learn to Read the Bible Effectively. The classes will be held Thursday evenings, from 7:30 to 9 p.m., starting on April 9 and running through June 25.

Sessions start In the Beginning with Genesis Chapter One. Twelve concise and informative sessions are delivered in a friendly and comfortable environment and benefit from a new appreciation of the Bible.

To register go online to: [HopeOfTheKingdom.com](http://HopeOfTheKingdom.com) or call 301-439-0063 and leave your name and phone number or by e-mail to [LearnToReadTheBible@juno.com](mailto:LearnToReadTheBible@juno.com) or write to Christadelphians, 9240 Riggs Road, Adelphi, MD 20783.



**Mishkan Torah Congregation**

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*

**Greenbelt Community Church**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Easter Week Services**

Palm Sunday – March 29, 10:15 services

Maundy Thursday – April 2, 7:30 pm

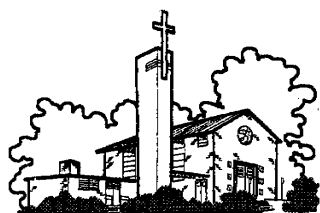
Good Friday – April 3 Sanctuary will be open from Noon until 3:00 pm

Everyone welcome for quiet reflection

Easter Sunrise Service – April 5 at Buddy Attick Park

In case of inclement weather, services will be inside Greenbelt Community Church - United Church of Christ

Easter Service – 10:15 am



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff, Pastor



**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
[www.greenbeltumc.org](http://www.greenbeltumc.org) 301-474-9410  
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.  
Good Friday Service 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

**GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH**



**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

Please join us as we remember Christ's death on the cross for our salvation.

Friday, April 3rd at 7:00 pm.

101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770  
(301) 474-4212 [www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**prod-i-gal** \prā-di-gō\ *adj.* - characterized by profuse or wasteful expenditure.

Greenbelt Baptist Church will be exploring the idea of a prodigal God by reading Timothy Keller's book *The Prodigal God* and how the gospel is not only for the sinner but also for those who trust in their damnable good works. Please write to [sjunthank@gmail.com](mailto:sjunthank@gmail.com) for more information.

101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770  
(301) 474-4212 [www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 5, 10 a.m.

"All-Ages Passover and Easter Service"

Dayna Edwards, Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration; the Choir; and the Children's Choir

**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE 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 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

**Learn to Read the Bible Effectively**

FREE Weekly Classes Thursdays 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

April 9 through June 25, 2015



Sessions start "In the Beginning" with Genesis Chapter One. Twelve concise and informative sessions are delivered in a friendly and comfortable environment and benefit from a new appreciation of the Bible.

To Register: Online: [www.HopeOfTheKingdom.com](http://www.HopeOfTheKingdom.com)

By Phone: Call 301-439-0063 and leave your name and phone number. By E-Mail: Send your contact info to [LearnToReadTheBible@juno.com](mailto:LearnToReadTheBible@juno.com)

Christadelphians, 9240 Riggs Road, Adelphi, MD 20783

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

**GFCU Annual Meeting on April 7**

Greenbelt Federal Credit Union is having its annual meeting Tuesday, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the Community Center.

**Ecovillage Supports Sustainability**

Greenbelt Climate Action Network is hosting Lessons from Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage on Friday, April 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 202.

How can living in an ecovillage help decrease individual ecological impact and be an effective action towards stabilizing climate? Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage, founded in 1997 in Missouri, has created one of the foremost sustainable living demonstration projects in the nation, and its growth and impact are steadily increasing. This village of 70 residents is demonstrating social and physical technologies that have cut residents' ecological impact by 90 percent compared to the average American.

Ma'ikwe Schaub Ludwig, executive director of Dancing Rabbit, Inc. is traveling nationwide this spring, presenting her talk Sustainable is Possible: Creating Low Carbon, High Quality Lives . . . Together. An expanded and updated version of her popular 2013 TEDxCarleton talk, Sustainable is Possible shows how Dancing Rabbit Ecovillage's residents are living rich, full lives using only 10 percent of the resources of the average American. Ludwig also talks about climate disruption and the choices we can make to respond to this most pressing of environmental and social problems.

Ludwig is a pioneering sustainability educator, who, in addition to her work at Dancing Rabbit, is head of Ecovillage Education US, and a member of the board of directors of the Fellowship for Intentional Community. Her work integrates ecological, economic, social, political and personal approaches, leading to a strongly holistic view of what it takes to truly be sustainable. She is a regular writer for Communities magazine and the author of Passion as Big as a Planet: Evolving Eco-Activism in America.

For more info, contact Lore Rosenthal, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234 or see facebook.com/events/1405197506458580/

Send us a letter to share with your neighbors about your observations, concerns, gripes and accolades regarding local issues.

Letters must contain your name, address and phone number.

**Holy Cross Thrift Store**

Every Thursday  
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!  
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111



# City Information

**Greenbelt Animal Shelter  
550-A Crescent Road 301-474-6124**

Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm



**Hubert** is one cool cat. Talkative and the first to investigate, but also easy-going, Hubert is a medium hair, black and white cat, about 3 years old. Hubert fits in great with other cats and wants to be involved in what's going on. Come have a chat with Hubert!



**Pedro**, an almost 1 year old terrier mix, is a super playful pup who knows his basic commands and loves to play fetch. Pedro is very sweet with people, but would be better as the only dog in the house. Come say hi to Pedro and throw some tennis balls for him!

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**  
See pets at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter)

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Committee  
**For information call 301-474-8000.**

**Contra Dances-Saturday, April 4  
Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road, 7:00-9:45pm  
Admission \$10 at door**



Co-sponsored by the City of Greenbelt and the Folklore of Greater Washington (FSGW). Contra dance is fun, fun, fun! It is danced to live music which can have an array of instruments depending on the band. There is a caller who calls the dance by doing a "walk through" before each dance and there is a 30-minute lesson to go over all the basic steps that will be called.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Tree Protection Workday on April 4 from 11:30 am – 2 pm at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers are needed to place wire caging around the base of slow-growth trees to protect from beaver herbivory. Registration and orientation will take place inside the Public Works Building, 555 Crescent Rd at 11:30 am.

**Upcoming Meetings-Week of April 6-10**

**Wednesday, April 8 at 7:30 pm Council Work Session with the State's Attorney, Room 201 of the Community Center.**

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

**Babysitting Course:**



Greenbelt CARES offers the Spring Session of the free babysitting course for students ages 10-13 in grades 5-8

Wednesday, April 8, 2015  
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

To register and receive additional information, call Judy Hering, Vocational/Educational Counselor, Greenbelt CARES, 301-345-6660, or [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov)

**For City activities and information visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) and [cityofgreenbelt](#) on Facebook and Twitter**

**OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR GREENBELT CARES FAMILY COUNSELING**

Greenbelt CARES offers a Family Counseling Clinic on Wednesday evenings, 6pm to 9pm. Services are free of charge for Greenbelt residents, and for those in several zip codes surrounding the city. CARES currently has no waiting list, so immediate appointments are available. Families who are in need of parenting support to effectively manage academic, behavioral, or other issues impacting their young children or teens can contact the agency at 301-345-6660. In addition to CARES usual Family Clinic, two staff counselors are also offering Parent Child Interaction Therapy, which specifically addresses the needs of children ages two through six.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT GREENBELT CARES AT 301-345-6660**

CITY OF GREENBELT, DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION  
Recreation Business Office: 301.397.2200

## EGG HUNT

**Saturday, April 4th**

**10:00am SHARP!**

**Buddy Attick Park**

555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

**For Ages 18 months to 6th Grade**

**Bring your basket and help Mr. Bunny find the eggs he and his helpers have hidden.**

**MORE INFORMATION:**  
Please call the Recreation Business Office at 301.397.2200

Don't forget your camera!!!

Immediately following the Egg Hunt, The Center Ring Circus School Performance Team presents **CELEBRATION!** Don't miss a morning of amazing circus artistry!



Please call the Weather Hotline, 301-474-0646, the morning of the hunt for updated event status.

**REMINDER: SMOKING IS PROHIBITED IN THE PLAZA AREA OF ROOSEVELT CENTER**

City Council approved a smoking prohibition in the "plaza" area at Roosevelt Center. Council defined the no smoking area as the rectangle between the Mother and Child statue and the underpass. It should be noted that merchants have "control" over a 3 foot area from their storefront so whether or not to allow smoking in this area would be their call.

**Registration for Bike to Work Day 2015**



is now open!

Register at [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/) and remember the first 14,000 registrants are eligible for a free t-shirt.

**GREENBELT CARES SPRING 2015 GED COURSE-OFFERED IN 2 LOCATIONS**

**Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road**  
Registration: Monday, April 13 at 10am

Class held every Monday and Wednesday from 10am-12pm, through Wednesday, June 17, 2015. This is a combined class, reviewing basic math and English skills, critical thinking and analytical skills in social studies, science, and computer skills.

**Springhill Lake Recreation, 6101 Cherrywood Road**

Registration: Tuesday, April 14 at 10am

Class held every Tuesday and Thursday.

GED I: 10am-12:00. GED II: 1- 3pm, through.

The course runs through June 18, 2015.

GED I reviews basic math and English skills.

-GED II reviews higher level math skills, critical thinking skills, writing skills and computer skills.

Students should bring pencil, pen, and a notebook. Students must be at least 16 years of age and have withdrawn from school in order to take the GED course.

-For both locations: students are required to show proof of residency (i.e. current lease, phone or electric bill, driver's license or Motor Vehicle I.D. card.

## GCF TEA continued from page 1



The Greenbelt Community Foundation Advisory Board members are from left, Heather Scotten, Ronnie Scotkin, Lois Rosado, Joanie Cohen-Mitchell, Melissa Ehrenreich, Michael Consalvo, Suzette Agans (chair), and Carol Malveaux (vice chair).

design and build a MakerWagon," he said. "The MakerWagon is a hands-on mobile community center for STEM education, vocational training and arts and crafts activities. It is a program extension to the MakerSpace physical facility, targeted to reach at-risk populations in low-income neighborhoods."

Caitlin McGrath, a member of Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre, shared her connection with GCF but also gave updates on the renovation and re-opening of the theater. "Things are moving along very well – the cabinetry went in over the past two days," she said that afternoon.

"The design is perfect, with graceful streamlined chrome detailing. That's the good news. The slightly less good news is that a further delay on the doors means that the projected opening of mid-April is going to get pushed toward the end of April," she said.

Nevertheless, McGrath informed attendees that the wait would be worth it.

McGrath noted how the Greenbelt Co-op Incubator (GCI), of which her theater co-op is a part, has benefited from the grant awarded to them by the foundation last year.

The grant allowed GCI, which strives to nurture, grow and support six co-ops (a childcare co-op in Franklin Park, a thrift store/flea market co-op, a healthy yards co-op, a compost co-op, a kids co-op and the movie theater co-op), to take part in several workshops.

The workshops have helped GCI make "a substantive change in [its] ability to take these six ideas from the aspirations of one or two people per group into six fully-fledged businesses in Greenbelt that will continue the traditions of the cooperative spirit that our city was founded on," McGrath said.

"Exercises such as feasibility studies, business model canvases and bylaws and business plans are all topics that have been or will be covered by our last two workshops," she noted before ending her speech with a personal thank you to the Foundation.

#### 10th Anniversary

Besides enjoying refreshments and listening to speeches during the event, tea attendees were given the opportunity to discuss ideas for GCF's 10th anniversary, coming up in 2016.

Each table received a printout

**Caitlin McGrath of the Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre talks about the impact of a grant the group received from the Foundation in July 2014 as part of Greenbelt Co-op Incubator.**

prompting them to create one to three activities that the Foundation can pursue in honor of the milestone and to explain how these activities can be implemented.

Many ideas were discussed and proposed, ideas that can help GCF move forward and work to nourish all Greenbelt neighborhoods.

*Charis Pannell is this semester's Dorothy Sucher Memorial Intern with the News Review. She is a journalism student at the University of Maryland.*



From left, County Councilmember Todd Turner speaks with Foundation Chair Suzette Agans and board member Lois Rosado. Behind on the left is Maryland State Delegate Alonzo Washington.



During a breakout session, attendees, from left, Suzette Agans (chair of Greenbelt Community Foundation), Mary Lou Williamson, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Jamie Miers discuss potential 10th anniversary activities the Foundation may undertake in 2016.

## BUDGET continued from page 1

transportation by seeking bus service to Greenbelt Station.

4. His work program calls for the city to seek opportunities to be environmentally proactive.

5. To improve public safety police officers should be provided with body cameras, and the city should work with CERT to establish a community animal rescue program.

6. To enhance the city's legacy as a planned community, the budget proposes special programming about Mother and Child statue artist Lenore Thomas Straus and New Deal art.

7. To enhance quality of life, the city should participate with other communities in Greenbelt Assistance in Living type programming.

8. To further constituent services, city staff plans to establish the ability to pay city bills on-line and to renegotiate the city's franchise agreement with Comcast.

#### Issues

McLaughlin stated that the first issue to consider is whether or not the budget provides a sufficient increase in the number of employees. Adding more would help the city do a better job of building playgrounds, maintaining facilities, providing for a clinical supervisor, furthering the arts and employing more summer help.

The next issue is the need for investment in the city's infrastructure. In particular, McLaughlin cites replacing the Community Center's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, repairing the Greenbelt Lake dam and upgrading the bridges in the stream-valley park between Northway and the Greenhill subdivision.

Another issue raised by McLaughlin is whether his proposal to increase city salaries and wages by \$100,000 for each of the next three years is enough. What to do with a projected \$850,000 surplus for the current fiscal year is the kind of issue councilmembers like to hear. McLaughlin suggests it either be used to pay down deficits or reduce the debt.

The last issue he raised was

whether or not more should be transferred to the city's special funds for the purposes for which these accounts were established. McLaughlin notes that General Fund contributions were cut back last year and that fund balances are getting low.

#### Accomplishments

The city has received a number of special recognitions this year, McLaughlin noted. With the second highest score in the state, Greenbelt received a Sustainable Maryland certification. The city was one of 23 in the country to earn five gold medals in the Let's Move Cities, Towns and Counties program. The Four Cities Coalition of Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights and New Carrollton obtained a \$75,000 Spay/Neuter grant. Lastly, the Police Department has been favorably recommended for recertification by the Committee on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies.

#### Outlook

McLaughlin is optimistic about the city's financial future. Economic conditions are improving, he said. Homes are selling above their assessed valuation and all properties in the city will be reassessed next year. New homes also are under construction. Best yet, he said, he did not have to cut existing city programs to balance the budget. And if the new FBI headquarters facility should come here, that will really be a game changer.

#### Next Steps

The city charter requires the city manager to submit a budget each year for council consideration and adoption. Council can accept or reject any of the manager's proposals and change the budget as it chooses. That tough job begins with an April 1 worksession with the city manager and staff to do an overview review of the budget and to review revenue estimates and the General Government budgets. The first public hearing on the budget will be at council's April 27 regular meeting beginning at 8 p.m. Other meetings are yet to be scheduled.

## NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Thursday, April 9

GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 7:30 PM



#### GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Reconsider Recommendation to Include Sealing of Attics in Frame/Brick Units as a Required Item for the Homes Improvement Program
- Estimated Costs for the Homes Improvement Program
- Proposal for Financing Crawlspace Improvements for the Homes Improvement Program
- Consideration of Board Motions to be Submitted to the Membership Re: Homes Improvement Program
- Review 2014 Investment Committee Report
- Proposed 2015 Annual Meeting Agenda
- Revisions to Financial Delinquency Letters
- Contract for Conversion of 10U Southway Boiler Room to a Storage Room, 2nd Reading
- Roof Repair Contract for 8 Woodland Way, 2nd Reading
- 2015 Spring Concrete Repair Contract, 2nd Reading
- Contract for Repairs to 24R Ridge Road, 2nd Reading
- Renewal of IT Contract, 2nd Reading

Regular Board meetings are open to Members  
For more information, visit our website - [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)



To request a sign language interpreter for this meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

## NIEDNER continued from page 1

"That's part of the beauty of a women's college, especially at that point in time, in the late 60s early 70s, very strong female role models. Very strong," she said.

Now, Niedner believes she made the right choice. "[Latin] prepares you to do almost anything because you learn how to analyze. You learn how to read a piece of literature very closely. There's the discipline of translating from one language into another. You get that perspective of history," she said.

### After College

After graduating from Agnes Scott in 1972, Niedner replaced her Latin teacher who had retired from the high school Niedner attended in Alabama.

After a year, Niedner went on to Indiana University (IU), where she gained her masters degree in Latin and started down the path of earning her doctorate. However, the man who would become her husband changed her plans.

About three years after meeting him in the graduate dormitory dining hall at IU, she married Malcolm Niedner in 1977. He works as an astrophysicist, and it is the work he does at Goddard that brought them to Maryland and keeps them here, Niedner said.

They lived briefly in a graduate apartment in New Carrollton but soon moved, in December 1977, into Charlestowne North apartments here. In 1981 they moved to Windsor Green and in 1987 they bought their current home in Greenbelt East.

"We bought this house off of a piece of paper," she said with laughter. "We knew [the land] was going to be developed into single-family homes and the very first day that the lots went up we went to the trailer."

After looking over the different house models, another woman in Niedner's life influenced her decision.

"This one had a porch and my grandmother had always had a porch, and I said 'okay, we're buying this one,'" Niedner said with a smile.

Within these years and prior to her securing her current position at the Smithsonian, Niedner returned to teaching for two years and taught Latin and AP English at Central Senior High School in Seat Pleasant. At the end of 1979, she went to work for the Bethesda Naval Hospital, now the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, as a position classification specialist, analyzing jobs to determine their grade level.

Niedner laughed as she remembered telling the personnel director, "I don't know anything about federal personnel," but went on to note how the job allowed her the opportunity to learn. "Navy does a fabulous job at training. I was sent to classes and just learned a lot in a short time," she said.

### To the Smithsonian

It was during one of these classes that Niedner would bond with another woman who would influence her future.

The woman, Chandra Heilman, the current Smithsonian ombudsman, tracked down Niedner more than a year after they took the class together, informing her of job openings at the institution.

"I was impressed by her," Heilman said. "She had the right kind of personality. I thought she'd be an asset to the Smithsonian Institution ... She's open minded ... She's very fair. She tries to see all sides of an issue," Heilman continued.

Niedner secured a position in the Human Resources department where she started in March 1983.

After working there for a while, Niedner says serendipity and networking got her a position as special assistant to the deputy director at the National Museum of Natural History.

"I learned all about what made a museum work, the whole breadth of that," she said.

Years passed and Niedner became an associate director at the Archives of American Art, a research center and the world's largest archive documenting art in America.

After applying for the position and being sought by the woman then holding the position, Niedner started as senior program officer in 2001. Though she has filled the position longer than any other at the institution, she still considers it her new job.

Now Niedner and her son Charles, who works at the National Institutes of Health, leave their home around 7 a.m. to take the Metro downtown so she can get into her office at the Smithsonian Castle around 8 a.m. Once there, she checks and replies to many emails. "They seem to grow overnight," she said with a smile.

Niedner's position in the Office of the Undersecretary of History, Art, and Culture, allows her to work and interact with all Smithsonian art and history museums and some of its research centers. These include the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC), the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), the National Portrait Gallery and the Archives of American Art. According to Niedner, these many institutions mean many meetings.

"My life is filled with meetings," she said. "We try to work out issues, try to get problems solved."

Specifically, Niedner's worked with the NMAAHC since the legislation for the museum was signed. She has been able to help in and witness the process of a museum being built from the beginning.

"It certainly takes a village and more to build a museum," she said with a laugh.

Niedner also carries out certain actions on behalf of her boss, including approving travel, time and attendance, and serves on a number of working groups that strive to regulate, improve and diversify the Smithsonian Institution.

She is on the Smithsonian

Directives Review Board, which looks over policies at the institution; the Smithsonian Community Committee, which serves to improve the quality of employee life; and the Material Culture Forum, which presents quarterly programs on scholarly topics.

For the past four years, Niedner has been a mentor to interns from the Emerging Leaders Development program, and in 2013 she helped launch a program called Project Search at the Smithsonian. The program helps transition young adults with disabilities into the workplace. "I have spent a lot of time outside of my regular work to help inaugurate this program because I think it is so important," Niedner said.

Along with being able to work with interesting people, Niedner appreciates that she has been able to grow as a person and an employee. "I am grateful for the opportunities that I have been given at Smithsonian to take a leadership role. I'm glad that I have worked in a place where being a woman was neither a plus nor a minus. It was neutral ... I was in a place where as far as I wanted to go, I could go ... I'm very lucky," she said.

### Memories

Some of Niedner's favorite memories as senior program officer include the opening of NMAI in 2004. She was able to watch the march of Native American nations and tribes from around the world from an upper level of the Smithsonian Castle.

Another memorable moment for Niedner was the groundbreaking for the NMAAHC in 2012.

From special seating, Niedner and other Smithsonian staff watched the event attended by President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama, former First Lady Laura Bush and other prominent figures.

"The idea that really, ever since the end of the Civil War, people had talked about a museum honoring African-Americans, and then to see it happen and to be there with an African American president ... it sent chills up your spine," Niedner recalled.

### Advice

After reminiscing, Niedner offered advice to younger generations of women.

"Network. Network. Network ... [It is] very important to make your connections and I don't mean that in a superficial way, I mean that in, you know, you meet somebody, you swap cards, you keep up with each other, think about them ... for women, it's really important," Niedner said.

Personally, Niedner remains close with her college friends as well as Heilman, with whom she has worked for 32 years.

Other advice Niedner offered was about embracing serendipity. "Be open. Don't ever think, 'Oh, I don't like to do that.' Don't cut yourself off. Don't self-select yourself out," she said, "You never know what is going to happen in your life, so you should be ready, be open to possibilities."

## THEATER continued from page 1

unknown before the project was underway (e.g., discovery of lead paint and asbestos), requirements not included in the original plans (e.g., fire alarm work), cost allowances that differed from those estimated (e.g., restoration of the terrazzo floor) and cost increases resulting from delay (e.g., down time resulting from redesigns). Changes in requirements were usually because the original project plans had been developed nearly a decade ago, with new code and ADA requirements introduced subsequently.

Acting Director of Public Works James Sterling, who has been working directly with the general contractor on the project, took questions and added some other details. He reminded everyone that the initial substantial delay involved waiting for county permits. Others included redesigns of architectural plans at a couple of stages, including the decision to keep the existing HVAC in the auditorium. Up-

grading to more efficient lighting, though not as extensive as the city would have liked, increased front-end costs. There were also electrical requirements to be met for the new digital projector. After giving an overview of other changes and of the work completed to date, Sterling said Gardiner and Gardiner would soon be doing a complete cleaning of the space.

Regarding the long-awaited doors, Sterling explained that until door frames and doors are delivered and installed, other painting and finishing work cannot be completed. He said early in the project a decision was made to upgrade the six sets of entrance double doors; two sets at the outside entrance and four in the theater auditorium. The new doors will be more appropriate to the period. They are solid wood, 2.5 inches thick, have an inlay and are being made in Canada.

"They're going to look real nice when they get here," Sterling said.

## Pepco Is Providing Customers Free Trees

Pepco is providing 1,500 free trees to customers in Maryland and the District of Columbia through the Energy-Saving Trees program. It's the fifth year of the Pepco-Arbor Day Foundation partnership that provides two trees per household while supplies last.

This year, the free trees are more developed. They are lightly branched and 2 to 4 feet in height. The Energy-Saving Trees program helps customers conserve energy and reduce household electricity bills through strategic tree planting. Pepco customers can reserve up to two free trees by visiting [arborday.org/pepco](http://arborday.org/pepco) or by calling 1-855-670-2771. The types of trees offered are eastern redbud, crape myrtle, northern red oak, red maple and river birch, and are delivered directly to the customer at an ideal time for planting.

"Our Energy-Saving Trees program is another way that Pepco is committed to helping our customers continue to conserve energy as well as improve the environment," said Donna Cooper, Pepco region president. "By strategically planting the right trees in the right places, we help maintain a balance between the aesthetics of the tree canopy and the reliability of the electric distribution system while also offering our customers energy reductions."

An online tool can help Pepco customers find the most strategic location for planting and can estimate the annual savings that will result from the tree.

For more information and updates, visit [pepco.com](http://pepco.com), follow Pepco on Facebook and Twitter at [PepcoConnect](https://www.facebook.com/pepcoconnect) or download a mobile app at [pepco.com/mobileapp](http://pepco.com/mobileapp).

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# Greenbelt Elementary Spring Fair Features Kid Pleasers

by Anne Gardner

Much fun was had by all at the annual Greenbelt Elementary School Spring Fair on March 21. Highlights of the day included a police dog demonstration by Greenbelt's K-9 unit, trips in the bucket truck supplied by Public Works and a yard sale and Scholastic Book Fair, complete with Clifford the Big Red Dog himself (or was it herself?)

There were also games to play, including the ever-popular potty toss and sand box dig. Greenbelt Recreation Department Moms' Morning Out celebrities Ms. Gaye and Ms. Cathy were on hand to do crafts with the children, and Greenbelt Museum and Friends of the Greenbelt Theater also had information tables.



Below, Bela (left, 11) and Lucas (3) Martins ride in a bucket truck operated by the Greenbelt Public Works Department.



Below, Jack Cantwell (5) throws a roll of toilet paper in the game of potty toss.

Above, Beatrice Marcavitch (7) tries on a protective coat after the Greenbelt Police Department's K-9 demonstration.



PHOTOS BY ERIC ZHANG

## Mental Health Forum Offered

The National Alliance on Mental Illness presents a free program on mental health and rehabilitation services in Prince George's County on Saturday, April 4 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the South Bowie Library conference room, 15301 Hall Road, Bowie. The presenter will be LaShunda Morris, Volunteer of America (VOA) program director.

VOA provides services for individuals with mental illness designed to support successful, independent living in the community. VOA offers 24-hour residential support based on individual needs, independent housing with supportive services, medication management, group therapy, counseling and referrals for community support and assistance.

Presentation topics include community psychiatric rehabilitation programs, targeted case management and supportive housing services.

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PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

This proposal in Old Greenbelt asked the question and the answer was yes.

### Free Concerts At The Clarice

The University Band and Community Band will give a free concert on Wednesday, April 8, at 8 p.m. in Dekelbom Concert Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

A concert entitled Beethoven's Archduke will be offered on Saturday, April 4 at 8 p.m. in Gildenhorn Recital Hall of The Clarice.

### Montpelier's Spring History Lecture Series

Join the Montpelier Spring History Lecture series on the third Wednesday evening of April and May for talks on archeology, preservation and conservation at historic sites.

### Montpelier to Offer Archeology Exhibit

The Hidden Treasure: Restoration and Archeology exhibit at Montpelier Mansion runs to April 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (closed Wednesdays). See some of the 4,000 artifacts found by archeologists during Montpelier's year-long restoration in 2013. These artifacts will help reveal dramatic changes in how the residents of Montpelier lived. There will be kids' activities to learn about the science of archeology and the importance of preservation.

There is a nominal fee, which includes a self-guided tour of the house. For more information call 301-377-7817, TTY 301-699-2544 or visit [history.pgarks.com](http://history.pgarks.com). Montpelier Mansion is located at 9652 Muirkirk Road in Laurel.

### UMD Program Hosts Piano Reflections

The Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center will be the site of a free program on Thursday, April 2 at 8 p.m. featuring Donald Manildi, Curator of the International Piano Archives at Maryland. Reflections from the Keyboard is an exploration of the world of pianists and piano music.

Manildi will play and discuss works of CPE Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Poulenc and Rachmaninoff. Duo-pianists Margarita Glebov and Seyon Lee will offer music by Arensky, Brahms and Babajanian.

### Free Lecture at USBG Plants with Benefits

On Friday, April 10 from noon to 1 p.m., the U.S. Botanic Garden will present a free lecture entitled Plants with Benefits: An Uninhibited Guide to Your Garden, by Helen Yoest.

Are some plants aphrodisiacs or is that just a myth? Garden expert and plant detective Yoest takes listeners on a romp through history, lore and ethnobotany to find out how 50 of these plants got their hot reputation – and what modern science has to say about it. Discover which common garden plants and favorite edibles have that something extra, and why.

Pre-registration is required; visit [usb.gov](http://usb.gov) to register.

### Camp Fire Patuxent Offers Volunteer Training

Camp Fire Patuxent is offering volunteer training for adults interested in becoming Camp Fire Volunteers or Club Leaders. The training will take place on April 11 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in College Park.

Camp Fire offers programs throughout Maryland and seeks caring adults to mentor and lead small group programs. Camp Fire is a coeducational youth development program that provides small group, teen service and leadership programs, outdoor education, and camp programs for youth ages 3 to 22. Clubs are forming in all areas of Prince George's, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, Howard and Baltimore Counties, as well as Baltimore City.

To register go to [bit.ly/April-11training](http://bit.ly/April-11training). For more information



on Camp Fire go to [campfire-patuxent.org](http://campfire-patuxent.org) or email [campfire-info@gmail.com](mailto:campfire-info@gmail.com). You may also write or call Rosemary Pezzuto, Camp Fire Patuxent Area Council, at 9176 Springhill Lane, Greenbelt, cell 301-346-7860; office 240-391-6246, fax 301-262-0212.

### Attention Greenbelt East Residents

We understand there are some News Review delivery problems in the various communities in Greenbelt East. We are researching to find out if residents are receiving the weekly newspaper.

Be sure to notify the News Review if you are not getting your paper.

Each homeowners association is responsible for how the paper is delivered – by maintenance or other staff or by a volunteer carrier. If it's a volunteer, the HOA selects the person to deliver the paper.

The News Review pays a nominal amount for delivery and provides the free newspapers. Be sure to let us know if there are problems. Call Mary Lou Williamson – 301-938-5588.

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Fresh Value Pack Center Cut Bone In Pork Chops or Roasts <b>\$1.88</b> lb.	Large Sweet Seedless White Grapes <b>\$1.49</b> lb.	Dannon Assorted Greek Yogurts 5.3 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Swanson Assorted Hungry Man Dinners 14-16 oz. <b>\$2.50</b>	Sea Best Frozen Haddock Fillets <b>\$6.99</b> lb.
Fresh Value Pack Bone-In N.Y. Strip Steaks <b>\$6.99</b> lb.	Fresh Crisp Green Beans <b>\$1.49</b> lb.	Land-O-Lakes Pure Butter Quarters 1 lb. <b>\$2.50</b>	Green's Ice Cream Assorted 1.5 qt. <b>\$3.00</b>	Sea Best Bay Scallops 1 lb. <b>\$6.99</b>
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Kraft Assorted Salad Dressings 8 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Hunt's Pasta Sauces 24 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>		Best Yet Paper Towels Roll <b>88¢</b>	Red Pack Tomatoes Assorted 28-29 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>
Hunt's Squeeze Ketchup 24 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Hunt's Snack Pack Puddings & Gelatins 4 pk. <b>\$1.00</b>	Chef Boyardee Canned Assorted Pasta 14-15 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Best Yet Aluminum Foil 25 sq. ft. <b>99¢</b>	
Deli	Bakery	Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Ber & Wine
Honeysuckle Honey Mesquite Turkey Breast <b>\$5.99</b> lb.	Fresh Store Baked Sour Dough Bread loaf <b>\$2.99</b>	Assorted Passover Foods	Eagle Value Pack Tooth Brushes 3 pack <b>99¢</b>	Ice House Beer 6 pk.-12 oz. cans <b>\$4.29</b>
New Yorker White American Cheese <b>\$4.99</b> lb.	Fresh Store Baked Dutch Apple Pie 8 inch <b>\$4.99</b>	Better n' Peanut Butter Assorted Chocolate Spreads 16 oz. <b>\$4.99</b>	Smart Travel Pill Case & Travel Cup each <b>\$1.99</b>	San Pedro Cato Wines 1.5 Liter <b>\$8.69</b>

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## Police Blotter

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

### Assault

March 20, 8:10 a.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. A woman reported that while walking across the street, a woman in a vehicle described as a grey Chevrolet sedan began sounding her horn. Words were exchanged and the driver exited the car and punched the other woman in the face. She then got back into the car and fled. The injured woman declined medical treatment for a cut to her lip.

March 23, 3:47 p.m., Frankfort Drive near Morrison Drive. A woman reported that after hearing there may be a fight at Eleanor Roosevelt High School after school, she walked there to escort her child home. While doing so, a car pulled up and blocked their path. Several people got out and began assaulting them with punches and kicks. One of the two walkers stated that one of the people from the car may have used some sort of taser-like device to assault her. It was also alleged that one of the walkers was threatened with a knife. The people from the car fled. An investigation is continuing.

### Reckless Endangerment

March 22, 9:13 a.m., 8000 block Lakecrest Drive. A substance believed to be pepper spray was dispersed in the hallway of an apartment building.

### Arrest

March 19, 12:50 p.m., Springhill Drive near Edmonston Road. Two 19-year-olds, one a Greenbelt resident, were arrested for possession of counterfeit currency. The resident was also charged with operation of a scooter without proper headgear and other traffic violations. Both were transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

March 20, 12:15 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace. A 23-year-old man with no fixed address was arrested and charged with trespass after he was found sleeping in an apartment stairwell in Franklin Park after having been banned from there by agents of the property. Instead of being released on citation pending trial for trespass, he was transported to the Department of Corrections for service of an open arrest warrant.

### Miscellaneous

March 20, 2:40 a.m., Greenbelt Road near Route 295. A 49-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with alcohol- and other traffic-related charges after being stopped for a traffic violation. His passenger, a 44-year-old Greenbelt woman, was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct as the vehicle was being impounded. Both were released on citation(s) pending trial.

March 23, 2:40 p.m., 7601 Hanover Parkway. A 15-year-old nonresident youth was arrested for disruption of school activities, failure to obey a lawful order and trespass after a disturbance inside the cafeteria at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. He was escorted to the principal's office and told to leave school property. When he refused several orders to do so, he was then taken into custody with the assistance of a taser. He was released to a parent pending action by the school board and the Juvenile Justice System.

### Burglary

March 25, 4:30 p.m., 100 block Westway. A television, sneakers, gifts cards and money were taken from a residence after a bedroom window was broken.

### Vandalism

March 21, 10:19 a.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway. A bedroom window was broken. March 22, 9:11 a.m., 100 block Crescent Road. Several windows at St. Hugh's School were broken.

March 23, 2:30 p.m., 99 Centerway. A park bench was spray painted.

### Vehicle Crime

One stolen auto was recovered, a 2008 Kia Optima, reported stolen February 19 from the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway. It was located March 19 by New York City police with no arrests made.

Three thefts from vehicles on Mandan Road were reported. In the 7500 block, a tire and rim were taken; in the 7800 block, four tires and rims; and in the 8000 block, a briefcase and notebook-type computer, taken after a vehicle window was left open.

Vandalism was reported in the 6100 block Breezewood Court where the hood of a vehicle was dented.

### Homicide, Shooting Arrests Made

The Greenbelt Police Department has made an arrest in the fatal stabbing that occurred March 24 in the 9100 block Edmonston Road. The victim is 38-year-old Kelley Wainwright Robbins of Irving, Texas.

Arrested was 38-year-old Greenbelt resident Patrick Corie Hunter, who was charged with first degree murder, second degree murder and first degree assault. He is being held without bond pending trial.

An arrest was also made in connection with the November 25, 2014, shooting in the 7900 block Mandan Road. Khiree Ante Cheeks, a 20-year-old Capitol Heights resident, was charged with attempt first degree murder, attempt second degree murder, first degree assault, armed robbery, use of a firearm during a crime of violence and other charges. He is being held without bond pending trial.

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### Summer Camp Expo Is One-stop Shopping

The Second Annual Prince George's County Summer Day Camp Expo will occur on Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help parents select a summer camp and register their children. The Expo will be parents' one-stop shop for the county's Department of Park and Recreation offerings, with plenty of experts on-site to answer questions.

The Expo will provide information on summer day camps, summer playgrounds, Xtreme Teens, Safe Summer programs, setting up a SMARTlink account, free Youth ID cards, volunteer opportunities, inclusion services, therapeutic recreation camps and tons of activities. There will be face painting, giveaways and entertainment for the entire family. The event will be held at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex, 8001 Sheriff Road, Landover.

For more information visit [pgparks.com](http://pgparks.com) and stay connected on Facebook and Twitter. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services.

### UMD Music Profs Offer Joint Recital

The Larissa Dedova and James Stern Faculty Recital will be held on Friday, April 10 at 8 p.m. in the Gildenhorn Recital Hall of The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The program of this free concert includes: Shostakovich: Sonata op. 134 (1969); Mozart; Sonata; Ravel: Sonata (1927).

### City Notes

A turtle was found with a fish hook in his mouth. The hook was removed by Dr. Pfeiffer of Beltsville Animal Hospital at no charge. One cat was left at the shelter gate and four guinea pigs were surrendered into the city's care.

Horticulture/parks crews organized Arbor Day planting of 85 trees in Buddy Attick Park and installed beaver protection around trees. Therapeutic recreation staff reports that 21 participants travelled to the historic Blenheim house in Fairfax, Va.

The street maintenance crews cleaned and put away salt spreaders and installed and cleaned up the manhole cover at 17 Lakeside Drive.

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# Dhahran Camp in the Desert Is a Planned Community

by Lesley Kash

In 1937, American ingenuity launched a project to house workers in a wholesome, small-town atmosphere. Chosen families moved in and populated a bucolic blank slate. Within guidelines, they created a community to suit their needs and interests. Dozens of clubs coalesced around hobbies, children, fitness, service and entertainment. Infrastructure was provided for organized groups deemed worthy. Other socializing and activities blossomed in homes, parks, schools and recreational facilities. Seventy-five years later, this small town retains its enthusiastic set-apart character, though encroaching suburbia is replacing surrounding pristine stretches of desert.

Yes, the Arabian Desert: blazing sun, hot gritty wind, huge knobs of wind-sculpted sandstone, Bedouin tents, camels, and sand and sand and sand.

Superimposed on all that is a petroleum powerhouse: up on a rocky hill, huge tanks hold millions of gallons of crude oil. Giant desalination towers shimmer on the horizon. At the end of the tree-lined, pansy-trimmed street, the green grass of home gives way to big sand and big oil in one hot step.

This is Dhahran Camp, Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia – source of much of the world’s oil, and the home of people who get it out. Dhahran Camp is the community and workplace of these Aramcons, the most competent personnel that petrodollars can attract here from all around the world.

### American Companies

Dhahran Camp was built by American oil companies partnering with the Saudi Kingdom. Bringing modern oil technology to the Saudi oil fields involved skilled, mostly American employees. An American lifestyle was deemed essential to attract and house them in the midst of a culture so dissimilar. So towns were planned and built: four of them in varying sizes, similar in style, infrastructure and intention.

Over the intervening years, the enterprise has been nationalized by the Saudis. The city of Dhahran has grown up around the original planned community. Mall shopping, restaurants and recreation are plentiful.

The growing city has much to tempt Dhahran Camp residents, who must adjust their behavior when venturing into Saudi public life. Those who adapt well can be rewarded with warm friendships with Saudi friends and memorable experiences of Saudi home-centered hospitality. But

public life is limited, especially for women, who are advised to cover their clothing and limbs with black robes, to avoid interacting with strangers and to remain inconspicuous.

Inside Dhahran Camp however, Ozzie and Harriet still live comfortably, separated by layers of security from a host society whose customs would make a western lifestyle impossible. On camp, women can drive cars, smile at men they don’t know and swim in bathing suits. Everyone can have wine with dinner, as long as they made it in their home.

### Dhahran Camp

Greenbelters might feel right at home in Dhahran Camp. Going from library to swimming pool, from yoga class to art studio, from restaurant to movie theater feels perfectly familiar. Then differences call attention. First, the constant brilliant sun is everywhere. Rocky outcroppings peek over the periphery, incongruous disconnects happen where grass meets desert at the end of an irrigation pipe.

At moments, here and there, it can start to feel creepy. There are no elders: foreign retirees must leave the country. No idlers either: everybody not working has plenty to do and plenty of money to do it with. And no

fences. Little hidden courtyards, yes, but no yards, just wall-to-wall swaths of perfectly groomed common lawn, relentlessly identical.

But no, Dhahran Camp is not Stepford Greenbelt. Just around the corner from the uneasy place where environment, industry, society and laws run up against our preferences, is a scenic overlook. Here’s a chance to take in a view of the big wild opinion-proof diversity of the world we live in. A neighbor offers lunch, a pot of foreign deliciousness and makes some phone calls. Seven people, from almost that many countries, make time in their workday to come and enjoy a home-cooked meal and stories from all over the world with their new-found friends.

People from all over the world live side by side in Dhahran Camp, sharing perspectives, activities, travels and cultures. That is the payoff for moving away from familiarity and rootedness. It’s not a lifestyle many would choose or could manage. But an adventurous few can thrive, like our own Greenbelt pioneers, on committing to the unknown, putting down roots in an unfamiliar community and building an unexpected life.

*The Kash family were long time residents of Greenbelt.*



### Botanic Garden Lecture on Roots

On Friday, April 3 at 1 p.m., the U.S. Botanic Garden will host a lecture, Tree Roots: Problems and Solutions, by James Urban. Changes in nursery production, particularly trees grown in containers, are producing trees with very poor root systems. Roots too deep in the ball, circling and girdling roots and bark potting medium all serve to slow the development of the tree and can severely reduce the life expectancy of that tree. Fixing these problems takes lots of hard work. Pre-registration is required. Visit [usb.gov](http://usb.gov) to register.

### Publick Playhouse Opens New Exhibit

A new free exhibit at the Publick Playhouse in Cheverly, Visages/Vignettes by Wayson R. Jones, will run from April 4 to May 31. Jones explores the idea of implicit association between imagery, memory and emotion through manipulation of texture, shape and color (or lack thereof). His new work evokes abstracted figures, imaginary landscapes, faces and objects. They represent the vignettes: subjective snapshots of events, persons or objects in motion, and visages: abstract faces combined with objects that symbolize parts of childhood.

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## Mayor Requests Changes To Reviewing City Budget

by Kathleen Gallagher

Mayor Emmett Jordan caused other councilmembers and city staff to rethink the budget review worksession schedule by urging for fewer meetings, combining budgets of more than one department and scheduling more of the sessions to be cablecast. This occurred at the March 23 meeting, when staff presented a proposed schedule of meetings to review the budget.

Every year in the Land of the Municipal Building, the period from late March to early June is defined by the city council's review of the city manager's proposed budget for the next fiscal year. Although other work goes on during that period and although the work of the manager and the department directors in developing the proposed budget began months earlier, the budget work session season is anchored by the manager's presentation of the proposed budget at the second regular council meeting in March and the city charter's requirement for budget adoption at a meeting before June 10.

In between those two meetings traditionally fall 10 work sessions on the departmental and other sections of the budget, as well as two public hearings held in conjunction with regular council meetings. Many municipalities do their budget review in just a couple of meetings, but Greenbelt has historically used the budget development and review process as an overall planning tool for the city, in which city and departmental programs, achievements, goals and priorities are all reviewed in the context of the budget.

### Schedule

The schedule for all these meetings, which in itself is a time-consuming and detailed project involving many people's schedules and preferences, is usually floated by mid-March. This year the schedule was already a bit late in seeing the light of day on the agenda of the March 23 meeting, where the budget itself was also presented. Instead of being reviewed and either approved or tweaked by council in the usual fashion, to the surprise of almost everyone, Mayor Emmett Jordan brought up the council's perennial concern with the minimal participation of residents in the budget process, especially attendance at budget worksessions. He would like staff to take the schedule back to the drawing board for changes.

Jordan told his fellow councilmembers that he wanted to suggest changes to encourage "more participation and transparency" in the budget process. He said he thought having meetings over 12 nights (including both the worksessions and public hearings) was a possible deterrent, as was the fact that many of the sessions are held on Wednesday nights in the Community Center, where cablecasting and videostreaming are not possible. He asked that a schedule be developed in which at least two budget meetings could be consolidated and held on one night, reducing the number of nights involved, and that the council room in the Mu-

nicipal Building be made available on more Wednesday nights so that residents could watch live from home or later. He suggested clustering similar topics on the same evening where possible.

Jordan had first suggested holding and cablecasting multiple budget worksessions from the Municipal Building on a Saturday but since Saturday is usually a workday for Councilmember Rodney Roberts, that idea was dropped from consideration. He also suggested meeting on a night other than Wednesday in order to be able to meet in the Municipal Building.

### Trial Basis

Although they offered some cautions, other city councilmembers were willing to give it a go on an experimental basis. Councilmember Silke Pope was concerned that to do more than one meeting in the same evening would require starting by 4 p.m. Jordan's intent, however, was that the time for the meetings be reduced so that such an early start would be unnecessary. Councilmember Judith Davis warned against imposing time limits on questions and discussion. Councilmember Edward Putens thought trying a new plan was a good idea but that it would put the responsibility on the council to get through the material efficiently and on both staff and council to be concise.

### Tentative Schedule

The schedule drafted by staff in response to the mayor's request had not been reviewed by council at press time. Compared with the schedule that was rejected by Jordan, the most significant change in the draft would be that instead of only two, five of the 10 budget worksessions would now be cablecast and videostreamed. In the draft, budget worksessions would be held on eight evenings instead of 10, with two evenings being doubled up. Where two worksessions are scheduled for one night, the first one would start at 7:30 p.m. and the second one at either 8:30 p.m. or 9 p.m. As has been the practice in recent years, where only one worksession is scheduled for an evening, it will start at either 7:30 p.m. or 8 p.m.

The first budget worksession was scheduled for April 1 and was combined with some material usually considered on other nights (Overview, Revenues & General Government/ Other Funds/ Non-Departmental & Fund Transfers). Under the tentative schedule, there would be no budget meetings the week of April 6. Doubled-up meetings tentatively scheduled for the next two weeks are: Wednesday, April 15, Miscellaneous, including the Greenbelt Museum and Grants and Contributions at 7:30 p.m. and Public Safety at 9 p.m.; Monday, April 20, Social Services at 7:30 p.m. and Planning and Community Development at 9 p.m.

Since the above schedule is tentative, readers should watch the city ad, the What Goes On column on page 1 of this paper and the calendar on the city web site for final scheduling.

## Yes, Once the Lake Did Freeze And Greenbelters Skated on It

by James Giese

*Now that we are enjoying warmer temperatures, this article about a cold blast from the past is a little easier to read. Space limitations kept it from printed pages earlier.*

It has been many decades since there was significant ice skating on Greenbelt Lake in Buddy Attick Park. Even then it was a rare thing. If lucky, skating took place one or two days a winter.

I moved to Greenbelt in December of 1962. I can remember only a few winters when skating occurred, at least with the unofficial sanction of the city. There is only one winter night that I can remember when the lake was solidly frozen with large areas of smooth ice to enable skating over the entire lake. There could have been 50 or more Greenbelters and neighbors out on the lake then. There were one or two warming fires on the shore at Buddy Attick Park. Whether from a moon or the general glare of city lights, I don't remember, but it was light enough for some men to play hockey while other men, women and children just skated about or walked on the ice.

I was a walker that night. My childhood skates were long gone.

The freezing of Greenbelt Lake was always a matter of concern to the city. That was a liability risk. If something bad happened, might the city be found at fault?

Each winter we posted signs banning skating as unsafe. Still, when ice formed we would get calls asking if it was safe to skate. I think the determination was that the ice had to be at least three inches thick before skating would be tolerated. Measuring it was a problem. The amount of ice varied depending on the location. In fact, next to the spillway there was always open water.

One day, the Recreation Director of that time came to me and said, "I stopped at the lake on the way in to work this morning and I think the lake is frozen solid

enough for us to let people go skating." I said I would go take a look for myself later on. It turned out to be a bright, sunny day. By the time I got down to the peninsula, all I saw was open water. No skating that time.

Many years after it happened I learned of a former employee who decided the lake was frozen solid enough and borrowed a Jeep to drive out on the lake to look the ice over. The Jeep hardly got onto the ice before it gave way, leaving it stuck in shallow water until other Public Works equipment pulled it out.

Even after deep freezes there were concerns. There are springs throughout Greenbelt that flow year around, keeping the lake's feeder streams flowing. Some of these springs are in the lake itself, or along its shores. They feed in warmer water from underground. Getting onto the ice, particularly on the park side, could be tricky. Fortunately these spots were in shallow water so that if you stepped off the shore in the wrong place all you got was wet feet.

The open water at the spillway was of greater concern because the lake was much deeper there. When the lake was really frozen, Public Works would post warning signs and cones.

For there to be ice skating on the lake, a very special set of weather circumstances had to occur - deep cold on a calm night to form a smooth surface ice followed by several more days of very cold weather without precipitation. Rain or sleet on ice was particularly bad, spoiling the surface. Freezing while windy could also provide rough ice. Dry snow on a smooth surface was okay. It could be shoveled aside to provide a skating area. Wet snow, however, could freeze to the ice creating a rough surface.

The city never officially approved skating on the lake, but it didn't matter whether or not we did approve. When the lake

was frozen solid, people got on it. But when that happened, we didn't try to chase them off if we felt the ice was thick enough.

The city did aid and abet the skaters in one way. We stacked firewood on the shore and designated a place for a bonfire. By then, years of experience had taught us that there would be bonfires, like it or not. If we had not provided the wood, scavenging would have taken place and the best supply of wood possible was the park's picnic tables.

To my knowledge, no one ever drowned by falling through the ice. The several lake drownings that have occurred took place in warmer weather. But being out on the ice these days is a very risky business and I hope it does not prove to be someone's undoing.

Many parts of the lake are shallow, and falling through there might not cause serious harm. But other parts of the lake are deep water. Besides the warmer water from springs that enter the lake, water from its feeder streams flow through it and can cause variance in ice thickness.

Now, in more recent years a new problem results in open water even during cold spells. The lake is now a popular night setting for numerous Canada geese and sea gulls during winter. These migratory birds used to fly further south, but of recent times they have decided that Maryland winters are warm enough to suit their tastes. By constantly swimming about in the lake, they have been able to maintain a large open water area in an otherwise frozen lake.

Fortunately, there appears to be less of a demand to skate on the lake. The opening of the Herbert Wells Ice Rink in College Park provided a much better place for the serious skater to go. And I suspect that very few kids today even get ice skates for Christmas. That was very much more the case 50 years ago.

# Watch out for children as they cross the road.

The safety of our children is everyone's business!



# New East Pearl Restaurant Opens at Office Center

by Sandra A. Lange

Members of the Greenbelt City Council welcomed a new Chinese-based restaurant to the city during its grand opening on March 25. The restaurant – East Pearl Asian Bistro – occupies the location of two former Chinese restaurants, China Pearl and Royal Jade. The spacious restaurant, with a bank of windows facing onto Hanover Parkway, is on the first floor of the Commerce Center I office building at 7701 Greenbelt Road (entrance faces Hanover Parkway).

East Pearl is owned by Richard Cheung and Sarah Jiang, who are part of a restaurant dynasty. In 1980, the Cheung family immigrated to America from Fuzhou, China, and later Hong Kong. There are four siblings, each of whom operates restaurants in Easton, Bowie, Fairfax and Baltimore. In addition to the Greenbelt location, Cheung and Jiang own two other restaurants, Umi Sake in Baltimore and Umi Sake in Cockeysville. Jiang will be in charge of the Greenbelt restaurant.

Cheung and Jiang signed the lease for East Pearl in September and have spent six months renovating the site. They were drawn to the location by their memories of the former restaurants.

The menu for East Pearl features traditional Chinese selections in addition to Thai and Japanese food. There is also a sumptuous selection of sushi appetizers and entrees. Vegetarians will find a variety of noodle dishes and opportunities to create one's own meal with many vegetable selections and sauces. Special lunch combinations with sushi or traditional Chinese entrees are available.

A sampling of the traditional Chinese entrees and sushi elicited favorable reviews from Mayor Emmett Jordan, who declared everything “delicious.” Councilmember Judith Davis praised the “very diverse variety” of dishes, and Councilmember Leta Mach proclaimed that she enjoyed sushi, even though “I was not enamored with it before.” Indeed, the wait staff ceremoniously entered the dining area with a large wooden boat on which a variety of sushi appetizers were displayed. They proved both attractive to the eye and tasty to the palate.

Prices at lunch and dinner are reasonable. The restaurant is open Sunday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. with lunch served Monday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Catering services are also available. Call East Pearl at 301-982-4888.



PHOTOS BY ERIC ZHANG

Cutting the ribbon at East Pearl's grand opening are, from left, Councilmember Leta Mach, Assistant Manager George McVicar, Councilmember Judith Davis, owner Sarah Jiang, co-owner Richard Cheung, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Ed Putens.



Above, Mayor Emmett Jordan (center) poses for a photo with co-owners Richard Cheung (left) and Sarah Jiang.

At right, Richard Marcus (left) and Pam Gregory enjoy their lunch at East Pearl on grand opening day.



Above, enjoying their lunch on grand opening day are, from left, Andrea Waters and her daughter Maeve Waters (2), Chase (4) and Emerson Goddard (2) and their mother Amy Knesel.



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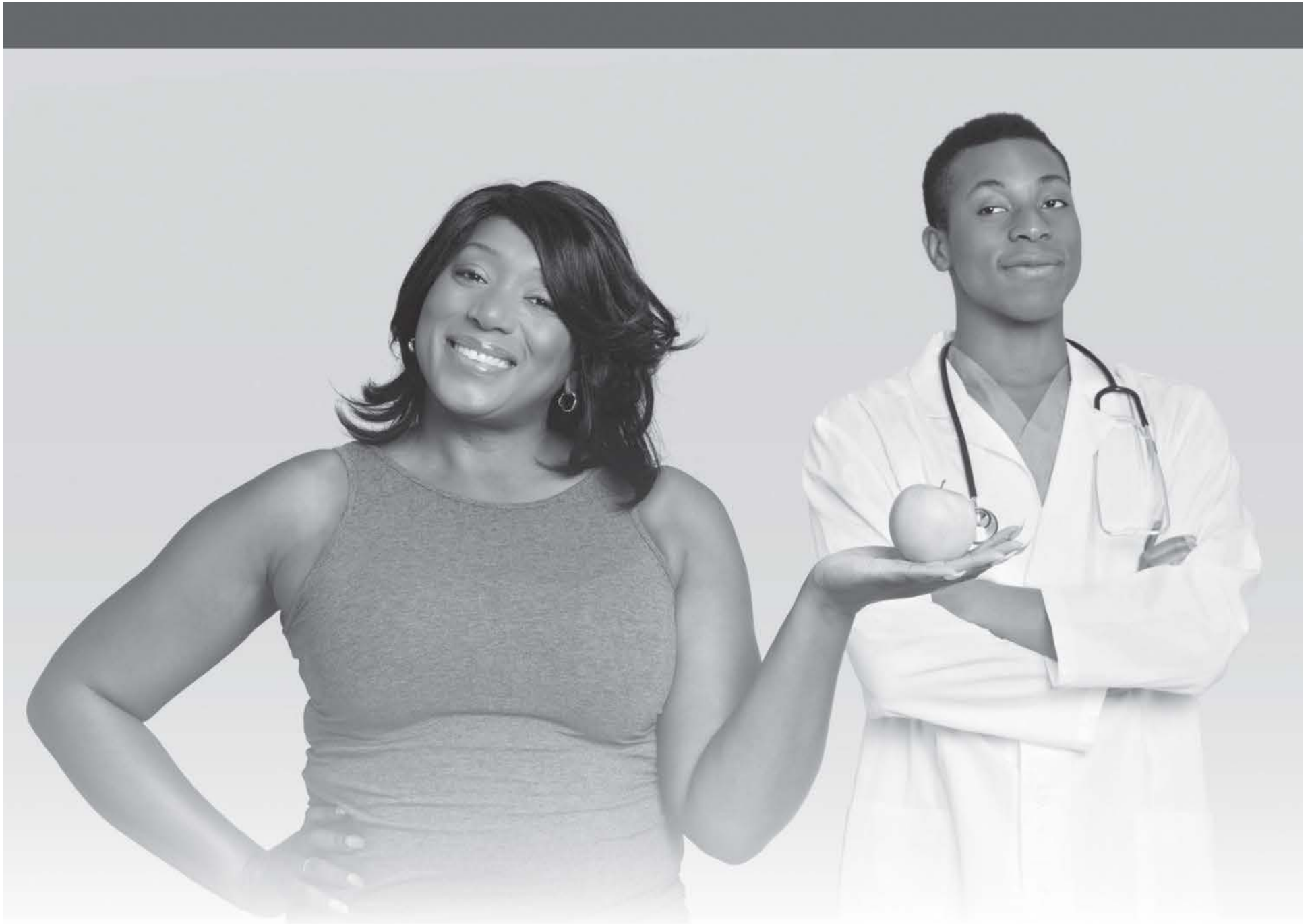
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