

Park & Planning: “Less Is More” Approach to Rewrite of Zoning

by Kathleen Gallagher

On March 30, Chad Williams, acting master planner with the countywide planning division of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and Division Chief Derick Berlage, attended a work-session of the Greenbelt City Council to provide a briefing on the status of Prince George’s County’s project to rewrite its Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. Started last year, the Zoning Rewrite, as it is called, will continue into 2017.

All seven members of the council were present for the meeting, as were City Manager Michael McLaughlin and Jessica Bellah, city planner for Greenbelt. Members of the Advisory Planning Board were in the audience.

At about 50 years old, the Zoning Code is getting more than a little thick around the middle, weighing in at more than 1,200 pages. It has been described as long, confusing, inconsistent, bloated, difficult to use and full

of legalese. Because it has not been comprehensively revised in a long time, the code must be updated 15 to 20 times per year with text amendments that apply to overly narrow, specific issues that are not addressed by the aging code, which further adds to the difficulty of use and interpretation.

As if that weren’t enough, Williams said it is also out of date in terms of its responsiveness to the county’s vision for future growth and development. In fact, the rewrite is a priority implementation step in the Plan Prince George’s 2035 document.

Although councilmembers were enthusiastic about revising the code to be clear, straightforward and user-friendly, a frequent refrain was that the devil is in details that are not yet available. Another concern was that a streamlined process more oriented toward administrative review could eliminate the existing formal opportunities for review

and comment by the city.

Mayor Emmett Jordan announced that the timing for this update was that the county had received the evaluation and recommendations of Clarion Associates, the consulting firm employed to draft the county’s revised zoning ordinance. Williams asked the city to make it known that M-NCPPC staff is also now willing to come out and speak to organizations that have an interest in the Zoning Rewrite: for example, homeowner associations (HOAs) or HOA coalitions, as well as civic organizations. He said they are committed to doing presentations throughout this multiyear project.

The goals set forth by Clarion for the Zoning Rewrite are to streamline not only the ordinance but the development approval process; to modernize and consolidate the county’s zones and development standards; to

See ZONING, page 6

County Budget Proposes 15 Percent Tax Increase

by James Giese

Prince George’s County has published its state-required notification of its proposal to increase property tax revenues in other newspapers. With growth in assessed property value for the coming Fiscal Year 2016, the county will realize more property tax revenues simply by keeping the same tax rate. But County Executive Rushern Baker’s proposed FY16 Prince George’s County Budget includes spending both increased revenues from increased property valuations and increased revenues from a tax rate increase of 15 cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation. Baker contends that a 2012 law enacted by the Maryland legislature empowers the county to bypass tax restrictions in the county charter and to increase the property tax rate to benefit county schools, a view not shared by many county residents.

Constant Yield

Many years ago the Maryland legislature required counties and cities to publish ads informing

the public of each jurisdiction’s intent to raise additional property tax revenue as a result of increased property assessments, even if the jurisdiction was not proposing an increase in the tax rate. The Maryland Department of Assessments determines each year what the tax rate would be to yield the same dollar amount of taxes as the jurisdiction had realized during the current year. That rate is known as the constant yield tax rate. If, in addition, the proposed budget also proposes a tax rate increase, that too needs to be included in the public notice. Baker’s proposed budget includes both increased revenues from increased property valuations and a 15 percent tax rate increase.

The county full-page ad is complicated to read and understand because of an 11-column table of 24 rows, one row for each municipality in the county and another for the unincorporated area. This is because

See COUNTY, page 8

Body Cameras, Staff Changes Are Police Budget Proposals

by Diane Oberg

Several topics of recent controversy made their way into discussion at the April 15 Greenbelt City Council work-session on the Fiscal Year 2016 (July 2015 through June 2016) police budget, including body cameras and license plate readers. Also discussed was the status of the department’s review of the Organizational Assessment and a quick demonstration of the crime reports website in which the city participates.

The Numbers

But first, the numbers: The Public Safety Budget accounts for 40.7 percent of City Manager Michael McLaughlin’s proposed budget (\$10.2 million out of \$26.4 million). Nearly all (\$9.9 million or 39 percent of the total budget) is dedicated to the police department. The remainder is accounted for by contributions to various fire departments that serve Greenbelt (\$98,000) and to animal control (\$216,600, reviewed at the April 20 Planning and Community Development work-session).

Salaries and benefits account for 84 percent of the police budget and operating expenses take up 13 percent. Purchasing seven police vehicles for \$239,000 takes up the remainder of the budget.

The proposed expenditures

for FY16 are virtually identical to those of FY15, dropping just 0.02 percent. No staff changes are proposed. Officers would get a 1.8 percent pay raise in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement.

The budget lays out three management objectives for the coming fiscal year: implementing a body camera program, reviewing the red light and speed camera programs and researching the impact of Next Gen 911 on the department. Next Gen 911 will permit emergency services to accept text messages.

Possible Additions

As usual, councilmembers identified expenditures they would like to add to the city manager’s proposed budget if funds can be found. These include: five Toughbooks for criminal investigators at an estimated cost of \$20,000 for five machines and additional officers, including a civilian information management position (\$102,000 each including equipment).

Body Cameras

Police Chief James Craze told

See POLICE, page 10

What Goes On

Saturday, April 25

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

Monday, April 27

8 p.m., City Council Meeting and Public Hearing on Budget, Municipal Building. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, April 28

7 p.m., Advisory Committee on Education, Municipal Building
7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Community Center

Wednesday, April 29

7:30 p.m., Advisory Planning Board, Community Center
7:30 p.m., Budget Work-session, Public Works/Capital Projects, Community Center

Saturday, May 2

9 a.m. to noon, Shredding Day, Parking Lot behind Credit Union

Eleventh Green Man Festival Returns Here May 9 and 10

by Rachel Kuipers

The Green Man Festival will return for its 11th consecutive year to Roosevelt Center on Mother’s Day weekend, May 9 and 10. Performers, musicians and artists will celebrate this year’s theme, Celebrating our Streams and Waterways. The event will focus on water as one of nature’s most important elements and the role that water plays in our community and the world, said Richard McMullin, Green Man Festival coordinator.

The festival began more than a decade ago when several artists, connected through a group called the Greenbelt Stained Glass Guild, decided to make a stained glass window depicting a historical mythical character from a novel titled The Green Man. The character, which represented the “defender of the natural world,” was a “part of the spiritual world of the primitive European man,” said McMullin.

The Green Man is found throughout Europe in carvings and other depictions used to decorate castles and churches. He is recognizable as a face either made from or surrounded by leaves.

After the artists designed several stained glass windows depicting the Green Man, the group, including McMullin, decided to host a public gathering for the community that would spread interest in protecting the

environment.

Because the first event succeeded, they hosted it again the next few years and in 2007, the festival became an official project of the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS). McMullin said they expect several thousand visitors to attend the festival over the course of the weekend.

Local artists are encouraged to submit paintings, photos, poetry and other artwork relating to the festival theme. These will be displayed in the New Deal Café during May and June. For more information, write to the New Deal Café art coordinator Meg Haney at myevsuk@aol.com.

The event will attempt to remain at a zero waste status, meaning that little to no waste will be created, said CHEARS Executive Director Jeannie Bellina. Visitors are advised to pack for the event by bringing a tote bag, a refillable water bottle and their own dishes if they plan to buy food from vendors.

The festival is supported by the City of Greenbelt and the Public Works Department, which provide the performance stage, picnic tables and additional cleanup during and after the event.

Rachel Kuipers is a journalism student at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.

Letters to the Editor

Pond Attracts Trash As Well as Wildfowl

So we are coming to Earth Day and I'm sure the officials will get photo ops in Buddy At-tick Park but they seem to ignore the pond at the Hanover Parkway Office Park.

As you can see, the amount of trash is significant but no atten-tion is paid to a pond that attracts geese, herons, ducks and song-birds. What's to be done?

Norma Davila



PHOTO BY NORMA DAVILA

Pond on Hanover Parkway.

Is It Speeding?

I read with concern the article about Lakewood citizens upset by speeding on Greenhill Road. I hope this isn't the first step in an attempt to install speed bumps on the road (like was done on Northway).

I drive Greenhill Road almost every day and don't see people driving fast on the road. Because of all the cars parked on the road, drivers have to constantly switch lanes, which discourages fast driving.

The incident described in the article had nothing to do with speed. Whether the bus was going 15 mph or 35 mph, the woman would have to move over if the "bus was being driven in the middle of the road to avoid a legally parked pick-up truck."

If you really want to address the issue that caused the incident described in the article, then ban parking on Greenhill Road (some-thing I'm not advocating).

Michael Smith

Disappointed Too

I was disappointed by the April 16 letter Disappointed from Kim-berly Knox. She writes "Green-belt's appointed and elected lead-ership have not ensured that the city's police force reflects the diversity of the community."

Firstly, I found the comment racist in its assumption that a largely white police force is un-willing or unable to serve the law enforcement needs of blacks, hispanics or other citizens.

Secondly, the comment is presumptuous in supposing that officially elected or appointed Greenbelt leadership is responsible for low minority participation in police service.

There is a destructive con-spiracy theory promoted by some insinuating that police service is not in the interests of minority citizens. That is why few from minority communities choose the police service when it is not re-spected by their own friends, neighbors and families.

Our Greenbelt Police Depart-ment has served all Greenbelters very well for the 21 years I have lived here. If anyone wants to improve minority recruitment, as I do, I would ask you to please stop treating the police as the bad

guys. They are the good guys.

Tom Fishbeck

A Job Well Done

My family and our neighbors thank the City of Greenbelt for the excellent and prompt repair of an old storm sewer culvert in front of our house at 17 Lakeside Drive. We noticed accelerated wear and tear on the culvert last fall and informed the city at the end of the year. By then the weather prevented immediate re-pair, but the city informed me promptly that the repairs would be made as soon as conditions per-

mitted. Soon afterward, a Green-belt maintenance official came by to size up the job. He assured us that it would be done as soon as the weather improved.

That is exactly what happened a few weeks ago, just as spring arrived. This has allowed for safe parking on our side of the street, with no danger of a tire being ripped by the rough edges of the old culvert. In addition, the new culvert cover has noticeably improved roadside appearance. This excellent service in response to residents' needs is one of the many reasons that make Greenbelt a great place to live.

Stuart Jordan

Correction

Last week's article about Benjamin Abramowitz and the Greenbelt Museum was wrongly attributed to Megan Searing Young. It was written by one of the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum's board members, Anna Socrates.

This week's Swifty . . .

"You can use grated lemon peel to perk up any salad," Paula Deen recommended z _ _ _ fully.

Utopia Film Festival Presents
 Sunday, April 26th & Wednesday, April 29th
 Beginning at 8 PM

"Lucky Express" and "Piti a Piti"

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
 Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

You're Invited To Attend

GREENBELT TOASTMASTERS

OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, April 29, 7-9 pm
 Greenbelt Community Church

Find out how Toastmasters helps people to:

- Develop better speaking and presentation skills
- Learn to speak quickly and clearly on your feet
- Build leadership abilities • Hone your listening skills

Contact David Alexander (alexa0838@gmail.com) 301-345-4718

Beltsville Garden Club

PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 9

8 am-noon

High Point High School
Beltsville (parking lot)

Quality plants grown by members

The Old Curmudgeon

There's One in Every Car Pool

"Herbert is very conscientious about his Victory Garden!"

— June 29, 1945

A Little Background on the Cartoon Above

In the early years of Greenbelt, families did not own two cars and public transportation was limited. Commuting to Wash-ington was by carpool. Izzy Parker's 1940s cartoon series entitled "There's One in Every Carpool" illuminates the many foibles of sharing one's drive to the city. For more cartoons, google carpool.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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 Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
 Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 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.

Community Events

At the Library

Saturday, April 25, 2 p.m. Don't blow your top! Join us at the Greenbelt Library to participate in this Escape the Volcano shape game with your family.

Spanish-English Preschool Storytime, ages 3 to 5, Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.; limit 20. Stories, fingerplays and songs will be presented in English and Spanish. Please pick up tickets at the Information Desk.

Infants and Toddlers Program: Books at Bedtime, Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m. Start your bedtime routine with us. Sing-a-longs, stories, and quiet play activities will be presented to encourage engagement between caregivers and children. The focus is on age appropriate social/emotional, communication and literacy skills. Please pick up your ticket at the Information Desk before the program. Presented by the Prince George's County Infants and Toddlers Program.

African History & Culture Lecture Series: African Americans in the Old West (C.R. Gibbs), Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m.

Preschool Storytime, ages 3 to 5, Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Join us for stories, songs, fingerplays and more.

Baby Storytime, ages 1 to 2, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. Enjoy stories, songs and other activities.

Toddler Storytime, ages 2 to 3, Thursdays, 2:15 p.m. Join us for stories, songs fingerplays and more. Please pick up free tickets at the Information Desk for these events.



Cub, Boy Scouts Host Campfire on April 30

Greenbelt Cub Scout Pack 202 and Boy Scout Troop 746 are holding a campfire program from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 30 at the Mowatt United Methodist Church outdoor chapel/fire circle at 40 Ridge Rd. The public is welcome to attend, but should RSVP to Jonathan Murray at jdblockhead@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Thursday, April 23, MidDay Melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Songwriters' Association of Washington Open Mic, hosted by Lynn Hollyfield, will be held from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, April 24, John Guernsey plays American standards on the piano from 7 to 8 p.m. Cold Hard Cash, a Johnny Cash tribute band, will perform from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, the Jazz Jam with Greg Meyer will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Bring an instrument and join in this community jazz jam. Guernsey plays jazz and blues on piano from 7 to 8 p.m. IlyAIMY plays world music with an emphasis on percussion from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 26, the Deaf Brunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The Poetry Moment Reception will be from 1 to 3 p.m. LuLu's Fate, a southern Appalachian string band, will perform originals and covers from 5 to 8 p.m.

Monday, April 27, the New Deal Café Board of Directors meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. All are welcome.

Tuesday, April 28, The New Deal LaughIn, hosted by CLaw Comedy Productions, will feature several local comedians from 7 to 9 p.m. Recommended for adult audiences. Wednesday, April 29, Steve Haug performs many genres of music on an arsenal of instruments from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, April 30, MidDay Melodies with Kraft from noon to 2 p.m. Open Mic hosted by Tom Gleason from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, May 1, Guernsey plays American standards on the piano from 7 to 8 p.m. Beggars Tomb, a five-piece Grateful Dead jam band, will perform from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 2, the TV John Variety Show will be held from 11 a.m. to noon. Bruce Kritt plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m., followed by Guernsey playing blues and jazz on the piano from 7 to 8 p.m. Built 4 Comfort will perform blues, soul, R&B and classic rock favorites from 8:30 to 11 p.m.

GHI Notes

Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session), Board Room

Friday, April 24, OFFICE CLOSED. For emergency maintenance service call 301-474-6011

Saturday, April 25, GHI Informational Meeting: Frame Homes 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. & Brick and Block Homes 2 to 4 p.m., Greenbelt Fire House

Sunday, April 26, 2 p.m., Woodlands Plant Swap, GHI Administration Building

Wednesday, April 29, 7 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee Meeting, GHI Library

Thursday, April 30, 6:30 p.m., Investment Committee Meeting, Board Room

Saturday, May 2, 11 a.m., Pre Purchase Orientation, Board Room

New Deal Art Show Seeks Participants

Calling all artists! There is still time to enter your artwork in the New Deal Café's May/June group show! The theme of the show, which will accompany the Green Man Festival, is Water. The deadline for submissions is April 24.

The art show program at the New Deal Café is sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA) with support from the City of Greenbelt.

Free Screenings Offered on May 5

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) Program in partnership with Advanced Vascular Resources (AVR) will be offering free carotid artery and peripheral artery disease screenings on May 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 103. Call 301-345-6660 to schedule an appointment.



Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald
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 activities at the Golden Age Club.

Spaghetti Dinner

April 25, 5-7 p.m.
Mowatt United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Rd, Greenbelt



\$10 Adults
\$6 Children 5-12 years
Under 5 free

Baked Goods for Sale

9 lives Yard Sale

Roosevelt Center
Sat. April 25th
10 am - 1 pm

Good Stuff for sale to support the Arts & Earth Awareness

Brought to you by CHEARS
The Chesapeake Education Arts and Research Society

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbelttv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Have a kid interested in making videos?

GATeCREATE!

Offering elementary school-aged kids a two-week, after-school program Monday-Friday, May 11-21, from 3-5PM at Beltway Plaza Mall

Middle school kids get their chance Monday-Friday, June 8-19, from 4-6PM at Beltway Plaza Mall

For more information, visit the GATe website or e-mail greenbeltaccess@gmail.com for fees, application and scholarship information.

Free and Open to the Public Canon Camera Class

Tuesday & Wednesday, April 28 & 29 at 7:30PM In the GATe Studio

Book a seat at greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

See what's showing on Comcast 77 and Verizon FiOS 19 by visiting www.greenbelttv.org and click on "schedule"

Greenbelt Arts Center LAST CHANCE TO SEE!



by Betty Ladas and Billie Colombaro
directed by Billie Colombaro

April 24-26 – FINAL WEEKEND
Friday and Saturday at 8:00pm
Sunday, April 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 or www.greenbeltartscenter.org
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

When Vegetables Make You Smile!

You're a Farmers Market kind of person. On Sunday, May 3 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 202, we will be holding an orientation and welcome for new and returning volunteers. In addition to staffing the information booth at the market each Sunday, there are numerous opportunities to help out with a variety of projects, including special events, music, activities for kids, fund-raisers and administrative tasks – bring your own ideas too. Refreshments will be served. For more information about the market, check out its website at greenbeltfarmersmarket.org.

ACADEMY STADIUM THEATERS

6198 GREENBELT ROAD
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA
301-220-1155

For directions visit www.academy8theaters.com

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 24

FRIDAY – SATURDAY

Brotherly Love, R (!)
11:20, 2:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55
Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2, PG-13 (!!)
11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30, 9:55
Unfriended, R (!!)
11:30, 1:40, 4:10, 7:20, 9:20
Furious 7, R
11:15, 12:15, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45, 8:15, 9:45
It Follows, PG13
11:40, 2, 4:50, 7:10, 9:45
Home, PG
11, 1:20, 4, 6:45, 9
Get Hard, R
11:30, 1:50, 4:40, 7, 9:30

SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY

Brotherly Love, R (!)
11:20, 2, 4:20, 7:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2, PG-13
11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30
Unfriended, R
11:30, 1:40, 4:10, 7:20
Furious 7, R
11:15, 12:15, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45
It Follows, PG13
11:40, 2, 4:50, 7:10
Home, PG
11, 1:20, 4, 6:45
Get Hard, R
11:30, 1:50, 4:40, 7

THURSDAY

Avengers: Age of Ultron, in 3D**
PG13 (!)
7
Avengers: Age of Ultron, in 2D
PG13 (!)
7:30, 8
Brotherly Love, R (!)
11:20, 2, 4:20, 7:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2, PG-13
11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 7:30
Unfriended, R
11:30, 1:40, 4:10
Furious 7, R
11:15, 12:15, 2:15, 3:45, 5:15, 6:45
It Follows, PG13
11:40, 2, 4:50
Home, PG
11, 1:20, 4, 6:45
Get Hard, R
11:30, 1:50, 4:40

Students, Parents Begin Garden at Greenbelt Elementary School

by Li'l Dan Celdran and Ingrid Cowan Hass

Parent volunteers helped Ms. Holinsworth's and Ms. Kueffner's third grade science classes in the Greenbelt Elementary School's courtyard garden on Friday, April 17. The students planted lettuce, kale and spinach seeds in March under a grow light.

The group discussed the benefits of using compost, and then added compost to the beds. They planted all the seedlings outside in the raised beds and then the 3rd graders watered them. The children also learned what strawberry plants look like and how bees are needed to pollinate the white blossoms to get berries.

The children discovered weeds, worms and bugs, and enjoyed playing in the dirt!



Rows of planted seedlings testify to the industry of GES students in starting their school garden.



Ingrid Cowan Hass and a student collaborate to plant seedlings in the GES garden.

PHOTOS BY OLE HASS

Our Neighbors

We were sorry to hear of the death on April 15, 2015, of Barbara Anne Rixon, 85, of Riderwood, a former Boxwood resident. Deepest sympathy to her daughters Laura Grace, Patricia Flynn, Beverly Dziduch, Bonnie Lindsley and Linda Rixon.

Congratulations to:

Greenbelt massage therapist Leeann Irwin, LMT, who recently completed certification credentialing as a qualified therapeutic touch practitioner with Therapeutic Touch International Association, Inc., the official organization of therapeutic touch.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School Senior Kameron Sheppard, who won the 2015 National Achievement Scholarship Program Award. (See story at right.)

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

- Kathleen McFarland

Writers to Meet

The Greenbelt Writers Group meets the third Friday of each month. For more information contact Mary Moien at mmoien@aol.com.

Artful Afternoon Features Dance

Artful Afternoon at the Community Center on Sunday, May 3 will feature a fully-staged performance by alight dance theater of Frontline: Women of a Forgotten War, with live musical accompaniment by Bedlam. The event will also include an exhibit reception with "contemporary pictorialist" landscape photographer Karen Klinedinst and many other activities. The program is free and open to all ages.

ERHS Senior Wins National Scholarship

Kameron Sheppard, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was one of two Prince George's County Public Schools students to win in the 2015 National Achievement Scholarship Program. Sheppard and Obichi Onwukwe from Parkdale High School will both receive \$2,500 scholarship awards.

"Congratulations to these outstanding students," said Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell, CEO, Prince George's County Public Schools. "Our students continue to excel and prove that hard work pays off."

Sheppard, an honor roll student, has taken numerous advanced placement (AP) classes, including physics B, physics C, chemistry, government, world history, English, English literature, calculus BC and computer science. He is a member of the swim team and enjoys playing the piano. He plans to attend the University of Maryland College Park, where he will major in computer engineering.

More than 160,000 African American high school seniors competed for the National Achievement Scholarships, and 800 finalists will share awards totaling over \$2 million.

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

Christianity And...

Nietzsche: April 22
The Will to Power
Camus: May 6
Absurdity & God
Poetry: May 20
Words, Rhythm & Prayer
2015 7:30pm
at Greenbelt Baptist Church
101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4212

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.
Join us for Sunday Breakfast at 8:30!

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.



Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Pastor

prod-i-gal \pr\u00e4-di-g\u00e1l 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 for more information.

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



A study circle is now forming for "Reflections on the Life of the Spirit" to be held weekly in Greenbelt starting in May.

Info and sign-up at www.greenbeltbahais.org.

Greenbelt Bah\u00e1'\u00ed Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

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



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 26, 10 a.m.
"The Nature of Hope"
Rev. Russ Savage, with Worship Associate Bettie Young, the Chalice Dancers, and Director of Multigenerational Religious Exploration Dayna Edwards. Special Congregational Meeting at Noon.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING and PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2016 BUDGET Municipal Building, April 27, 2015 – 8:00 p.m

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
 Roll Call
 Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
 Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
 Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
- Older Americans Month Proclamation
- Kids to Parks Day Proclamation
- Public Works Week Proclamation
- **Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget**

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

- * Minutes of Council Meetings
- Administrative Reports
- * Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

OTHER BUSINESS

- Friends of Greenbelt Theater Application for Roosevelt Center Merchant Revolving Loan Fund Program
- Award of Purchase - Police Raid Vests
- Council Reports

MEETINGS

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a

PUBLIC HEARING

To be held during the Regular Meeting of Council
 Monday, April 27, 2015 at 8:00 p.m.

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

This is the first of two Public Hearings on the budget. The second will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2015. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All citizens of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the entire budget.

Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000. Cindy Murray CMC, City Clerk

Shredding Day

May 2 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon
Parking lot behind the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union at the Roosevelt Center: 112 Centerway.

The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union will be shredding your documents in the parking lot behind the Credit Union at 112 Centerway. Only 5 file boxes/bags per person; must be present for shredding. Personal records only (no business). No contaminants accepted. NO BATTERIES. No plastic binders and sheets...Abandoned boxes/bags will be put in the trash.

Info: Luisa Robles 240-542-2153

GREENBELT AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER
 101 Centerway, 301-397-2204

IS LOOKING FOR SUMMER STAFF!



Certified Lifeguard, Pool Manager, and Swim Lesson Instructor Positions available...

Apply at: <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/Jobs.aspx>

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 27-May 1

Monday, April 27 at 8pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING ON FY16 BUDGET**, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Both meetings will be covered live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalptv

Tuesday, April 28 at 7pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.

Tuesday, April 28 at 7:30pm, **GREENBELT ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**, Community Center

Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd., Room 114. On the Agenda: Economic Development Strategy – City Finance Basics, Prince George’s County Zoning Rewrite – Additional Discussion, Update on Various Planning Projects

Wednesday, April 29 at 7:30pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION re: Public Works/Capital Projects** at Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

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

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Public Works Yard

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

Accepted items include: TVs, CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptop computers, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, fax machines, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, batteries taped on one end, expanded polystyrene (block “Styrofoam” #6) – NO cups, egg-cartons, nor food trays.

PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU WANT TO DROP-OFF OF MORE THAN 10 ITEMS, IF YOU HAVE MULTIPLE STYROFOAM PIECES, OR ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.



For further information, contact the Greenbelt Sustainability Office at 240-542-2153

Greenbelt Animal Shelter

550-A Crescent Road 301-474-6124

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



Pedro is a 1 year old Terrier mix who loves to play and run. He adores his squeaky toys, will play fetch and lives for walks and runs. Pedro is very sweet with people and is learning to be good with other dogs, but for now would be better in a one dog only household. He’s not a cat lover. Pedro knows his basic commands, as well. Stop by the shelter and watch Pedro play- he’s a hoot!



King is a 1 year old boxer mix who is very smart and knows his basic commands, plus more. King has been working with a trainer who has taught him more skills which he picks up very quickly. King walks well on a leash, and although he can be excitable, he is getting better and better. He loves being with people, but should not be with cats. In his training, King is learning how to get

along with other dogs, as well. King is better in a household with older children. King loves playing fetch and is even learning how to drop the ball back at your feet! He is a fun guy who would love for you to visit him at the shelter!

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

See pets at www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter

For City activities, calendar, live streaming and information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt
 Twitter @cityofgreenbelt

OPENINGS 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

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.

Artist’s Studio Space Available

Through the City of Greenbelt’s Artist in Residence Program Greenbelt Community Center Apply by May 8. New residences begin in July. 24-hour access. 10’ X 17’ plus common areas. \$179.45/month plus deposit.

Details and application at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts 301-397-2208

Registration for Bike to Work Day 2015 is now open!



Register at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org and remember the first 14,000 registrants are eligible for a free t-shirt.

SAFE TRANSACTIONS LOCATION

A Better, Safer Way to Conduct Your Online/In Person Transactions

The Greenbelt Police Department welcomes the public to our police station to complete their legal online transactions in a safer way. The public can take advantage of our Department’s lobby or close exterior to meet with others and finalize their online transactions in person. Our public lobby is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is available to you.

The Greenbelt Police Department police station is located at 550 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland. For more information: Mathews at (240)542-2116 or at gmathews@greenbeltmd.gov.

ZONING continued from page 1

incentivize revitalization of older neighborhoods as well as the development potential of the county's Metro stations and the Purple Line; and to protect stable residential neighborhoods from negative effects of new development.

According to Williams, Clarion has a wealth of experience in evaluating and writing code and will work with the county throughout the process. Within the goal of protecting existing neighborhoods, Clarion has recommended greatly enhanced community involvement with the opportunity for input early in the development process rather than waiting until a hearing sign has been posted on the property.

Clarion has recommended that pre-application neighborhood meetings be required to be held prior to the acceptance of an application. Williams said they consider such meetings to be among Clarion's most valuable recommendations. He suggested that hosting these meetings would be a way for municipalities to establish dialog among the parties and to get city involvement very early in the process.

"Translate That"

Williams announced that Clarion favors streamlining the development review process in part by shifting more of the steps to the administrative level in accordance with best practices for economic development and growth. He said it will be crucial to develop a process in which everyone has confidence in order to enable that shift to work. When asked by Councilmember Konrad Herling to "translate that," he said there would be less site plan review that goes to the Planning Board or District Council and more "by-right" review that will go straight through to the permits office or other planning department staff. Williams said they were well aware of the implications of that process, and that many people do not trust the Planning Board, the staff or the District Council. He said they are trying to build the needed trust.

Most major projects are currently reviewed in the form of detailed site plans that go to the Planning Board. The existing code allows the Prince George's County Council, while sitting as the District Council, to "call up," review and potentially reverse a decision of the Planning Board.

Berlage added that developing a code that is clearly written, easy to understand and establishes an even playing field is essential to building the trust. He said everyone has to be able to understand what the process is, what the criteria are and how decisions will be made. If the process is clear, there will be little to debate, little that is discretionary and less reason to cry foul.

Councilmember Davis said under current practice the city has the opportunity to comment on a concept or site plan and often discusses it with the developer. She questioned where in the revised process there would be a point of formal municipal review and comment. Berlage assured her that there was no intention to diminish the role of municipal review. At the same time, he said, they wanted to open opportunities for earlier, less formal involvement in the process when plans would be easier to change. Davis agreed that would be a positive

addition as long as it was not a substitute.

Councilmembers Silke Pope and Leta Mach agreed with Davis that they saw little stated role for municipalities beyond the early stages and that they would like to see more specific references. Mach pointed out that there is no role assigned for municipalities in the table showing review procedures. Williams said that was an oversight and agreed it should be corrected.

Fewer Zones

Turning to Clarion's recommendations for simplifying the code structure, Williams pointed out that the result will be a code of eight divisions and 48 sections compared with the 16 parts and 900 sections of the existing code. Although the existing code has more than 1,200 pages, county codes recently approved in Maryland have had no more than a svelte 350 pages. Graphics will be integrated to improve readability, as will flow charts to demystify processes and procedures.

Considerable consolidation of zones will occur, with the existing 73 being condensed into 43. Most of the reduction occurs in the area of conventional commercial zones where commercial and commercial office zones will be combined into one general commercial zone that, according to Williams, will lose none of the existing functions.

So-called "floating" zones, including mixed use, will be reduced from 26 to 7, enabling substantial reduction of redundancy. Of the existing 14 overlay zones, the 10 that are state mandated would carry over and a new Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone would be added, for a total of 11. The new zone would protect existing neighborhoods while being less detailed than some of the zones and regulations it would replace.

One reason the zoning code needs to be put on a diet is that the county over the years has accumulated no fewer than 30 zones in its effort to implement transit-oriented and mixed-use development through zoning. According to Williams, none of them has proved especially successful and even those with the best success involve extremely complicated processes as well as many regulatory plans.

Clarion's recommendation is that the code will instead focus on the areas highlighted in Plan 2035 and other county priorities and will include "by right" base zones and flexible "planned development" zones. Williams said there would primarily be three types of review. Under "by right," the owner or developer would be able to take applications directly to the permit office for administrative review. If a site plan is required, a higher level of administrative review would apply, that is, review by the Planning Department director or other planning staff. Williams said to a large extent that process is employed today but the scope would increase somewhat.

The last type of review would be required for a major site plan, meaning review by the Planning Board. A significant change in the process would be that although the decision of the board could be appealed to the District Council, the council could no longer initiate a "call up" on the board's decision.

In terms of decision-making, Williams said the players are still the same but with a focus on increasing the role of administrative staff review to the extent possible and eliminating "call up" by the District Council.

More Devilish Details

Councilmember Edward Putens said he thought the word "uses" had not yet been addressed and that whatever uses would be permitted within the new zoning structures would be very important and potentially very controversial. He said the up-front community involvement was good but he did not see a clear path for raising concerns at points of decision. In particular, he was concerned that the city would not have the opportunity to comment during phases of administrative review that might have significant impact on the city.

Since the final recourse on plans approved administratively would be an appeal to the District Council, Putens also asked who would have standing to appeal. When Williams said that was still under discussion, Putens urged that HOAs and HOA coalitions who represent residents should have standing.

Jordan said another detail that needs definition is what types of projects will have which types of administrative review. In particular, he thought it would be important to know which projects could proceed to permitting on a by-right basis rather than needing a site plan review.

Davis said to Jessica Bellah that when the city's planning department reviews materials as they are developed, she would like council to be advised on the changes to the ordinance and regulations that would benefit Greenbelt, whether there are new obstacles being placed in the way of the city's ability to comment on and influence changes, and whether the new process offers any potential for increase in municipal planning and zoning authority, as has been stated by some county officials.

"Trust in the process and trust in the result still have to be won," Davis said. She added that everyone would be waiting to see the details and that she was particularly concerned about the latter stages of the process and how objections could be raised at that point.

No Skulduggery

Berlage replied to Davis that they understand that the trust issue is major, which is why they want clarity of communication and transparency in both the code and the process. He said the county wants plainly written code that eliminates "any opportunity for skulduggery." He says the county does not want any more accusations of decisions being made via backroom deals and hallway conversations.

Keith Chernikoff, a member of the Greenbelt Advisory Planning Board, told Williams that one thing that jumped off the page for him was that there was no mention of the word "traffic" in any of the issues or criteria considered. He said that while the county might see congestion and density as indicators of economic health, for residents of the area these are problems that require mitigation. He also stressed that the new ordinance and regulations should not result in greater density or less protection for

neighborhoods than are currently legislated.

Schedule

The zoning code and subdivision regulations will be drafted in three modules by Clarion for county review. The first will include the actual zone and use descriptions, interpretations and definitions. When that module is completed in September, planning staff will come back with another update. If the schedule holds, the development standards and subdivision regulations will be drafted by next spring, with the following part on processes and administration completed by summer 2016. The comprehensive review draft will be prepared by fall 2016. Following discussion and changes from the Planning Board and stakeholders, the goal is to achieve final approval by March 2017. The District Council must approve the zoning code. The council and the county executive must approve the subdivision regulations.

To find out more about the Zoning Rewrite, upcoming presentations and how to read and comment on the Clarion evaluation and recommendations, go to zoningpgc.pgplanning.com.

Star Party Saturday

The public is invited to a star party on Saturday evening, April 25, hosted by the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt at the City of Greenbelt Observatory, located at Northway Fields. We will be observing Venus, Jupiter, the Moon, the Orion Nebula, the Cigar Galaxy and more. As always, visitors are also welcome to set up their own telescopes.

Observing will begin at around 9 p.m. and continue for about two hours. There is no fee for the event. Attendees are asked to park in the ball field lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

Astronomical Society Holds April Meeting

The April meeting of the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will feature a presentation by Dr. Laura Lising, Time Symmetry Breaking and the Production of Matter in the Early Universe. Lising is a graduate of the University of Virginia and received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. She held post-doctoral fellowships at NIST and the University of Maryland and has taught at Towson University for several years. She hopes to make the talk interactive and kid friendly.

The meeting will be held Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Room 114 of the Greenbelt Community Center. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Women's Bike Event

On Saturday, April 25, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association's Women and Bicycles program will host a bike commuting workshop. The ride to Lake Artemesia will start at 5:30 p.m. from Proteus Bicycles, 9217 Baltimore Ave. in College Park, with pot luck supper and discussion to follow. The event is free; for more information call Laurie Lemieux at 301-441-2928 or 301-520-1794.

Tennis Association Hold Annual Social

On Saturday, May 2 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Greenbelt Tennis Association (GTA) will host its annual membership social at Braden Field Tennis Courts. The event is free and open to all ages and skill levels. The social includes doubles play, drills, courts for kids and beginners and refreshments. Balls will be provided and some rackets made available. The event also provides an opportunity to learn more about joining GTA and its schedule of events for the 2015 season.

All Welcome at ERHS Spring Band Concert

The Spring Band Concert at Eleanor Roosevelt High School is scheduled for Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Open to the public, the free concert will feature the Roosevelt Band, the Concert Band, the Symphonic Band, the Wind Ensemble, and an Alumni Band, all directed by Sally Wagner.

This will be the last band concert directed by Sally Wagner in her 34-year history at Roosevelt High School. She is retiring at the end of this school year.

All Roosevelt Band alumni are invited to participate in the Roosevelt Alumni Band. Alumni should refer to the ERHSbands.weebly.com website and click on the Alumni tab. The webpage provides rehearsal information and the music to print.

Alumni Band rehearsal is May 1, 4 to 5:30 p.m. Family potluck picnic for Roosevelt Band Alumni is scheduled for May 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Schrom Hills Park.

Butterfly Pollinators

On Sunday, April 26, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Patuxent Refuge North Tract, those ages 10+ can discover the role that butterflies play in the ecosystem as pollinators and learn to identify several common to Maryland on this guided two-mile, two-hour hike. Field guides are recommended. Bring water and dress for the outdoors.

Public programs at Patuxent Research Refuge are free, although advance registration is required; call 301-497-5887. The North Tract is located on Route 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Route 32. For more information visit the website at fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent.

Watkins Nature Center Has Family Campfire

What better way to spend a summer night than by a campfire roasting marshmallows? Join the Watkins Nature Center for a campfire series starting in May. The first campfire will be on Friday, May 1 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. A park naturalist will read a nature story at the outdoor amphitheater as the fire burns. The naturalist will also bring an animal for participants to meet. Other campfires will be held on May 15 and May 29.

The campfires are for those two and older and there is a nominal fee. Dress appropriately for the weather. Children and their parents and/or adult chaperones must be registered. Visit smartlink.pgpc.com or register in person at a community center. The Nature Center is located in Upper Marlboro.

Legacy Leadership Brings Together Seniors, Delegates

by Sheldon Fishman, Violet Staley and Michael Hartman

The Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy at the University of Maryland is designed to address the challenges facing the State of Maryland and residents aged 50 and older, who are seeking new careers or volunteer opportunities during retirement. During the late summer and early fall, the program prepares Legacy Leaders with 64 hours of intensive instruction over eight weeks on such topics as the history of the State of Maryland, branches of government, the legislative process, legislative and senate committees, budgets and finance and public policy. Guest lecturers include sitting and former state senators and delegates, Maryland state officials, leaders of non-profits and other organizations who interact with the members of the general assembly and individuals with expertise and experience with the legislative process. This past fall, Legacy Leaders also heard from several first-time or incumbent candidates for the legislature and others who were involved in campaigns.

Legacy Leaders are matched, prior to the opening of the Maryland legislative session, with legislators who serve as mentors during the 90-day legislative session from January to April. Duties include research, review and analysis of existing and proposed legislation, tracking bills, writing correspondence, constituent services and attending hearings.

This year, Violet Staley served with Delegate Anne Healey, Sheldon Fishman served with Delegate Tawanna Gaines and Greenbelter Michael Hartman served with Delegate Alonzo Washington. Molly Lester worked with State Senator Addi Eckardt (District 37, Eastern Shore)

Staley

Staley worked closely with Healey's chief of staff, Caroline Sullivan. She "personifies the delegate's genuine concern for her constituents and the issues that affect us all. Healey and her staff are willing to do whatever they can to improve our lives," she said. "Healey's office is organized, responsive and hospitable and conducts business in a graceful manner."

Staley felt that Legacy Leadership Director Wes Queen prepared her for the daily operations of the general assembly. "It has been an enriching experience to work with our elected officials in a professional environment. I have gained more respect for members of both parties and been enriched by the other Legacy Leaders. I give this program and the invaluable experience an A," she said.

Fishman

Fishman worked in the office of Gaines. He observed that Gaines, like the City of Greenbelt, promotes civility and comity. Unlike the partisan bickering so often in the news, the Baltimore Sun reported that the Maryland House Appropriations Committee achieved bi-partisan agreement on the initial vote on the state budget and noted, "the committee vote on the budget was unanimous for the first time since 2003." Gaines is chair of the Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee of the

Appropriations Committee and in that role, and as assistant majority leader, was key in achieving that bi-partisan agreement.

Hartman

Hartman served in the office of Washington. As an activist for environmental, LGBT and disability issues, Hartman now saw, from the legislator's side of the table, how the legislative process works for the good of the people of Maryland. While personally seeing how delegates and senators carry out their responsibilities, he, like Staley, gained a better understanding and a greater respect for the jobs they do.

"Delegate Washington vividly exemplifies the concern, compassion and care that define a responsive legislator," Hartman said. "Whether in formal hearings or sitting in his office and talking with constituents and others about the issues they care about, Washington is always present, always curious, always listening."

Participating in the Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy has been an enriching experience for Staley, Fishman and Hartman. Not all legislators participate in the program, but the District 22 team has once again shown leadership and dedication in pursuing all opportunities for serving our community. Hosting an intern of any age involves additional work and commitment of the legislator and staff. Delegates Healey, Gaines and Washington enthusiastically embraced the program and thus enhanced the lives of three Legacy Leaders.

Washington writes "This year is the first year my office participated in the Legacy Leadership Program, and we were fortunate to have Greenbelt's own Michael Hartman as our Legacy Leadership Intern. Michael proved to be a valuable asset in our office. He has a wealth of knowledge and provided a direct line of communication back to District 22. I encourage more residents to get involved with the Legacy Leadership Program. It is a great way to stay connected, informed and engaged within your community."

The interns believe Healey sums up the feelings of the District 22 delegation when she says, "I am always delighted to have a Legacy Leader working with my staff. They bring wisdom and life experience as well as a wonderful work ethic."

One can find more information about the Legacy Leadership program online.

Cadillac and LaSalle Antique Car Show

On Sunday, May 3 antique and classic Cadillacs will be displayed at the free annual Spring Cadillac and LaSalle Show at Capitol Cadillac Company, 6500 Capitol Drive. The show begins at 10 a.m., with awards presented at 3 p.m. Approximately 80 cars will be on display both inside and out, rain or shine.

For more information call show coordinator Dan Ruby at 301-894-8026.

Exploring Historic Theater ... and Space

Caitlin McGrath, the new executive director of the Greenbelt Theatre, will speak about future programming and outreach plans for Greenbelt's historic cinema at the Friday, April 24 Explorations Unlimited at 1 p.m. She'll talk about the What's We Miss? series, the Grand Reopening and film programming for senior citizens, as well as explaining the membership structure and how to become involved as a volunteer.

For the Friday, May 1 Explorations Unlimited, Michael Blumenstock will make a presentation to encourage an appreciation of astronomy and debunk some myths and misconceptions. Blumenstock is a long-time Prince George's County resident with a fascination for astronomy. He volunteers at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and National Museum of Natural History. At the Air and Space Museum observatory, he teaches visitors about telescopes, the sun, planets and other astronomical phenomena. He is a storyteller with a silly sense of humor. Blumenstock loves sharing his enthusiasm, knowledge and opinions about astronomy with others. He will be teaching a SAGE class on astronomy this summer at the Community Center.



The presentations are sponsored by Explorations Unlimited, which is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room 114 at the Community Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE
Call 1-800-RED CROSS

We Celebrate Elaine Skolnik

The following is part of a series of vignettes about Elaine Skolnik written by her friends and colleagues over the years. They celebrate the 60-plus years Elaine has been on the staff as president of the board of directors, reporter and news editor of the Greenbelt News Review. The News Review will honor Elaine at a luncheon at the Greenbelt Marriott on Saturday, May 30. See ad below for information on how to attend the luncheon.

Best Researcher

Elaine has always been the best researcher on the News Review staff. She has an extraordinary instinct for ferreting out what is truly important in governmental and power-brokering activities, at the municipal, county and state levels and with developers. If something will impact on Greenbelt, she is often the first one around to find it out. That's why she and I were a wonderful team. She would pull together all the data, get all the quotes, find the nub of the story. Then, after he got home from work, [her husband Al Skolnik] would write it out in his clear and serious style.

There was never anything wrong with Elaine's own reportorial style; she just didn't quite believe in herself at the typewriter. So, after Al was gone [Al died in 1977] and she took up the tasks the two had shared, she used to ask me to look over her articles before she handed them to the copy desk. It was a ritual we went through every single week, for not a day went by that she wasn't shouldering alone what had been their joint responsibility to the paper. In the sheer depth of the documentation she provided, her stories were always wonderful. If she said a thing was true, you could really know it was.

Elaine is still the best-informed member of the News Review staff.


Written by Virginia Beauchamp, News Review Former Editor and Current Copy Editor

Greenbelt News Review

Is Hosting a Luncheon Honoring

Elaine Skolnik

Saturday, May 30 at 12:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Marriott
6400 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt, MD



All reservations must be received no later than May 20.
No refunds after that date.

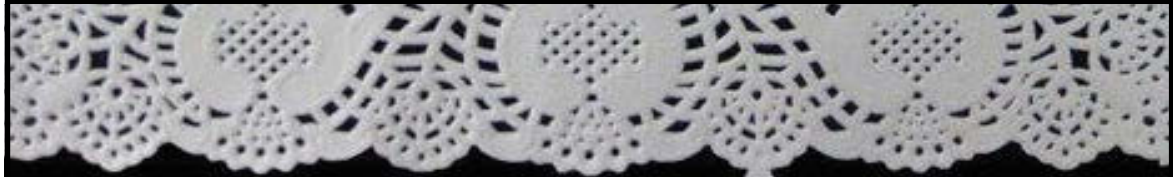
Cost \$36 per person
Amount Enclosed _____
for _____ persons

Menu Selection
(Choose one entree per person)

Chicken Grilled Salmon
 Vegetarian

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
email Address _____

Mail check payable to **Greenbelt News Review** and mail to:
Greenbelt News Review, Attn: Elaine Skolnik Luncheon,
15 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770



COUNTY continued from page 1

different municipalities in the county provide different levels of services, some of which are in lieu of similar services the county provides to unincorporated areas.

Years ago the county worked out with the municipalities a tax differential formula that takes into account services that are provided by a municipality instead of the county but which the county is providing to properties in unincorporated areas. A modified formula is still being utilized each year in setting county tax rates in the municipalities.

Tax Rates

The highest current county tax rate, 96 cents per hundred dollar assessed valuation this year, is levied upon properties in unincorporated areas. But these properties do not pay any municipal taxes and receive full county service. In the municipalities, this year's county tax rate varies from 95.6 cents to 81.9 cents in Greenbelt, the municipality with the lowest county tax rate.

For FY16, Baker is proposing increasing the tax rate in unincorporated areas by 15 cents to \$1.11. While Greenbelt will continue to have the lowest county tax rate, the increase will be slightly more under the tax differential formula with the city rate being \$0.971, an increase of 15.2 cents.

State law requires that the legal ad also state what tax rate for the coming year would yield the same dollar amount as the yield of the current tax rate. This county's constant yield tax rate for Greenbelt property would be 78.54 cents, a drop of 3.36 cents due to Greenbelt property assessment values increasing 4.3 percent in the past year, in large part due to increased value for rental apartments and in small part due to new housing construction. For the county unincorporated areas, the constant yield rate for FY16 is 94.9 cents, a drop of 1.9 cents as county unincorporated property values have increased by only 1.2%. While Greenbelt values increased at a greater percentage than the values in other major county cities, seven smaller cities exceeded Greenbelt, with Colmar Manor leading with a 7.8 percent increase in property values.

City Ad

The City of Greenbelt will also have to publish an ad notifying its residents that the budget proposes an increase above the constant yield tax rate, even though City Manager Michael McLaughlin is not proposing a tax rate increase from the city's current rate of 81.25 cents per \$100 of assessed value for real property and \$1.7225 for personal property. McLaughlin does propose that the increased tax revenue that will be generated from the 4.3 percent increased property values be used to offset rising costs projected in next year's budget. The city ad will be published later in May.

Impact

If city and county budgets are adopted as proposed, and either or both could be increased or decreased by the respective council, most city homeowners will not see an increase in city taxes paid. This is because housing values

are set once every three years and not changed unless a property owner undertakes improvements to the property. The next reassessment of city property will be done this year but not take effect until the FY 2017 budget. McLaughlin believes city property values are on the rise and will be reflected in the reassessments.

The 15 cent county increase, if approved, is a different story.

For a non-commercial property within Greenbelt, the proposed tax rate will increase the county tax bill by \$152 for each \$100,000 of assessed value.

County Increase

Baker's proposed increase is generating controversy. In 1978, TRIM was adopted. This was a county charter amendment that froze property tax rates and other county taxes to the level at that time, unless an increase in taxes is approved by the county electorate at a referendum. Tax increase efforts in the past have failed to obtain electorate approval at the referendums that were held.

Baker contends that an act of the legislature adopted in 2012 empowers the county to increase the property tax rate for the benefit of schools. State law supersedes county charter provisions. Not everyone agrees that the law cited by Baker permits the county to raise taxes without a referendum.

Baker's Budget

According to a county press release relating to Baker's budget submittal, "The Proposed FY16 Budget for all funds is \$3.63 billion, an increase of \$197 million or 6 percent over FY15. The General Fund accounts for 84 percent of all spending in FY16 and will increase by \$182.3 million, or 6 percent. County source revenues increase by \$180.6 million or 11 percent. The growth is primarily due to proposed rate increases to the real property, personal property, telecommunications and hotel tax rates which results in increased funding to education and public safety priorities."

The press release quotes Baker as saying, "As we all know, education and public safety are the two key quality of life issues that attract people to live in any jurisdiction and the most sought after counties in this region, this state and this nation are the ones that are safe and have the best public education systems. Our continued growth and success rely heavily upon the perception that our streets and neighborhoods are safe and that our school system is improving and can compete with neighboring jurisdictions. The proposed FY16 budget shows that Prince George's County is serious about education and we understand that a great school system is the most important investment that this generation can do for our children."

The press release continues, "The proposed FY16 operating budget includes the financial resources necessary to support higher educational achievement. The outcome of this investment will be a county school system that will be most noted for rapidly improving its schools by implementing high quality edu-

cational programs and academic rigor for all students. Additionally, the proposed budget for FY16 builds upon the many successes the county has achieved in making our communities and neighborhoods safer. The respective budgets for public safety agencies and courts provide the resources necessary to protect county residents and businesses, and continue the high caliber of performance attained during the first term of the Baker Administration."

Justification

The press release justifies the rate increase with the following argument: "In FY16, real property tax receipts are projected to total \$776.5 million, an increase of \$127 million or 19.6 percent over the FY15 budget. The growth is primarily due to the FY16 education revenue package which recommends a \$0.15 increase in the real property tax rate from \$0.96 to \$1.11 per \$100 of assessable value in FY16. The county is authorized to increase the real property tax rate based on Chapter 6 of the 2012 Laws of Maryland (Senate Bill 848).

This law allows the county's property tax rate to be set higher than the rate authorized under the county's charter. The bill requires that any additional revenue generated as a result of the higher property tax rate is for the sole purpose of funding the approved budget of the local school system. The proposed rate adjustment is expected to generate an additional \$104.9 million for the school system. Excluding the additional revenue assigned to the system, the County's real property tax revenues are projected to increase by \$22.1 million or 3.4% in FY16 from the FY15 budget.

To mitigate the impact of the proposed real property tax increase, the county will offer a local Homeowners' Tax Credit Program in FY16. The Homeowners' Tax Credit Program will be supplemental to the state's property tax relief program that allows a property tax credit for households whose total gross income is \$60,000 and below. The county's supplemental tax credit will equal 25 percent of the state's homeowners' tax credit amount. On an individual basis, on average, the estimated supplemental credit equates to an additional \$375 annual benefit to homeowners.

State Issues

The county school system is also relying on increased funding from the state which was approved this year by the Maryland Legislature. However, the Democratic-dominated legislature failed to give the newly elected Republican Governor Larry Hogan much of his legislative agenda. In retaliation, Hogan is threatening to withhold some of the authorized funding, including increased funding for county schools. Both the failure of the Prince George's County Council to approve Baker's tax increase and Hogan's threat to withhold expected state funds could provide serious blows to the school system's efforts to upgrade county schools.



Mr. Stripes

6 Fayette Place
Born May 1995
Died April 12, 2015

Mr. Stripes, a brown tabby who many described as handsome, died on Sunday, April 12 at 7:12 p.m. at the age of 20, the last 10 years of which he lived with Sue. In his prime he was muscular, like an Olympic athlete, and the ground would resonate as he galloped from yard to yard, paws pounding the earth.

His favorite bed was the one in the living room, a 12x18x6 inch cardboard box that plastic grocery bags from the Co-op came in. A pillow covered the bottom; then came a towel folded into quarters for added cushioning, topped with a large piece of real - not man-made - lamb's wool. It was large enough to extend over the sides, to rest his head upon when he did not want to lie flat.

Mr. Stripes had six window perches that allowed surveillance of his territory from any angle. Sometimes, when he had to stay inside and if the threat were serious enough, he would run from window-to-window, following every move of the trespasser. Until that Sunday he died, he made rounds of his yard every day, sniffing prominent sites to determine who had been there and when.

His favorite perch, of course also well cushioned, was on a living room end table, solely for him, abutting the sill of the "large screen television" picture window. There he would stretch out or sit, scrutinizing dog walkers and people simply out for a stroll.

This perch, overlooking shrubs just below window height, provided a bird's eye view of cardinals, chickadees and other finely feathered friends flitting in and out of the foliage, often within a foot of his perch - much more exciting than watching goldfish in a bowl.

Over the last few years Mr. Stripes developed multiple major medical problems . . .

. . . Sue was fortunate to have been within six inches of him that Sunday evening when he suddenly toppled over, did not move and had labored respirations. She scooped him up, rushed to the living room, placed him in his favorite bed and made a desperate call to Tommy, his next-door, two-legged buddy with whom he shared a special bond. Tommy appeared almost instantly and soothed Mr. Stripes as a call was being made to Cats and Dogs, the emergency hospital in Bowie, relaying events, our desire he not suffer further and that we were on the way. Upon arrival we were immediately directed to an examination room . . . Mr. Stripes' last moments were spent in his favorite bed, with Sue and Tommy hovering over him, in constant contact. He died from pulmonary emboli - blood clots that broke off and went to his lungs.

Mr. Stripes was the boyfriend of the late Pumpkin and adopted Sue after Pumpkin's death March 23, 2005. Many cat friends predeceased him. Left to continue enjoying his yard are Hallow, Gatsby, Max, Krystal and Snarf - but not all at the same time.

Mr. Stripes was a long-time, "super senior" client of A.P.A.W. Veterinary Hospital and Wellness Center on Good Luck Road, where All Paws Are Welcome. Dr. Shannon Majsztrik, his veterinarian for many years and who kept him going, dubbed him "King" Stripes.

He was also known by APAAV Drs. Patricia Peynado-Boyce, Tannis Johnson and Carey Cornett. They and technical and administrative staff treated him like a king (without their ever knowing he had been using a two-cushion throne for years.)



"The King has left the building."

PAID AD

visit www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Children's Medical Practice Opens New Local Office



Above, Greenbelt residents and Prince George's County officials join Children's National Health System primary care providers and leadership at a celebration for one of the newest Children's Pediatricians and Associates locations at 6201 Greenbelt Road in College Park.

Children's National Health System President and CEO Dr. Kurt Newman, right, visits with pediatrician Dr. Angela Hubbard at a celebration honoring the Children's Pediatricians and Associates new location.

Mowatt Spaghetti Dinner Saturday

Mark the calendar for Saturday, April 25 when Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will hold its world-renowned Spaghetti Dinner. Maxine's baked goods are in limited supply, so come early to select a favorite. The church is at 40 Ridge Road.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and close at 7 p.m. There is a fee for adults and children over 5.

For more information, call Ellen Noll at 240-581-3383.

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. Call Jean Cook at 301-345-2597 or Brenda Cooley at 301-345-1388 for details.

Lions Club Seeking Donations for Eyes

The Greenbelt Lions Club will be requesting donations in front of Greenway Center's Safeway and the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket April 24 to 26.

All the money collected will be given to the Wilmer Eye Clinic of The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. These funds help finance their research programs and support Wilmer's low-vision outreach program LOVERNET, which helps people with low vision capabilities to function in society.

Trail Volunteers Sought for Park

Volunteer at Greenbelt Park and join the Trail Crew on Saturday, April 25 from 8:45 a.m. to noon to improve the Park's trails. The crew will meet at the Greenbelt Park Ranger Station near the campground.

All participants will need to pre-register by calling 301-344-3944. SSL hours can be earned with this project. Greenbelt Park's entrance is located at 6565 Greenbelt Road between the B-W Parkway and Kenilworth Avenue.

For details call Greenbelt Park at 301-344-3944 or visit the park website at nps.gov/gree/.

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Saturdays, May thru December, 7am-12pm
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SUPERMARKET

Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. until 9 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-0522

PHARMACY

Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400
Closed Sunday



Fresh Quality Meat	Farm Fresh Produce	Dairy	Frozen	Seafood
Fresh Value Pack Bone-In N.Y. Strip Steaks \$5⁹⁹ lb.	Nutritious Ripe or Green Bananas 44¢ lb.	Minute Maid Orange Juice Assorted 59 oz. \$2⁵⁰	Celeste Pizza Assorted 5-5.9 oz. \$1⁰⁰	Fresh Catch Cod Fillets \$6⁹⁹ lb.
Fresh Value Pack Boneless/Skinless Chicken Breasts \$2⁴⁹ lb.	All Purpose Russet Potatoes 5 lbs. \$1⁸⁸	Best Yet Vegetable Soft Spread 16 oz. 99¢	Swanson Assorted Hungry Man Dinners 14-16 oz. \$2⁵⁰	Louis Kemp Seafood Delights Assorted 8 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Bar-S Jumbo Franks Meat/Turkey/Chicken 1 lb. \$1⁰⁰	Crisp California Iceberg Lettuce head 99¢	Best Yet Cheese Chunks 16 oz. \$1⁹⁹	Best Yet Ice Cream Assorted 48 oz. \$2⁰⁰	Sea Best Cooked Salad Shrimp 1 lb. \$7⁹⁹
Grocery Bargains		Customer Appreciation Discount Day Wednesday, April 29 5% Discount to ALL customers on ALL purchases (except stamps and gift cards)	Grocery Bargains	
Arm & Hammer Laundry Detergent 45-50 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Thomas' English Muffins Select Varieties 6 pk BUY ONE GET ONE FREE		Maier's Sliced Italian Bread 20 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Mrs. Paul's Frozen Fish Sticks or Fish Fillets Select Varieties 8-24 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
Kellogg's Corn Flakes Frosted Flakes Rice Krispies 18-24 oz. \$3⁰⁰	Gatorade Thirst Quencher Sports Drinks Assorted 32 oz. \$1⁰⁰	Best Yet Granulated Sugar 4 lb. \$2⁰⁰	Best Yet Flour All Purpose/Unbleached 5 lbs. \$2⁰⁰	
Deli	Bakery	Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Beer & Wine
Healthy Oven Roasted Turkey Breast \$5⁹⁹ lb.	Fresh Store Baked Rye Bread Assorted loaf \$1⁹⁹	Patsy's Gourmet Pasta Sauces Assorted 15.5 oz. \$2⁹⁹	Herbal Essence Naked Shampoo Asst. 10.1 oz. \$3⁵⁰	Milwaukee's Best Beer 6 pk.-12 oz. cans \$4¹⁹
Best Yet Swiss Cheese \$4⁹⁹ lb.	Fresh Store Baked French Hard Rolls 6 pk. \$1⁹⁹	Better 'N' Peanut Butter Natural Chocolate Spread 16 oz. \$3⁹⁹	Dial Body Wash Assorted 16 oz. \$3⁵⁰	Los Vascos Wines 750 ML. \$8⁹⁹

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POLICE continued from page 1

council he expects to be able to implement a body camera program in FY16 at an anticipated initial cost of \$47,000 and a future year annual cost of \$14,000 for storage, licensing and upkeep. The department has selected a vendor (Taser) and is mirroring the Laurel program, which Craze called very successful.

Craze said Taser is the only vendor they had found that offers the storage option, which reduces administrative issues for the city in implementing the program.

Although the body camera program is not funded in the proposed budget, Craze is confident the money will be available. Possible funding sources include a highway user revenue program and civil forfeiture funds.

Craze said a clear policy on use of the cameras will be essential. As officers will control the on/off switch, there must be a clear policy addressing when the cameras must be on, among other issues. The city has put together a working group among the officers and the Fraternal Order of Police to develop a policy to gain officer buy-in.

City police cars do not have dashboard cameras. In an ideal world, Craze said, the department would have both body and dashboard cameras. Dashboard cameras are not useful, he noted, when an officer is out of his car, making body cameras a higher priority.

License Plate Readers

Another issue in the news is how long police departments are retaining the information they collect through license plate readers. Craze said the city does not store the data collected through its three license plate readers. Instead, it is uploaded to a state database, where it is retained for one year.

Organizational Assessment

In December 2013, the Matrix Consulting Group presented its recommendations regarding the city's organizational structure. Among these were four highlighted recommendations for the police department.

One of those recommendations, to reduce records staffing by one position and to create a Computer-Aided Dispatch/Record Management System position, has been implemented. The department has designated Officer Tim White as an Information Technology Specialist within the Administrative Services Division. Although labeled as an information technology position, the focus is on how to manage the data and make full use of the automated systems, not on maintaining the hardware.

While praising White's work, Craze noted that the work is not such that it requires a sworn police officer. He would prefer to hire a professional information technology person for this position, returning the officer slot to the street. McLaughlin said that civilianizing this position is at the top of his list for FY17, though he'd be happy to have the position in FY16 if council wants to add it.

The remaining major recommendations have not been implemented. Matrix had suggested reassigning supervision of the police mechanic to the Public Works Department. McLaughlin said that one of the management by objective activities for Public

Works is to review how the city maintains its fleet.

Another recommendation was to consolidate the police department into two divisions and create a deputy chief position. Craze said that may come later but that he is happy with how the department is operating now. He told council he is deferring, not dismissing, this recommendation.

The final major recommendation was to reassign the K-9 unit to the patrol division. Craze said the recommendation is problematic. Extra requirements of this specialized position, such as one day of training every week, make it difficult to fit it into the patrol squads.

Bike Patrols

The perpetual topic of bike patrols was touched on, Craze reporting that staffing shortages had prevented their consistent deployment. However, he noted that the department has been doing community policing for 30 years now and remains committed to the concept. Their automated tracking system logged nearly 2,300 occasions of officers patrolling neighborhoods and businesses on foot.

One new program, Safe Haven, has been introduced, which permits residents to complete on-line transactions at the police station for safety.

While not in this year's proposed budget, Craze also sees a need for four more officers at the North Core of the Greenbelt Station development. South Core homes are selling quickly, he said. The developer's covenant calls for the developer to fund those four officers, but only for one year, McLaughlin said.

Crime Reports

The department is also working to improve its use of the automated data it collects from its dispatching system. It has purchased a one-year license for neighborhood level crime reports. Instead of having to print reports for the commanders, the system emails daily reports to the city manager and patrol commanders, among others, in more geographic detail than had been previously available.

The department can also set up monthly or quarterly reports for homeowners associations. Captain Thomas Kemp said the department will work directly with citizens or through their associations to provide this information. Public Information/Crime Prevention contact George Mathews will "hit the homeowners' association circuit hot and heavy," he said, to make them aware of the possibilities. The department is also considering a Youtube video, Facebook page and media release.

In the meanwhile, a public system exists that citizens can use right now. While not offering detailed neighborhood reports as the limited access system does, it maps out crimes within a specified period, including murder, assault, sexual assault and various categories of thefts/robbery. In addition, it identifies and maps the location of registered sex offenders.

Users can have daily, weekly or monthly reports emailed to them and can sign up to receive alerts. To explore the site, go to crimereports.com. Users must register to obtain the reports but registration is free.

CERT

The police budget includes funding for the Containment and Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. Coordinator Kris White discussed the activities of the team during the past year including a variety of training that team members have taken, including active shooter and Metro training. She also discussed a training program they are planning for the community, such as what to do if you are first on the scene of an emergency.

The team receives funding through the police budget. McLaughlin had planned on \$500 under the Special Program Expenses line item (total \$12,300). The team has been working to replenish supplies in their emergency response trailer and has purchased some equipment, such as cots, radios and fire extinguishers.

For the coming fiscal year the group plans to use social media to increase residents' preparedness, continue education and outreach activities in the community and develop a radio communications plan. They submitted a budget request for supplies and equipment of \$1,480. Although this is more than McLaughlin had budgeted, he said the budget could accommodate this request.

Other Topics

In July, the department will learn if it has achieved its goal of a Gold Standard Assessment from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, a higher caliber inspection than it has previously sought. Craze said the department got a favorable report from the on-site inspection.

In response to a question, Craze said that prostitution remains an ongoing problem. Kemp said they are working with other agencies to address it and are trying a variety of tactics and approaches. He estimated that the city has roughly six brothels with each location being actively worked by police. Craze said they have not encountered evidence of human trafficking in these operations, just adults voluntarily working in the trade.

The budget proposes the purchase of seven vehicles (five Ford Explorers, two Ford Fusions), one less than the chief's request. McLaughlin said the number of cars is a toss-up in his opinion.

Fire & Rescue

McLaughlin proposed and councilmembers seemed inclined to support continuing the practice of making \$10,000 contributions to two volunteer fire departments that serve Greenbelt (Berwyn Heights and West Lanham Hills). Davis noted that one of the West Lanham Hills fire engines was recently destroyed in a large warehouse fire when the wind had shifted.

McLaughlin also proposed continuing the contribution toward equipment purchases for the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad. President Brian Rudy was unable to attend the worksession, so there was little discussion beyond the basic facts. Davis noted that the annual fund drive envelopes had recently been sent out and encouraged residents to contribute.

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf.

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

Assault

April 12, 3:46 p.m., 7700 block Mandan Road. A man reported that while walking with a friend he was approached from behind and struck on the head several times with an unknown object. He received a small laceration to his head but refused medical treatment. The man who hit him fled on foot with several other men.

April 13, 5:45 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. A youth reported that while playing at a playground he became involved in a verbal altercation with another youth, who then left and came back a short time later with his mother and two brothers. The mother allegedly demanded that her son and the other youth fight each other. The first youth refused and as he attempted to flee he was grabbed from behind and assaulted by the other youth and his two brothers. The first youth suffered a laceration to his cheek. The investigation is continuing.

Fraud

April 10, 3:45 p.m., 57 Court Ridge Road. A woman reported she received a phone call from a person identifying himself as working for the Internal Revenue Service. He said she owed several years of back taxes and advised her to purchase several Visa money cards and give him the card numbers to make the payment. She bought the cards and gave him the card numbers over the phone.

Theft

April 14, 4:52 p.m., 7400 block Greenbelt Road. A cell phone, clothing and wallet were taken after a lock was cut off a locker at LA Fitness.

Trespass

April 9, 2:22 p.m., Springhill Lane near Breezewood Drive. A 17-year-old youth was arrested for trespass, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest after having been observed on the grounds of Franklin Park Apartments after having been banned from the complex by agents of the property. He was detained, at which time he said he had not been banned from the property. As officers were confirming his status he attempted to leave. He refused orders to remain on the

scene and resisted attempts by the officer to keep him there, pushed the officer and shouted profanities. He then resisted attempts by the officer to place him under arrest. His actions caused passersby to stop and observe his actions. Investigation revealed that he was still barred from the property. He was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

Burglary

April 9, 10 a.m., 7200 block Hanover Parkway. Two laptop computers were taken during a commercial burglary. Entry may have been gained by way of a door inadvertently left unsecured.

April 13, 8:48 p.m., 11 Court Ridge Road. Officers responded to a report of a burglary in progress at a vacant residence and located three men inside. They were identified and released pending further investigation. One of the men, a 22-year-old nonresident, was found to have an open arrest warrant and was transported to the Sheriff's Department for service of the warrant.

Vandalism

April 9, 3:46 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. A rock was thrown through the bedroom of a residence.

April 10, 8 a.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. Graffiti was spray painted on a condominium.

Vehicle Crime

A stolen auto was recovered in the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace when an officer on patrol observed a suspicious 2000 Dodge Caravan with a seat removed and the ignition pulled. Investigation revealed that the vehicle had been stolen earlier from the 6200 block Springhill Court and had not yet been reported stolen. No arrests were made.

Two thefts from autos were reported. In the 100 block Centerway, bats, gloves and other baseball equipment were removed from a possibly unsecured vehicle. In the 7500 block Greenbelt Road, a pair of binoculars was taken.

Two acts of vandalism were reported. In the 6100 block Breezewood Court, a tire on a vehicle was slashed. In the 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, a windshield was broken and paint was scratched.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Call 1-866-411-TIPS. People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

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Prince George's County's largest and best vegetable grower, also offers Homemade Baked Goods. Visit our stand at the College Park Farmer's Market.

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Explorations First Trivia Event Challenges Seniors

by Eli Zimmerman

Maryland facts, separated by bouts of laughter, rang out through the halls of the Community Center on Friday, March 27 as Explorations Unlimited hosted its first trivia event.

At the front of the small classroom where the event was held, were a multitude of books laid out on a table, each with hidden gems about Maryland and Greenbelt.

Betty Timer, a volunteer for Explorations Unlimited, looked out onto the 19 faces in front of her, occupying foldable plastic seats as they called out the answers to her questions, which varied from state agriculture to the official state crab.

There were no score boards, no teams or rivalries; the point of the event, according to Timer, was to give senior citizens a chance to enjoy themselves and learn a bit about where they live.

"It's interactive and everyone is involved," Timer explained.

Timer is also a member of the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, an organization in Greenbelt whose purpose is to make recommendations to the city council on matters of interest to senior residents in Greenbelt.

Those who participated in the trivia event were overwhelmingly pleased with the event.

Suze Marley, a Greenbelt resident and one of the trivia whizzes who attended the event, found the trivia game had opened new doors

for her. "I never really liked history," she admitted. "But this was informative and so much fun."

Mary Ann Baker was inspired to experience some of the knowledge she had learned. "We talked a bit about Indian Springs," Baker said. "Now I want to see if I can find them."

While this is Exploration Unlimited's first trivia party, the organization has hosted many activities for seniors in the past. The point of the group is to provide seniors with activities that will bring them closer to the community, according to Karen Haseley, one of the coordinators for Explorations Unlimited.

Without any fees for events or membership requirements, residents are allowed to come to the events as they choose, which have ranged from lectures by hypnotists to Medicare specialists.

Residents like Jim Marley are happy to have the group, which meets on Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m., because of the connections he has made with other participants. "It's a real community within Greenbelt," he said.

Explorations Unlimited posts their upcoming events on billboards in the Community Center, as well as on the online bulletin board, Greenbelt Patch.

Eli Zimmerman is a journalism student with the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.

Volunteers Needed For Stream Cleanup

Volunteers are needed to help with a stream cleanup on Saturday, April 25, at Indian Creek at the intersection of Sunnyside Avenue and Edmonston Road (Kenilworth extended). The cleanup, to be held from 9 a.m. to noon, is co-sponsored by the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group and Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek. It is being held in conjunction with the Anacostia Watershed Society's 2015 Earth Day Cleanup & Celebration.

Register for the event and get more information online at anacostiaws.org/earthday2015/. Select Upper Beaverdam as the site to register for this cleanup. All participants will receive a T-shirt and can attend a post-cleanup celebration at Bladensburg Waterfront Park.

Community service hours are available for high school students. All participants under 18 must bring a waiver signed by a parent or guardian, and participants under 15 must be accompanied by an adult. You can download the waiver form from the website.

All participants should wear cleanup-appropriate clothing, including long pants and closed-toe shoes.

For more information, contact Tom Taylor at tomtaylor0401@gmail.com or 301-513-9524.

**GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE**



Market Volunteer Orientation
The Greenbelt Farmers Market will hold its volunteer orientation on Sunday May 3 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 202 for new and returning volunteers. Refreshments and new friends and experiences on the menu!



RIVERS TO ROCKETS BIKE RALLY 2015
10 am, magruder park, 4000 hamilton street, byrtesville, maryland
sponsored by maryland milestones/ath-a inc. and councilmember hannelle m. glaros
Registration details at marylandmilestones.org
301-887-0777
and councilmember.hannelle.m.glaros

BOSTWICK FESTIVAL
An afternoon of early American trade demonstrations, music, family activities, & more celebrating the history of Bostwick.
May 2, 2015 from 10am - 4pm
3300 48th Street, Bladensburg, MD
Details at marylandmilestones.org or 301-887-0777
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Rozin is the founder and director of Sadhana Forest, a vegan volunteer community and non-profit addressing issues of deforestation and climate change in India, Haiti and Kenya. Eleven years after its founding and with the help of thousands of international volunteers, Sadhana Forest teaches vegan permaculture and sustainable living, increases plant-based food security, reclaims wasteland to productivity and restores groundwater levels, all of which help to raise local living standards.

For more info, contact Lore Rosenthal, Greenbelt Climate Action Network, at lore@simplicity-matters.org or 301-345-2234

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PHOTO BY AMANDA LEIGH BROZANA

Scouts from Schuylkill Haven Boy Scout Troop No. 625 of Pennsylvania gather with Greenbelt Dog Park users after completing the beautification project Saturday evening.

Pennsylvania Boy Scout Troop Beautifies Greenbelt Dog Park

by Amanda Leigh Brozana

On Saturday, April 18, Boy Scouts and leaders from Schuylkill Haven Troop No. 625 in Pennsylvania participated in a community service project to beautify the Greenbelt Dog Park. The troop, led by Joel Koch, was camping in Greenbelt Park for the weekend and sightseeing in D.C. with scouts ages 12 to 18 and several adult leaders.

The troop included Scout Justin Weller, 17, his brother, Tyler Weller, 19, and the Wellers' sister (this reporter), who is now a Greenbelt resident and dog park user.

"The service component of scouting, whether at home or abroad, teaches responsibility, concern for others and simply to help where needed. The more they understand community, the better equipped they will be to give back when they become adults," Koch said.

The 17 scouts and leaders moved soil, compost and mulch, filled holes, spread ground cover and clipped and removed vines



One of the 17 Boy Scouts and leaders who assisted in beautifying the Greenbelt Dog Park on Saturday takes a wheelbarrow to be filled with mulch out of the park while completing the service project.

and weeds from along the park fence line. Mulch and soil were provided by the Greenbelt Public Works Department.

The boys also learned about dog behavior and canine body

language while assisting in the park.

Several other users of the park assisted in the efforts throughout the day Saturday and Sunday.

"The park is really important to our community — the people and the dogs who use it. There are people of all different backgrounds, ages and abilities and dogs of all breeds and types, including service dogs like mine," Greenbelt resident Elizabeth Hall said. "It's so nice to have users and scouts who won't directly benefit from the park come together to do a few small things to make it better."

Since the park was opened in 1996, the city has issued use tags for nearly 1,500 dogs.

The Greenbelt Dog Park Association, which offers a forum for users to provide support for the park and suggestions, will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Greenbelt Time Bank Grows; Trades Hours Not Money

by Charis Pannell

More and more people who live, work or play in Greenbelt are getting more and more services without paying for them.

"I've had people help weed my yard. I've had a couple of people help mend clothing of mine. I've had massages. I've had informal therapy sessions," said Lore Rosenthal, a resident and a Greenbelt Time Bank core team member and coordinator.

The Time Bank, which has gained more than 90 members since its creation in 2013 and has a mailing list of about twice that many, allows members to earn hours by providing different services and then to spend those hours on other services.

Jane Young, another Greenbelt Time Bank core team member who has earned hours by giving rides and teaching music lessons and has spent some of her hours on Spanish lessons and plumbing help, emphasized that the Greenbelt Time Bank is not a bartering system.

"The Time Bank involves more than two people. I can do something for you and get an hour, and you can do something for somebody else [and get an hour], and the other person can do something for somebody else [and get an hour]," she said. Members can then spend these hours on a number of services or goods.

"I have used the Time Bank in so many different ways," said core team member Aileen Kroll. "I had someone give me a unicycle lesson and in exchange, I have painted someone's shed, reviewed legal documents. I have received a massage. I have received a facial. I've kept people company. I've taken an art class outside in someone's front yard. I've read things for someone who is visually challenged. There's just no end to the possibilities," she said.

Kroll, Rosenthal and Young each highlighted the financial benefits of the Time Bank; the fact that it allows people to save money and to have an alternative way to afford luxuries as well as necessities.

"Our economy hasn't really bounced back since 2008. A lot of people don't have as much disposable income to take care of certain things," said Rosenthal, who earns hours by working to expand the Time Bank and by teaching people how to use the computer.

In relation to the recent April 15 deadline to file income taxes, Rosenthal noted that unlike bartering and income, Time Bank hours are nontaxable. Also, unlike the varying salaries across the world and in the City of Greenbelt, Time Bank hours earned are always equal, no matter the service.

"The crucial part about the Time Bank, which is extremely radical, is that everyone's time is equivalent," Kroll said. "No service is considered of greater value or to have greater meaning than another."

She also noted that the Time Bank allows members of the community to work together despite their differences. "Ev-

eryone, no matter what your age, what your educational background, socioeconomic background . . . All of us have things to contribute," she said.

Development

Though financial reasons were factors that prompted the development of the Greenbelt Time Bank, according to Rosenthal, who is also a founding member, the Time Bank has other purposes that have nothing to do with money.

"People want to feel more of a sense of community. Being part of the Time Bank makes you feel like you're in a community. [It] allows you to get to know more neighbors," she said.

Another motivating force behind the Time Bank was the idea of sustaining the environment.

"In 2009, some of us learned about a movement called Transition Towns, where all over the world, people are trying to figure out what it would take to make their towns resilient, especially in light of the end of fossil fuels," Rosenthal said. She believes that with fossil fuels out of the picture, more people would have to work closer to home and more intimately with the people who live nearby.

With this idea in mind, Rosenthal and other Greenbelt residents created a group that discussed how to run an economy in a world without fossil fuel use, a group that came up with two ideas: create a time bank, or create, print and use an alternative currency for use only in the city.

After further discussion, the time bank idea seemed a more plausible option, Rosenthal said, and she and others began to discuss the talents and gifts that people had and could use to help one another. Eventually, the idea made its way onto the city's Facebook page and more people were expressing interest. After a few meetings at Rosenthal's home, the core team was created.

Applying

By going to the Greenbelt Time Bank website, which functions through hOurworld software that helps keep track of the number of members and the hours they have acquired and exchanged, those interested in becoming members can fill out an application.

Applicants will attend a Time Bank orientation (the most recent one occurred on Feb. 7), which involves introducing the online process to prospective members, as well as soliciting ideas and feedback.

"The main reasons we want people to go to [the orientation] is we want people to have a little bit of a personal connection, get to meet other people, and ask questions. Before people get involved, we want them to have an idea of what we do, what we want to do," Young said.

Currently, the Greenbelt Time Bank has facilitated the exchange of over 300 hours, a number that continues to grow.

Charis Pannell is a journalism student at the University of Maryland writing for the *News Review*. She is also the Dorothy Sucher Memorial intern.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS EBLING

Schuylkill Haven Boy Scout Troop No. 625 of Pennsylvania visited Arlington National Cemetery before coming to Greenbelt to assist in the beautification of the dog park Saturday evening.



Volunteers broke off into groups to plant new trees in Buddy Attick Park.

Forest Stewardship Project Celebrated Arbor Day

by Naema Ahmed

This Arbor Day, March 28, the City of Greenbelt celebrated by planting and protecting trees through the Forest Stewardship Project at Buddy Attick Park. Over 50 volunteers from Greenbelt and surrounding cities gathered and worked throughout the brisk morning.

“The idea behind it is providing care and knowledge about our remnant woods, which includes both doing action projects and also educating people,” said Erin Josephitis, Maryland volunteer coordinator leading the project with Chesapeake Arts, Environment and Research Society (CHEARS).

CHEARS is a non-profit organization partnered with the city to work on educating people about lessening their ecological footprint and keeping Greenbelt a green and healthy community.

Before the volunteers got to work, Mayor Emmett Jordan gave an Arbor Day proclamation on the importance of trees and the services they provide to the city.

Megan Carter, a teacher at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, participated with a group of 6th and 7th graders from her mentoring program that she regularly brings to volunteer with the Forest Stewardship Project.

“We like this group and we like the fact that there’s college kids that work with them,” said Carter. The program works well with the school’s initiative to provide students with at least 12 hours of community service, she added.

“They’re a good group, they always have a fun time and they’re good sports when it’s cold weather,” said Josephitis.

The Forest Stewardship Project has developed a partnership with the University of Maryland that draws volunteer students seeking service learning opportunities. It also draws many volunteers from AmeriCorps, FEMA Corps



PHOTOS BY NAEEMA AHMED

Volunteers wrapped the base of trees in caging to protect them from beavers.

and local high schools, said Josephitis.

“We have a lot of dedicated residents from Greenbelt who are in some way involved in wildlife management or park management and who are ecologists or biologists who know so much about nature and animals and plants and how they interact,” said Josephitis. “They’re really the ones that keep this going because they’re here all the time because they really do care about the health of Greenbelt’s forest and keeping in it as much ecological integrity as possible.”

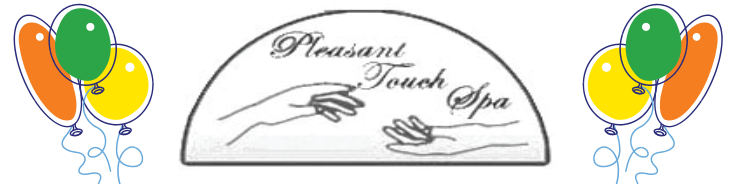
Brian Townsend, Horticultural Supervisor at the Public Works Department, has been a part of Greenbelt’s Arbor Day tree planting for 12 years. “We’ve concentrated the last two years on Buddy Attick Park mainly because of the extensive feeding of the beavers,” said Townsend.

This year, Townsend brought along three of his kids who were there since 7 a.m. helping spray paint pots and setting them out throughout the park for volunteers to plant.

“I would say [the Forest Stew-

ardship Project] is one of our most popular projects and it just started about two years ago,” said Josephitis. “It’s definitely grown each year and it’s all run by volunteers. It really makes a difference in the woods at Buddy Attick Park and throughout Greenbelt.”

Naema Ahmed is a journalism student at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.



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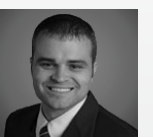
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GHI Cinderblock Townhome - 2 BR GHI home with fenced backyard, 11'x17' Mast. br. Walking distance to Roos. **UNDER CONTRACT** \$145,500

3 Bedroom GHI Townhome - Adjacent to protected woodlands - enjoy the beauty of trees & wildlife. Walk to Roosevelt Center. Value priced - \$120,000

Frame Townhome - 2 Bedrooms with front and back porches. Remodeled throughout; fresh paint, refinished floors & more. **UNDER CONTRACT**

Glen Ora - 3 br, 2 1/2 ba brick townhome. Corner lot with outdoor entertaining area. Full Master bath. Remodeled kitchen with breakfast bar. Very Nice!

Need to reach us right away?
 Text 'Greenbelt' to **88000** on your cell phone and get an instant response! We can show you any listing in Greenbelt.



Scan here with your cell phone and go directly to our website! Search all of the MLS and more.

One-Of-A-Kind - Remodeled Upper-Level with granite, eat-in breakfast bar, finished floors, dishwasher & more. Amazing! **SOLD**

One Bedroom GHI Townhome - Landscaped yard with many perennials. Patio, shed and large, fenced yard backs to woodlands. Hardwood floors.

2-Story Addit. - Fenced Corner Lot - 4 BR, 2 1/2 ba with gas heat, CAC, 2 fireplaces, deck and multiple amazing features. WOW! **SOLD**

Corner Lot - Large Floorplan GHI with ADDITION on main level. Separate den/office. Enormous fenced back and side yard. **UNDER CONTRACT**

GHI 2 Bedroom Townhome - Ceramic tiled bathroom floor & tub area, double sink in kitchen. Fenced front and back yards. Priced to sell at \$120,000

Enormous Corner Lot - 3 Br, 1 1/2 Ba. Townhome with attached cinderblock shed. Large sunroom with sliding glass doors. Steps away from Roos. Center.

3 BR Brick End Unit - Completely remodeled in 2014 - Oak hardwood flooring on main level. Modern kitchen, rear screened porch. Amazing yard!

Block Townhome - Addition - Remodeled kitchen with granite ctrs, d/w. Cherry wood flrs, fenced yard. 1st flr. addition used as den/bedroom. **UNDER CONTRACT**

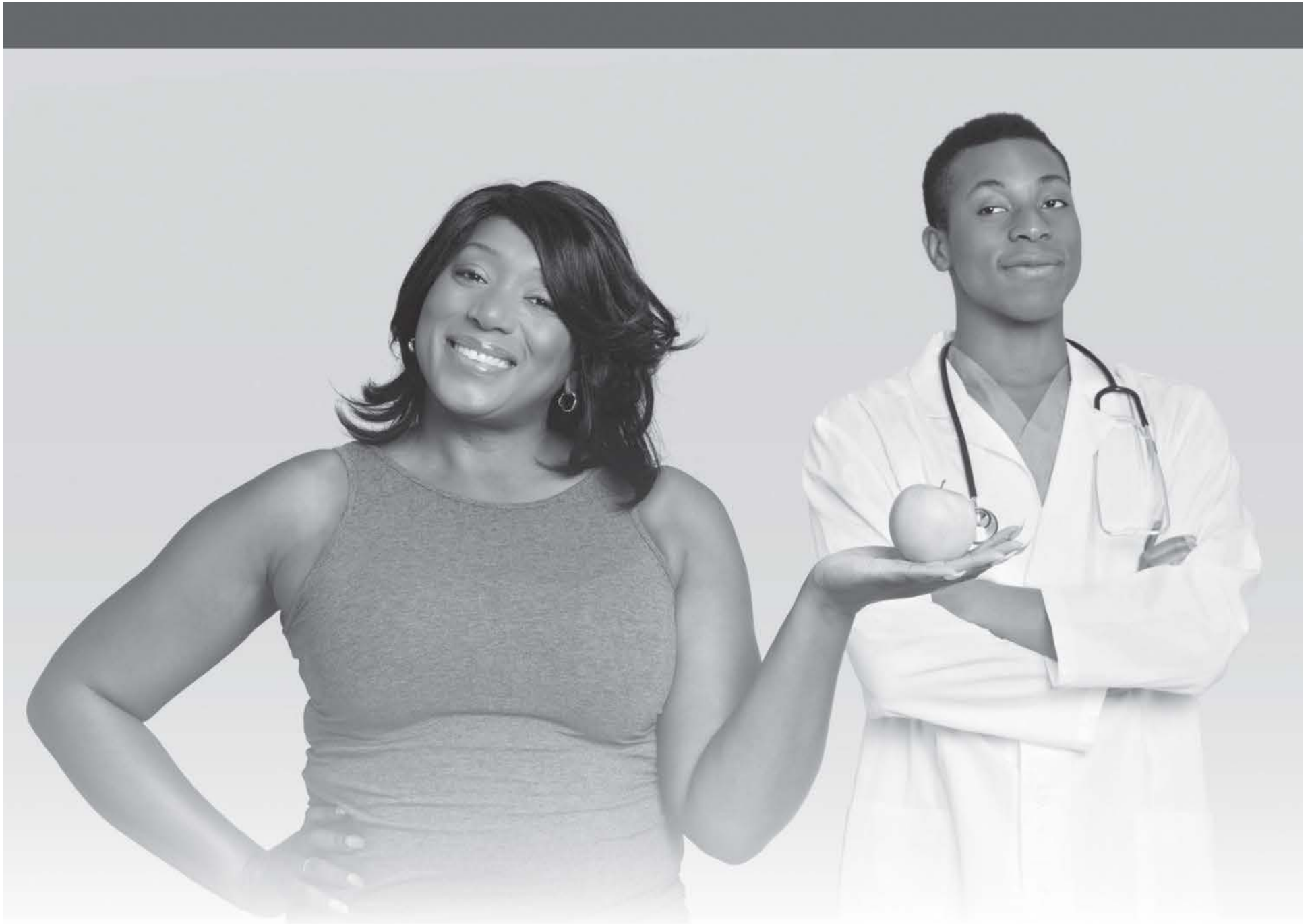
Block Townhome - 2 bedroom townhome with large screened porch. Modern kitchen. Just a short walk to Roosevelt Center. Priced to sell at \$150,000.

GHI Block Townhome - 3 Br unit with upgraded kitchen, large living area & laundry room. Large Shed! Short walk to Roosevelt Center. **SOLD**

Brick Townhome - Corner Lot - Fire place, sunroom, refinished hardwood flooring, newly tiled bath, energy sav. appliances, fresh paint & more. Nice!

Corner Lot With Addition - 2 br GHI frame townhome with den addition & bath. Glass fronted porch throughout, modern kit. & more. Large deck & shed. **UNDER CONTRACT**

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 In Roosevelt Center



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