

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 66, No. 52

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

NOVEMBER 20, 2003

## A History

# How Did the City Woodlands Become a Forest Preserve?

by James Giese

Was the enactment of the forest preserve ordinance at the very last meeting of the former city council before election a “rush to passage” of legislation “not ready to be enacted” as one writer of a letter to the editor stated in the November 6 issue or a “visionary piece” “crafted . . . in a more than year-long process” as stated by another letter writer? Here is the history of how the ordinance came about. The forest preserve created by the new ordinance consists of 214 acres of city-owned land. The preserve includes all the land within the city limits east of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) and west of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway except for 15 acres, five of which were once a city landfill and are now used as ball fields, Wolfe Fields. The right-of-way for Northway from Ridge Road to the ball field property is also excluded.

Since the city completed the acquisition of this land in 1990 the Committee to Save the Green Belt and others have lobbied the Greenbelt City Council to restrict the use of the property

in a way that cannot be changed by future generations so that the land is always preserved as a greenbelt of natural woodland. The numerous restrictions on use already imposed by the federal, state and county governments and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission as well as city ownership were not sufficient safeguards to satisfy those concerned.

In 1997 the city council considered granting control of the property to the Maryland Environmental Trust. Objections to the city giving away its rights to an outside organization as well as an October 16, 1997, opinion by City Solicitor Robert A. Manzi that granting an easement to another entity like the state would violate the city charter caused the council to drop this idea.

Three years later at a work session with the Millennium Communities Task Force Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested that it might be appropriate during the millennium celebration year to take an action to preserve the city's greenbelt.

At a December 18, 2000 regular council meeting staff suggested adopting a resolution that defines all properties of the greenbelt, states a vision or purpose for its use and defines the acceptable uses of the land. Staff was directed to develop such a resolution by the council.

### Wildlands

Over a year later, on February 28, 2002, Planning and Development Coordinator Celia Craze proposed that council enact a resolution modeled after the Maryland Wildlands Program. Under her proposal the city council would establish a city program to be called the Greenbelt Natural Reserve Area Program to protect, manage and administer certain designated areas in a largely natural and undisturbed state. Council action would specify areas to be included as well as any expansion or reduction. Manzi, in an earlier memo, advised that it would be necessary to amend the charter in order to restrict future councils from making any

See **PRESERVE**, page 12

# Dr. Andre Hornsby Addresses Community in Public Forum

by Theresa Henderson, PTA president, Greenbelt Elementary School

Dr. Andre Hornsby, superintendent of the Prince George's County Public Schools, was the featured speaker at the Oct. 13 Community Forum held at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The meeting was introduced by Dr. Bruce Katz, region II director (the region including Greenbelt schools), who complimented Hornsby for his reorganization vision for Prince George's County Schools.

Hornsby then took the podium, introduced his staff and described the Quality Schools Program Strategic Plan. He emphasized the need for additional federal spending to support the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) and additional state funding to support the Bridge to Excellence Act (also known as the Thornton act). He then proceeded to explain the seven goals outlined by the county in order to reach the standards set by the state of Maryland and the NCLBA.

1. By the 2013-2014 school year, all children will reach 100 percent of standard levels. The system must refine the curriculum and implement it. Though emphasis will be on reading, math will be included. Data comparing region II to the state indicated that approximately 20

to 30 percent of county students do not reach the necessary standards. Every school will have to attain an annual measurable objective (AMO) toward closing this gap. Budget data was shown, and Dr. Hornsby indicated a need to increase funding for instructional materials.

2. For English Language Learners (ELL), appropriate accommodations will be made to bring non-English speaking children up to standards.

3. All teachers will be highly qualified. Individual professional development plans will be initiated and recruitment resources expanded to attract and retain good teachers.

4. In the areas of safety and drug prevention and intervention, new codes of student conduct will be developed to ensure consistency from school to school. In attendance figures, region II compares favorably to the state for attendance, and surpasses the state for middle schools. Regarding suspensions, data indicate that there are many repeat offenders. Dr. Hornsby suggested that it may be better to place such students in alternative facilities than to continue to release them into their communities where most of them are unsupervised.

5. All students will graduate

from high school. Current 7th graders will be the first graduating class required to pass the new HSA (high school assessment) tests in order to receive a diploma. SAT scores in the county have been dropping since 1985. Hornsby described 9th grade “non-promotes,” those not eligible to pass on to the 10th grade. He indicated that the 9th grade class in most high schools is overly large because of such students. He attributed this situation to their inadequate education before reaching high school. Region II compares favorably to the state in graduation rate, with about 85 percent of students graduating.

6. Administrative areas will improve. ORACLE – the new accounting program – has been beset with problems but Hornsby stated that it will improve and will be helpful once it reaches full function. He looks forward to integrated information systems so parents can monitor their children's school work and identify areas that need improvement before problems arise.

7. Parent and community involvement is planned through a parent and community advisory and “user friendly” schools.

See **HORNSBY**, page 9

## Greenbelt Statement on Transportation

Mayor Judith Davis presented the city's position concerning transportation issues at a public hearing on Monday, November 17, before the governor's Task Force on Transportation at the SHA/District 3 Office in Greenbelt. The Task Force, headed by William K. Hellerman, was convened to study current state transportation revenues, expenditures and needs.

The Greenbelt statement follows:

The City of Greenbelt is very concerned with the action taken this fiscal year to reduce the pass through of highway user revenues to local governments. Like other local governments, the City of Greenbelt saw a significant reduction. Highway user revenues are expected to be \$170,000 lower than fiscal year 2003, a reduction of 28%. This severely limits our ability to fund street maintenance activities. In addition, the City is gravely concerned about the possibility of a further reduction in fiscal year 2005. As I am sure you are aware, local governments maintain a large proportion of the transportation roadway infrastructure in the State. Cutting back on these funds hampers a local government's capability to continue maintaining the roadway network in any kind of acceptable condition.

Secondly, it was most unfortunate that funding for the Neighborhood Conservation Program (NCP) had to be cut. Greenbelt and the adjoining communities of Berwyn Heights

See **STATEMENT**, page 5

# U.S. Centennial of Flight: With a Local Perspective

by Austin and Agnes Conaty

*This is the first in a series of articles which highlights the 100th anniversary of powered flight.*

The U.S. Centennial of Flight (COF) Commission was created by Congress to commemorate the centennial of powered flight and the Wright brothers' achievement. December 17, 2003, will mark 100 years since that first flight, but perhaps it is not widely known locally that the Wright brothers spent some time in the Washington Metro area during the early years of their flight experiments and that during World War II Greenbelt itself had an active airport.

In the COF publication “Celebrating a Century of Flight” we are reminded that a hundred years ago, two brothers who operated a bicycle repair shop and factory in Dayton, Ohio had a dream that changed the way the



world works. Orville and Wilbur Wright's early interest in flight was influenced by their parents who encouraged them to engage in activities that satisfied their intellectual curiosity.

Their father triggered their interest in human flight in 1878 when he gave them a toy helicopter propelled by a rubber band. More than two decades later, between 1900 and 1902, it took thousands of painstaking experiments with different gliders and several wind tunnel tests before the Wright brothers' first successful powered flight happened amidst the high winds and sand dunes of Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, N.C., on December 17, 1903.

Orville and Wilbur Wright finally gained world recognition in 1908 after the trials of their

See **FLIGHT**, page 9

## What Goes On

**Monday, November 24**

**8 p.m.,** Regular City Council Meeting

**Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28**

City offices and GHI offices closed for Thanksgiving holidays. Greenbelt Connection does not run.

## Sunday Deadline for Next Paper

For Thanksgiving week, the News Review dated Thursday, November 27, the deadline for stories, articles, advertising and photographs will be Sunday, November 23 at 10 p.m. The News Review will be open on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. and from 8 to 10 p.m. to receive advertising and information for next week's paper.

Monday evening will be final proofreading of the finished paper and too late to add content. Get your news and ads in by Sunday, please.

*Editorial***Boxwood Village, Belle Point Preserves Need More Study**

On Monday November 24, the Greenbelt City Council is expected to consider two bills that would put additional areas into forest preserves. One proposed preserve is next to Boxwood Village, the other next to Belle Point. Both of these ordinances, in our view, are premature.

At its final meeting, the previous council introduced a resolution that would establish a forest preserve task force. This task force will be charged with drafting policies identifying the activities permitted and prohibited in the preserves and with evaluating possible additional preserves. Whether this work is done by the proposed task force or by a city committee, it should take place before additional preserves are established, as required by the newly enacted forest preserve ordinance.

Unlike the recently created preserves, the two parcels to be added are not large, wooded tracts. The Boxwood land consists of not quite nine acres of land. The city has installed nice plantings, a shelter and a footpath through this area. As we understand the law, additional improvements of a similar nature would be prohibited if the land is placed in a preserve. Along Lastner Lane a large portion of the land to be designated woodland is open grassland with the lawn regularly cut by the city. This area is used by neighbors for a variety of open field uses such as kite flying, dog walking and pickup ball games. Along Ivy Lane there is a playground and a basketball court which have been excluded from the proposed preserve. Altogether, this area seems to be a neighborhood park, not a forest.

While the 10-acre parcel proposed as a forest preserve next to Belle Point is wooded, except for a WSSC right-of-way, the adjacent neighborhood residents at some future date might seek for park facilities in this area similar to those sought in the past by Boxwood Village residents for their neighborhood park.

If these tracts are placed in a preserve, neighborhood kids (and adults) would be prohibited from biking through the tract. Not even a bench could be constructed in a city preserve. The forest preserve ordinance provides that to remove any land from the preserves would require a super-majority vote of the city council and a majority vote in a citywide referendum.

The greenbelt is an important part of this city's history and we have no desire to see trees cut down. However, the city does have other needs as well and, as pointed out by city staff and advisory boards, no one has thought about what those needs might be and how those needs should be balanced against the desire to keep as much city land as possible green.

The new council will control what happens to these lands for the next two years. Nothing can be done without its approval, so there is no need to rush. We urge the new council not to follow the lead of the old council, which acted as if it could not trust the citizens of this city. If we are to create additional preserves, let's do it right.

First, council needs to inform the citizens exactly what land would be placed in the preserve (with maps), what activities will be permitted and what activities will be prohibited. Let the city advisory boards do what council appoints them to do. Then present the proposals to the citizens and listen to their comments, questions and concerns. Only then can council take informed action with the consent of the governed.

For now, we recommend that council table (defer action on) the two ordinances.

**Extent of Injuries, Fear Left Untold**

I am writing this letter because the citizens of Old Greenbelt need to be aware of what happened in their neighborhood. The November 13 police blotter reported a robbery in which the "male" victim was described as having "facial lacerations." Actually what happened was that a young man was severely beaten and his girlfriend traumatized. The night of the incident my neighbor and her boyfriend decided to take an evening walk around our homes. As they walked by the small parking lot across from the Mobil station, the male victim was jumped from behind and then hit numerous times with a metal pipe. My neighbor screamed and tried to help her boyfriend but had to run away after the second perpetrator tried to attack her. By the end of the attack, the male victim had the following injuries; fractured orbital bone, broken nose (which had to be re-broken

to fix), severely cut lip which so far has required two plastic surgeries, over 12 staples on the top of his head, over 12 stitches above one eye, numerous lost front teeth and those not lost were cracked. This gentleman was extremely lucky that he did not have a brain injury, but he still has months of healing to look forward to and may still need additional surgeries to repair his teeth and face. This young man and my neighbor were attacked without provocation while walking across from the Center in an area surrounded by open businesses, apartments, and townhouses. Is this just a one-time incident or just the beginning?

Also, I would like to thank the residents of the Crescent Square Apartment and Ridge Road who responded quickly to the cries for help.

*Name withheld at writer's request*

# Letters to the Editor

**Skateboarders Mistreated**

What's going on with the skateboarders?

Several years ago the kids were promised a decent skateboarding park. It's still nonexistent.

So the kids practice anywhere they can. It's dangerous. Accidents have occurred.

The police have issued them tickets.

Last night I found three kids locked inside the last tennis court at University Square. No tennis players were around. Someone came by and locked them inside the court and rode away on a bicycle. The kids had to climb over the 20' fence and jump. I was glad they didn't break their legs.

One of the kids said his dad was on active duty in Iraq. I wonder how that soldier would feel to know his kid was mistreated at home for skateboarding!

Skateboarding is a national sport and not a crime. What's going on?

*Elizabeth Barber*

**THANKS**

The November 14 blood drive at the Greenbelt Community Center was a huge success with more than 43 people donating their blood. In spite of competition from a blood drive at Eleanor Roosevelt High School on the same day, residents supported our own local Greenbelt blood drive. The blood donations collected will help the American Red Cross in its urgent need for blood, due to casualties in Iraq.

*Janet Goldberg  
Recreation Coordinator*

**THANKS**

We want to publicly thank Lieutenant Gheen and his fellow firefighters from the Greenbelt station for reinforcing fire safety rules and helping acquaint our children with emergency equipment. Sitting in a fire truck and ambulance is more than just fun; bonding with strange machines and uniforms could save a child's life.

*Ms. Diane, Mr. Tim,  
Ms. Eileen, Ms. Kate,  
Ms. Sheila and Ms. Cheryl  
Kids' Club  
Child Care Center*

**OLD GREENBELT THEATRE**

**Week of Nov. 21**

**Mystic River (R)**

**Friday**  
\*4:30, 7:15, 9:50

**Saturday**  
\*1:45, \*4:30, 7:15, 9:50

**Sunday**  
\*1:45, \*4:30, 7:15

**Monday - Tuesday**  
\*4:45, 7:30

**Wednesday - Thursday**  
\*4:30, 7:15, 9:50

\*These shows at \$5.00

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**Testimony Is Instructive**

The just-elected City Council is about to decide the composition of the task force that will draft the management and maintenance policy for the newly created forest preserve. I think the testimony at the second reading of the forest preserve ordinance is instructive in determining what is not an appropriate composition for the task force.

To start with, the forest preserve was created more in the spirit of a wilderness area or national park backcountry than in the spirit of a second Buddy Attick Park, even to the extent that the ordinance prohibits a variety of activities that do not involve chopping down trees but do interfere with conservation. However, we heard testimony from members of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) and Youth Advisory Committee urging recreational non-conservation uses. Further, we heard the chair of PRAB and several PRAB members urge against including a forested Northway parcel in the preserve at this time because space from a portion of that parcel, which is adjacent to the excluded Northway field parcel, may be needed as spillover room for new facilities at the field, for which no master plan exists yet.

Clearly, PRAB was doing its job and doing it well. It was concerned about planning. It was concerned about recreational use. It was concerned primarily

about the Northway facilities. It was not concerned about the damaging effect of fragmentation and disturbance on an ecosystem, as it was urging implementing non-conservation-oriented management in the middle of a conservation area, though the PRAB folks did assure everyone that they favored not removing trees. They repeatedly insisted their motivation was leaving options open for future councils to decide. The forest preserve is not about leaving options open; it is about protecting the small percentage of remaining forest in Greenbelt, as the city council had the wisdom to recognize.

The problem is that PRAB's mission is inconsistent with the type of protection the forest preserve requires. There is a direct conflict in priorities, as was plainly evident in the testimony. Then-Councilmember Turnbull even raised this exact concern at the previous meeting, before all the controversy, when he suggested that the task force needs to be a separate body dedicated solely to matters dealing with the forest preserve. Therefore, I highly recommend against having PRAB or PRAB members play anything more than a minor liaison and experience-sharing role on the task force that will design the management and maintenance plan for the forest preserve unless the particular individuals have expertise in and commitment to conservation as the top priority.

*Stephen Jascourt*

**Thankful Thoughts**

Last year the News Review received a number of responses to our request that readers tell us what they are thankful for. This year it again seems appropriate to ask the same question. Responses will be published in November 27 issue.

## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977  
Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985  
President Emeritus, 1985-

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662  
Assistant Editor: Barbara Likowski 301-474-8483  
News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805  
Assistant to the Editor: Eileen Farnham 301-513-0482

**STAFF**

Rusty Anthony, Hopi Auerbach, Jackie Bealle, Virginia Beauchamp, Laura Beckert, Judy Bell, Judi Bordeaux, Marcy Bringen, Sharon Carroll, Randy Crenwelge, Cynthia Cummings, Kay Cummings, Peter Curtis, Pat Davis, Jessi Britton, Thelma deMola, Thomas Fishbeck, Eli Flam, Anne Gardner, Terri Gates, Al Geiger, Bernina McGee Giese, James Giese, Marjorie Gray, Eve Gresser, Shirl Hayes, Patty Heil, Sabine Hentrich, Solange Hess, Barbara Hopkins, Elizabeth Jay, Suzanne Krofchik, Meta Lagerwerff, Pam Lambird, Sandra Lange, Maria del Mar Lopez, Lucie MacKinnon, Pat McCoy, Cathie Meetre, Emma Mendoza, Rachel Mirsky, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Alice Murray, Diane Oberg, Millie O'Dea, Elly Oudemans, I.J. Parker, Linda Paul, Karl Pena, Leonie Penney, Eileen Peterson, Jane Rissler, Linda Siady, Sandra Surber Smith, Anne Suher, Dorothy Suher, Helen Sydavar, Joanne Tucker, Marbury Wethered, Marie Wong and Virginia Zanner.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Ron Wells 301-474-4131  
CIRCULATION (Core of Greenbelt): Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Diane Oberg, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Judy Bell, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Eileen Farnham, Marat Moore and Pat Davis.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

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

# Community Events

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club regular meeting was held on November 12 with President Ellie Rimar presiding. Kathleen McFarland was the greeter.

Ernie Varda will be at Heartland Health Care, 1801 Metzert Road, Adelphi, MD 20783 and would enjoy cards. He is certainly missed by the club.

Peg Shorter and Ruth Savoben were the winners of the 50/50.

Some Golden Age Club members who play pinochle at the Community Center at 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday are looking for players. Beginners or regular players are welcome.

The November 26 meeting has been cancelled. Helen Barnes, gero-psychiatric nurse from Prince George's Department of Family Services, will speak on December 10. "Holiday Blues and Beyond" will be her topic. December 17 will be the Christmas luncheon at the regular time.

There are still openings on the January 22 trip to the Midway Slots in Delaware. On December 10 the bus will leave promptly at 5:30 p.m. for the concert at the Kennedy Center and will return at 11 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving – enjoy all the turkey and fixin's.

## At the Library

Wednesday, November 26, libraries close at 5 p.m.

10:30 a.m. Cuddletime for two-year-olds with caregiver.

Thursday, November 27, libraries closed for Thanksgiving.

## GreenSpring Meets

GreenSpring I HOA will be holding a homeowners meeting at the Schrom Hills Park on Sunday, November 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information call 301-385-9820.

## Kindergarten Options Discussed

Greenbelt Nursery School (GNS) offers a panel discussion on kindergarten options available to families in Greenbelt and nearby Prince George's County communities. The meeting will take place on Thursday, December 4 from 6:45 to 9 p.m. in room 202, the Theater Rehearsal Room, in the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

The meeting aims to inform parents about the array of possibilities in the local area. Representatives of public and private schools will describe their kindergarten programs. Participating schools include Prince George's County Public Schools' Magnet Office, Greenbelt Elementary School, St. Hugh's, College Park Nursery School and Kindergarten, Friends Community School, Paint Branch Montessori and Holy Redeemer School in College Park.

This will be the third kindergarten information meeting sponsored by GNS. Greenbelt Nursery School offers this program as a service to its member families and to all interested parties. There is no admission charge, but reservations are invited.

For reservations telephone GNS at 301-474-5570 or email a request to [gnsk@greenbelt.com](mailto:gnsk@greenbelt.com). For more information call the school or visit its website at [www.greenbelt.com/GNSK](http://www.greenbelt.com/GNSK).

## Parade to Open Toy Drive at Mall

The 12th Annual Toy Drive Parade at Beltway Plaza Mall will commence on Saturday, November 22 at 2 p.m. in front of the mall. Local organizations and businesses have joined forces to gather new toys for needy children in Prince George's County. The organizers of this task, Beltway Plaza Mall and the Greenbelt Lions Club, are now in their 12th year of this endeavor. The goal once again is to raise over \$20,000 of new toys to be distributed to families, orphanages, churches and hospitals with children who would not ordinarily receive a gift during the holidays.

The Redskinettes, unicyclists, the Misses Greenbelt, Ronald McDonald, the Baysox' Louie and the Baltimore Orioles Bird, local bands, as well as local dignitaries including Delegates Barbara A. Frush, Pauline Menes, Brian Moe and Justin D. Ross are just some of the parade participants. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by Berwyn Heights fire engine ringing in the holiday spirit but the festivities don't stop outside.

Following the parade inside the mall will be a wide variety of entertainment for the entire family including face painting, temporary tattoos, balloon sculpting, juggling and a humor and magic show. The Redskinettes will be on hand to sign autographs. Children may also visit and get their pictures taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Costumed characters will be available as well to meet and pose for photos.

Toys will be collected in the bright green and red toy box off Center Court of the mall until Friday, December 19 and then the toys will be sorted and distributed by the Greenbelt Lions Club.

Beltway Plaza has been an integral part of the community, committed to making this and every holiday season enjoyable for all children and their families. The toy drive is simply one of a number of community activities Beltway Plaza Mall supports.

## Home Schoolers Musicians Concert

On Tuesday, November 25 at 1 p.m., local homeschooling students will be performing a free concert. The concert will consist of traditional American songs and Latin American songs. Students age 6 to 12 have been working for the past 10 weeks with local singer and songwriter Melissa Sites and artist Barbara Simon. The concert will be held in the gym of the Community Center and is sponsored by the Greenbelt Senior Center and the Greenbelt Home Learning Co-op.

Refreshments will follow the concert. All are welcome.

## GHI Notes

Events for the week of November 24 through the 28 are:

November 26 - Architecture & Environment, 7:30 p.m., Board Room; and

November 27 and 28 - GHI Offices will be closed for Thanksgiving Holidays.

The next Board of Directors meeting will be December 4 at 7:30 p.m., in the Board Room.

The next Pre-Purchase Orientation will be December 6 at 11 a.m. in the Board Room.

## CARES Shares Help Is Here

by Wendy Wexler

Wish you were more involved in your child's education? Having trouble shaking those "blues" recently? Wondering how to organize a set of workable family rules? Is someone in the family struggling with substance abuse?

The staff at Greenbelt CARES Youth & Family Service Bureau will be exploring these questions and more in a new column. Some of the most common family concerns have been chosen to be addressed. The column will provide strategies that many families have found useful in facing certain issues.

Established in 1974, Greenbelt CARES is a community-based, family-oriented counseling program dedicated to promoting responsible behavior and appropriate family management skills. Counseling services for families are provided at a Wednesday Night Family Clinic. Individuals and families may receive counseling services on other days and times as available. Weekly group counseling services to local schools are also offered.

Crisis Intervention Counselors work in collaboration with the Greenbelt Police Department to offer immediate services to some individuals who come into contact with the police, often as the result of a crime or other emergency situation.

A Vocational/Educational Counselor offers GED classes, an individual and group tutoring program to assist students in school and an Odd Jobs/Job Bank program to help people with the world of work and help citizens with odd jobs around the community.

An up-to-date referral listing of local resources is maintained, including support groups and shelters. All services are free of charge and available to Greenbelt residents.

## Senior Mental Health Services

In light of recent mental health crises in the city, the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program, in partnership with the Prince George's County Department of Family Services Aging Division, has begun to provide geriatric psychiatric services for the seniors of the City of Greenbelt. According to Christal Parker Batey, community resource advocate, the GAIL office will work in conjunction with Helen Barnes, gero-psychiatric nurse counselor, to offer a multi-pronged approach to meeting the varied community needs.

Barnes has already begun taking referrals and plans to give a "Holiday Blues and Beyond" talk at the Golden Age Club meeting in December. This presentation will be videotaped and shown on cable Channel 71. Beginning in January, Barnes will be available to meet with residents for one-on-one sessions and to do home visits. If she sees the need for a support group for Greenbelt residents, this service will be offered as well.

Barnes holds a graduate degree in community mental health and is certified by the American Nurses Association as an Adult Mental Health Nurse. For information, call Batey at 301-474-8000.

## A Review

# "Sandcastles" – Exploration Of Sisters' Incompatibility

by Sabine Hentrich

Thunderous productions is presenting "Sandcastles," a play written and directed by Rick Starkweather, at the Greenbelt Arts Center through November 22. The play is about two entirely incompatible sisters trying to find themselves in a wealthy, dysfunctional family of the nineties.

Stacy (Jennifer Lee), the obedient, hardworking, plain bookworm of the family, is constantly rubbing her sister Victoria (Allison Galen), a promiscuous, outgoing and troubled beauty queen, the wrong way. Their mother Lenora (Mary Shiel), whose husband died years ago, is trying to love and support both of them but mostly she's concerned with her daughters' welfare once she will not be around anymore. Therefore, she's trying to strengthen the bond between her two daughters in a unique – and quite unconventional – way.

The story begins with Stacy and her mother in their living room, where the entire play is set. They are talking about Stacy's and Victoria's differences and about the fact that Stacy is finally happy with her love life since she's become engaged to Jeffrey (Shannon Webber).

Even though this seems like a play we all have seen, the juxtaposition of the two main characters, the sisters, makes it worth watching. Both actors are well cast and did a marvelous job convincing the audience of all the strange things going on between the lines of the play.

Lee, who was fabulous as the sexualized spirit Ariel in the Arts Center's production of "The Tempest," had no problem going from a tempting spirit to an always-complaining, asexual girl in horned glasses and baggy clothes.

She found so many ways to whine about the same thing, thus rendering herself a great stereotypical, naive wallflower.

Galen, playing the available, alcoholic, socialite sister, was ideal opposite Lee. She was loud and bragging at times but could elicit empathy at others. Galen had no difficulty showing lots of skin and attitude. Both "sisters" did a great job getting their points of view across – and even though the play ended in a bizarre twist that made this reviewer scratch her head, these two fabulous actors made it believable.

Shiel, as the mother, acted a bit too stuck up, even as a mother accused of caring only about money and nothing else. The actor was good, however, at showing her character's façade and at not letting herself go during the many tense moments. As in many modern plays, layers of one's character play a major role in this one too.

The two male characters of the play, Webber as the love interest Jeffrey, and Donn Cook as the family's lawyer Evan Gilcrest, were merely the female characters' "marionettes," as Victoria puts it. Webber and Cook managed to act perfectly as the stereotypical marionette men who don't think with their heads but with their . . . (this is a family newspaper). This situation reminds this reviewer to mention that "Sandcastles" is not suitable for children because of its adult content and language.

Anyone interested in seeing this well-acted play – it will certainly make one feel better about one's own somewhat dysfunctional family – is welcome to do so on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through November 22 at the Greenbelt Arts Center.

## Water Polo Scrimmage Saturday Night

Saturday night water polo had a nice gathering on November 8, but there was a fire alarm that forced players out of the pool before they got to scrimmage. They'll try again this Saturday night, November 22, at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center from 9 to 11 p.m. New players who are good swimmers aged 9 to 19 are welcomed. If enough younger kids join, there will be enough for a shallow wa-

ter game next to the bigger kids game.

One of the players, Jill Lau, will be attending a water polo tournament in Pennsylvania with the Rockville Water Polo team that night. In the spring they scrimmage the University of Maryland's Varsity Team on a weekly basis. Water polo is fun, give it a try. Call Larry Hilliard at 301-474-7504 for information.

Greenbelt Arts Center  
announces

## SANDCASTLES

thunderous productions presents with the  
Greenbelt Arts Center  
a seriocomic play written and directed by  
Rick Starkweather

FRIDAY, November 21

SATURDAY, November 22

8 p.m.

Greenbelt Arts Center, 123 Centerway

For information 301-441-8770 or visit

[www.geocities.com/thunderousproductions/tpHome](http://www.geocities.com/thunderousproductions/tpHome)

NOTE: This production contains adult language and adult situations

# Obituaries

## Arthur S. Barclay

Former Greenbelter and botanist/plant explorer, Dr. Arthur Stewart Barclay, 71, died on November 6, 2003 as the result of a sudden heart attack.

Born in Minneapolis, Minn., Dr. Barclay grew up in Tulsa, Okla., earning his B.A. at the University of Tulsa, in botany. He obtained his masters degree and Ph.D., also in botany, from Harvard University.

Dr. Barclay came to the Greenbelt area in 1959 to begin a career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). He first resided in Springhill Lake in Greenbelt and later in nearby Chelsea Woods.

As a plant collector he collected plant samples in the northeast and southwest U.S., South Africa, Colombia, Chile and Mexico for cancer research by the National Institutes of Health in cooperation with the USDA. On an expedition to the state of Washington Dr. Barclay stripped a sample of bark, needles and roots from a Pacific yew tree (*Taxus brevifolia*) in 1962, leading to the development of the anti-cancer drug Taxol.

In 1980 he took early disability retirement because of an onset of Central Pontine Myelinolysis, a rare neurological disorder involving the brainstem that impairs speech and movement. He moved to Orlando in 1999 to be near family.

Dr. Barclay is survived by his wife, Janet McCutcheon Barclay of Orlando, and step-daughter, Paige E. Powell, of Annapolis.

Memorial services were held on Sunday, November 9 in Orlando.

## Ethel Gerring

Ethel Gerring was born August 4, 1915 in New York City and was raised in New Jersey.

She sang professionally until she married Irving in 1944. They came to Greenbelt in 1948 when Irving was employed with the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C. Together they raised three sons, Arnold, Mark and Alan, at 36 Court Ridge Road, 3 Court Gardenway and 7 Pinecrest Court. Each successive move made more room for her growing boys.

Mrs. Gerring was known for her beautiful singing voice at community functions and for volunteering her time to charitable causes.

She was one of the original members of Mishkan Torah Synagogue where she helped provide food and drink to hard-working members who built the synagogue in the early 1950s.

Mrs. Gerring's sales expertise served her well in real estate. She began her career in the early '60s with Greenbelt Realty which

became Nyman Realty. Many Greenbelters remember her for helping them settle on their first GHI home. She was the first woman to be inducted into the Real Estate Hall of Fame in Prince George's County.

Years later she and Irv retired and moved to Florida as snowbirds. They still had Greenbelt in their hearts and came north during the spring and summer months to see family and friends. After Irv died in 1994, she resided in Florida permanently.

Mrs. Gerring died on November 2, 2003, succumbing to cancer.

She is survived by two sisters, three sons, two daughters-in-law, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Graveside services were held at King David Memorial Gardens, Falls Church, Va. Contributions in her memory may be made to Mishkan Torah Synagogue or the American Cancer Society.

## Interfaith Service To Be Wednesday

The Greenbelt community interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held Wednesday night, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road.

Protestant, Catholic, Baha'i, Jewish and Unitarian-Universalist faith congregations will participate. The Greenbelt Combined Choir, under the direction of Jean Cook with Jean Shipley, accompanist, will sing. People of all faiths and those with no religious affiliation are welcome.

The interfaith Thanksgiving service is one example of Greenbelt's long tradition of cooperation and respect among people of different faiths.



**GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212  
 Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor

**Thursday, Nov. 27 10:00 a.m.**  
**Thanksgiving Day Service**  
 Come Praise the Lord,  
 Give Thanks and Share your Blessings.

*"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"*

You are invited to a  
**THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE**  
 November 27 at 11 a.m.  
**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH**  
 8300 Adelphi Road  
 (one block north of Rt. 193)  
*"Now thank we all our God"*

**GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org) [greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net](mailto:greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net)  
 Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor

**Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm**  
**Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm**  
**Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 pm**

*"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"*

**MASS SCHEDULE:**  
 Sunday 8, 9:30, 11 a.m.  
 Saturday 5 p.m.

Daily Mass: As announced  
 Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.  
 Rev. Thomas F. Crowley, Pastor  
 Rev. R. Scott Hurd, Pastoral Associate  
 Part Time Ministry

**ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Md.

*"Open Door, Open Heart, Open Mind!"*

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
**301-474-9410**

**SUNDAY**

Sunday School	9:45 am
Talk & Listen (Coffee Hr.)	10:15 am
Worship Service	11:00 am

**Tues. Lectionary Study 7:00 am**  
**Wed. Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm**  
**Third Friday, Games Night 7:30 pm**

**Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor**  
 November 23 "One Who Completes"  
 Thanksgiving Sunday

## Combined Chorus Performs at UM

The combined choirs of the University of Maryland Men's Chorus and Women's Chorus will give a free concert on Sunday, November 23 at 3 p.m. This performance will be given in the Dekelbom Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center on the university campus in College Park.

## Opera Class at UM

Prominent pianist André Watts will teach a free master class at the Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, University of Maryland at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 25. Watts is in his fourth year as artist-in-residence at the UM School of Music.

**Baha'i Faith**

**Greenbelt Baha'i Community**  
 P.O. Box 245  
 Greenbelt, MD 20770  
 301-345-2918 301-220-3160

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

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
 3215 Powder Mill Road,  
 Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)  
*Welcomes you to our open,  
 nurturing community*  
 November 23, 10 a.m.

*"The Welcome Table"*  
 by Barbara Wells and  
 Jacob B. ten Hove, co-ministers

Barbara Wells,  
 Jacob B. ten Hove,  
 co-ministers

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads  
 Phone: **301-474-6171** mornings  
[www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/](http://www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/)  
**Sunday Worship**  
**10:15 a.m.**  
 Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

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

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

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Worship
	8:45 a.m.	Fellowship
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	9:15 a.m.	Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship
Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Evening Worship

Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail [myholycross@erols.com](mailto:myholycross@erols.com)

**St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church**  
 7010 Glenn Dale Road  
 (Lanham-Severn Road and Glenn Dale Road)  
 301-262-3285 | [stgeog@aol.com](mailto:stgeog@aol.com) | [www.stgeo.org](http://www.stgeo.org)

**Sundays: 8:00 am A Simple, Quiet Mass**  
**9:00 am Christian Education for All Ages**  
**10:00 am Sung Mass with Organ and Folk Music, ASL Interpreted**

**Nursery Provided 9:00-11:30 am**

*An inclusive congregation!*

**A GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**  
**Congratulations to Eugene and Julia Stratchko of Greenbelt as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 26, 2003.**

Gene and Julie were married in 1953 in McAdoo, Pa. They have five sons and 20 grandchildren. In honor of the occasion, a family celebration will be held at Sir Walter Raleigh Inn.

Thanks, mom and dad, for your love and guidance through the years. You both are truly wonderful! We wish you many more years of love and happiness.

With All Our Love,  
 David, Gary, James, Steven and Ed

  
**Catholic Community of Greenbelt**

**SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM**  
**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**  
**SERVE BREAKFAST**  
**AT S.O.M.E.**  
 Sunday, November 30, 2003

Meet at St. Hugh's School  
 Parking Lot, 6:00 AM

**KEEP**  
  
**RIGHT**

Detailed guidance has been provided to ensure our success in this life.

*"Read! In the Name of your Lord, Who has created all (that exists)."*  
 - The Holy Qur'an, 96:1

This was the first message sent down through the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) in the year 610 CE. Over the next 23 years, Muhammed would receive what has come to be known as the Qur'an, a book with 114 chapters and over 6,000 verses. The only book to be considered the direct words of God, the Qur'an has become the primary source of guidance for the whole of mankind. These words revealed nearly 1400 years ago have been preserved in their original form and been verified by both scientific method and phenomena. That's what Muslims believe; but don't take our word for it . . . READ for yourself! Contact 301-982-9463 or visit [www.islamworld.net](http://www.islamworld.net).

# STATEMENT

continued from page 1

and College Park were impacted when this action was taken. A project was in the planning stages to make Greenbelt Road (MD 193) a more attractive community-oriented highway from the University of Maryland to NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center. In Greenbelt, as in most other communities, the State Highway network is often the main street of the community and the street on which most people travel through our City. As a result, it is the roadway that gives people their impression of a community. The NCP was an effort to improve the appearance of these roads by making them more neighborhood friendly and more pedestrian and bicycle accessible by minimizing the impact of the automobile on the community. Where projects have been completed in the State, the improvements are noticeable and effective. The City of Greenbelt urges funding for this program be restored.

Finally, the City of Greenbelt is concerned about an apparent shift away from funding smaller scale projects, like the NCP, that have a major impact in improving communities. Instead, funds are being shifted to large scale projects, such as the Inter-County Connector, some of which have minimal positive impact on improving gridlock in the area. Monies should be directed towards giving people alternative transportation options, such as improving mass transit, expanding pedestrian and bicycle facilities and maximizing the capacity of the existing transportation networks, before funds are put toward building more roads.



Greenbelters were saddened to hear of the death of former resident Dr. Arthur S. Barclay on November 6, 2003. He was an early resident of Springhill Lake.

Long time Greenbelter Ethel Gerring died on November 2, 2003 in Florida where she had moved when she retired. Our sympathy to her sons Arnold, Mark and Alan.

Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Vincent C. Burgess, son of Loretta A. Burgess of Mount Rainer and Calvin Burgess of Greenbelt, recently returned from an eight-month deployment embarked onboard the USS Iwo Jima, while assigned to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Burgess was one of more than 4,000 Atlantic Fleet sailors and marines who were deployed aboard the ships of the USS Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group. The deployment included training and real-world operations in Iraq and Liberia.

Burgess' unit is an expeditionary intervention force with the ability to rapidly organize for combat operations in virtually any environment. MEUs are composed of more than 2,000 personnel and are divided into an infantry battalion, aircraft squadron, support group and command element. With this combination, Burgess' unit supplies and sustains itself for either quick mission accomplishment or clearing the way for follow-on forces.



# City Information

**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, November 24, 2003**  
**Municipal Building Council Room at 8:00 p.m.**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Presentations**

Recycle Right Awards  
 Highway Pedestrian Safety Presentation  
 SAVVY Award for Cable Program on ACE Reading Club  
**Petitions and Requests** (*Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.*)

**\*Committee Reports** (*Items on the Consent Agenda marked by an asterisk will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.*)  
 Arts Advisory Board, Report #04-003  
 (Fine Arts Loan and Gift Policy)

**LEGISLATION**

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12, "Parks And Recreation," Article VIII, "Forest Preserve," of the City Code for the Purpose of Designating a City-Owned Parcel as Forest Preserve Area (Boxwood Preserve) (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Adoption)  
 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 12, "Parks And Recreation," Article VIII, "Forest Preserve," of the City Code for the Purpose of Designating a City-Owned Parcel a Forest Preserve Area (Belle Point Preserve) (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Adoption)  
 A Resolution to Establish a Forest Preserve Task Force (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Adoption)  
 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 13, "Personnel," of the Greenbelt City Code for the Purpose of Extending the Health Insurance Benefit to Domestic Partners and Eligible Dependents (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)  
 A Resolution to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of a Prefabricated Animal Control Facility Building (1<sup>st</sup> Reading)

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Off-Site Mitigation Area for Hilton Garden Inn
- Application for Transfer of Liquor License – T.G.I. Friday's
- Award of Bid – Equipment for Public Works' Vehicles
- New Contract with Zipcar
- Proposed 2004 Legislative Program
- Appointment of Council Members to Boards and Committees
- \* Employee Special Holiday
- \* Resignation from Advisory Group
- \* Reappointment to Advisory Group

**MEETINGS**

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

**CITY JOB OPENING**

**Office Associate II Part-Time:** \$10.93-\$11.65/hr., M-F, 7:30am to 1:00pm for the Greenbelt Public Works Dept.; H.S. Diploma or GED; ability to handle clerical & receptionist duties; must have ability to take accurate and clear messages; learn street routes throughout Greenbelt; must enjoy working with the public; must have good organizational skills; proficiency with Windows Word and Excel required.  
**The City of Greenbelt is an Equal Opportunity Employer.** Apply in person at: City of Greenbelt Personnel Office, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt; or download the Employment Application from [www.ci.greenbelt.md.us](http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us), or call our job-line at 301-474-1872 to request **required** application be mailed to you.

**30-DAY LIMIT FOR ON-STREET PARKING**

The City Council has approved legislation limiting on-street parking, without movement of a vehicle, for 30 days. The new code language is as follows:

**Sec. 11-52. Storage of vehicles.**

It shall be unlawful to park or store a vehicle upon a public street, alley, roadway or parking lot for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days in a single parking space without movement of such vehicle, unless a long-term parking permit has been issued to the vehicle by the city.

Long-term parking permits may be requested through the Department of Planning and Community Development. Written requests indicating the request and reason for the request should be directed, in writing, to Parking Enforcement, Department of Planning and Community Development, 15 Crescent Road, Suite, 200, Greenbelt, MD. 20770. Questions may be directed to 301-345-5417.

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating those days.



**REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE**

**Week of November 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday Route** – Regular Schedule  
**Tuesday Route** – Regular Schedule  
**Wednesday Route** – Regular Schedule  
**Thursday Route** – Refuse collected Wednesday, NO Recycling Collection (Recyclables can be dropped off at the Recycling Center @ Buddy Attick Park)

**There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday.**

**GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER**

**American Red Cross Lifeguard Training**

December 1-20, 2003 (Fall-Mini Session)  
 12/1 Pre-Test 8-9:30pm  
 12/2-12/20 Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:30-10pm and Saturdays 11-6pm; Cost: \$125.00  
 Call 301-397-2204 for registration information.

**OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

**Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups. Vacancies exist on the:**  
**Advisory Committee on Education**  
**Park and Recreation Advisory Board**

*For more information, please call 301-474-8000.*

**GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71**

**MUNICIPAL ACCESS 301-474-8000: Monday, November 24 at 8pm Regular Council Meeting Tuesday & Thursday, November 25 & 27: 6:00pm "ERHS Chamber Orchestra" 6:45pm "ACE Reading Club Presents GOAL" 7:00pm Replay of Council Meeting**

**PUBLIC ACCESS 301-507-6581 Wednesday & Friday, November 26 & 28: 7:00pm "GATE Spring Filmworks Festival 2003" 8:35pm Liberty Showcase Theatre presents "Carousel"**

**Notice of Charter Amendment Resolution**

At its regular meeting on October 27, 2003, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for forty (40) days, until December 6, 2003, at the Municipal Building. It can also be found on the City's Web site at <http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us>. A copy may also be requested from the City Clerk. The charter amendment resolution will become effective on December 16, 2003, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. This notice is to provide a fair summary of the resolution, as also required by state law.

**Charter Amendment Resolution Number 2003-1**

*A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23a of the Annotated Code of Maryland, (1957 Edition as Amended), Title "Corporation-Municipal," Subtitle "Home Rule, to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition as Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Reference Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Repealing and Reenacting with Amendments Section 8, Titled "Same—Quorum, Procedure"*

This resolution will amend the Charter to require a vote of at least four members of the five-member City Council to remove lands from the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, as established in Ordinance Number 1243. The purpose of this amendment is to require a stricter standard for removing lands from the Forest Preserve designation than is required by the Charter for most Council actions.

The Forest Preserve Ordinance is also posted on the Web site and in the Municipal Building. For additional information, call Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk, at 301-474-8000.

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

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

## POLICE BLOTTER

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

### DWI

Kenilworth Avenue and the Beltway, November 7, 6:56 p.m., a nonresident man was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, driving while impaired and other traffic citations as a result of the investigation of a traffic accident. He was released pending trial.

5700 block Cherrywood Lane, November 10, 5:18 p.m., a resident man was arrested and charged with driving while impaired and driving under the influence after being stopped for a traffic violation. He was released on citation pending trial.

### Unattended Child

Beltway Plaza Mall, November 11, 6:42 p.m., a nonresident woman was arrested and charged with leaving a child unattended in a motor vehicle. Police responded to a report of unattended children in a vehicle and found three children, ages 7, 5 and 3 unsupervised in the vehicle. The woman returned to her vehicle a short time later and was arrested. She was released on citation pending trial.

### Burglary

9300 block Edmonston Road, November 11, 9:20 p.m., un-

known person(s) entered a residence by forcing open the kitchen window. Nothing was taken.

### Trespass

6000 block Springhill Drive, November 11, 8:30 a.m., a nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespass. Police observed the suspect on the grounds of Springhill Lake Apartments after he had been banned by agents of the property. A computer check revealed that he had open warrants with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department. The suspect was released on citation to the custody of the Department of Corrections for service of the warrants.

6000 block Springhill Drive, November 11, 5:18 p.m., two nonresident youths were arrested for trespass after they repeatedly returned to Beltway Plaza Mall after they had been banned by agents of the property. Both were released on citation pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

### Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were stolen: a silver 1991 Dodge Caravan, Maryland tags M986965, November 7, from the

6100 block Breezewood Drive; a 1996 Ford Crown Victoria, November 7, from the 9100 block Edmonston Road, recovered November 10 by the Metropolitan Police, no arrests; a green 1994 Honda Accord 4-door, Louisiana tags JK5980, November 10, from the 7500 block Mandan Road; a black 2000 Mazda Protégé 4-door, Maryland tags A056961, November 10, from the 9100 block Edmonston Terrace; a maroon 2000 Toyota Camry 4-door, Maryland tags GWL033, November 13, from the 6600 block Breezewood Court.

Seven vehicles were recovered; no arrests were made.

Vandalisms to, thefts from and attempted thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, 7500 block Mandan Road, 7700 block Mandan Road, 7300 block Morrison Drive, Beltway Plaza Mall, 9100 block Edmonston Road, 6200 block Breezewood Court, 6100 block Breezewood Drive, 6 court Plateau Place (three incidents), 7800 block Emily Way, 7800 block Jacobs Way, 7700 block Hanover Parkway.

The Greenbelt Police Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522.

## Fire Prevention Open House



Firefighters demonstrated techniques used in fighting building (demonstrated above) and car fires. Below, while everyone else watched fire fighting exercises, Elizabeth Serra was more interested in losing her balloon.

Local residents got an opportunity to take in the intensity of contemporary fire fighting at a recent fire prevention open house held on Saturday, October 25.



Spectators of all ages watched in awe of the dangerous work at hand. Casey, 4, got the best view of all atop his dad's shoulders.



Members of the county's bomb squad were also on hand to answer questions and exhibit equipment.

## Windstorm Downs Trees

by Judy Bell

Twenty-three Bradford pears in Greenbelt East "came down" during the November 13 windstorm, according to Brian Townsend, horticulture supervisor. "There was a lot of damage," he said.

Most of the trees were not "drilled and bolted," he stated, a process that they are now using to help keep the trees from splitting.

Townsend commented that the biggest tree that came down during the storm was a "200-year-old oak behind the 56 Court of Crescent, which was approximately 80-90 feet tall with a 35-40 foot spread."

Eastway was closed down by



PHOTO BY KARL PENA

Thursday's powerful winds knocked down several trees and power lines in the core of Greenbelt. Power was out for several early morning hours and lights flickered a number of times in the afternoon. The North End lost power for an hour. The tree above sits near the corner of Eastway and Crescent Road.

a big pine tree that fell on the power lines. On Cherrywood four pines were down and one fell on a power line. In Olivewood Court a large tree came down, hitting a house and falling on another power line.

## AMERICAN REALTY

### 3-F Ridge Road

Two bedroom block unit with two bathrooms (one full bath located on first floor) with new refrigerator, new blinds, fenced yard, freshly painted and on the Library side of town. **\$114,900**

NEW LISTING

56-H Crescent Road

UNDER CONTRACT

**Gorgeous Rare Find!** Three bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, **BRICK/END** unit with a large screened porch with a fireplace and barbecue. Freshly painted, remodeled kitchen/dining room, new appliances, parquet floors, **LARGE** addition, fenced yard, and much, much more!!

NEW LISTING

5-G Gardenway

UNDER CONTRACT

Three bedrooms (one bedroom and a full bathroom on the first floor), separate laundry area, remodeled kitchen and deck.

NEW LISTING

25-D Ridge Road

Two bedroom block unit with separate dining area, addition on first floor, new stove, new built-in air conditioner and new refrigerator. **Price reduced to \$137,900.**

NEW LISTING

54-D Ridge Road

SOLD IN 1 DAY!

Three bedroom frame backs to the woods and has a remodeled kitchen, wall-to-wall carpeting, remodeled bathroom, extra cabinets in the storage closet, washer and dryer, ceiling fans and two air conditioners. The yard is fenced and landscaped.

## COMING SOON

3 Bedroom/1 1/2 Baths  
**BRICK/END**  
with Addition

3 Bedroom/2 Baths  
**BRICK**  
with Addition

3 Bedroom  
**BRICK**  
Close to Center

## COMING SOON

Commission Only - No Extra Fees  
**Jeannie Smith, GRI**  
Quality and Personal Service  
301-345-1091



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

## FLIGHT continued from page 1

Wright Military aeroplane at Fort Myer, Va. After passing all required tests in 1909, Wilbur Wright came to a 160-acre field known as College Park Airport to conduct training for the first military pilots of the new Wright aircraft. "I think the Wright brothers would be amazed, proud and shocked at how far things have come in the first 100 years of flight," Sherry Foster, executive director of the Centennial of Flight Commission, says in an interview. She has worked with NASA for over 30 years, spending many of them at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt. She lauds NASA for generously shipping thousands of educational learning kits and posters and sending a traveling exhibit on the invention of flight on tour around the country for the centennial celebration. Foster mentioned that a highlight of serving on the Commission was meeting astronauts John Glenn and Neil Armstrong and Wright family members. The Commission's website accessible at [www.centennialofflight.gov](http://www.centennialofflight.gov) contains a wealth of information about the centennial of flight, including essays, movies, educational resources, games and images.

### Aviation Museum

A hidden gem minutes from Greenbelt is the College Park Aviation Museum. Who knew the Wright brothers spent so much time in College Park? Catherine Allen knows. She is director of the museum and was a member of the Greenbelt 50th Anniversary Committee while a resident of Windsor Green. Allen mentioned in an interview that the Wright brothers picked the College Park area as one of their preferred flight test locations because of its proximity to the nation's capital.



Catherine Allen, director of the College Park Aviation Museum, poses beside one of the museum's early prototype Wright Flyers.

The State of Maryland also played a prominent role in the history of aviation, as highlighted in the book, "Maryland Aloft: A Celebration of Aviators, Airfields and Aerospace," which will be available at the College Park Aviation Museum December 17, 2003, designated Centennial of Flight Day by Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich. This proclamation will be on display at the museum. Among events scheduled for the celebration on December 17 will be live coverage of the first flight festivities and re-enactment by the Wright Experience at Kitty Hawk, unveiling of the museum's new traveling exhibit "The Wrights and College Park Airport," a book signing for "Maryland Aloft: A Celebration of Aviators, Airfields and Aerospace," model building of the Wright Flyer, aviation crafts and more.

Since September 11, 2001, according to Allen, the College Park Airport has been one of the most restricted airports because of its close proximity to Washing-

ton, D.C. "The Wright brothers might be disappointed at the restrictions in place at their home base," she says. The College Park Aviation Museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (except major holidays) for self-guided tours.

Call 301-864-6029 or email [AviationMuseum@pgparks.com](mailto:AviationMuseum@pgparks.com) for more details.

### UMCP

Dr. William Fourny, chairman and professor of the Department of Aerospace Engineering, A. J. Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland described the department's early plans to celebrate the Centennial of Flight. On Maryland Day (the last Saturday in April each year) the department sent visitors to the College Park Aviation Museum where the First Lady of Flight, Katherine Wright (Betty Geiger-Darst) talked with visitors about her brothers' accomplishments. On campus that day some of the undergraduate students built a model of the Wright Flyer and a wind tunnel in

PHOTO BY AUSTIN CONATY

## HORNSBY

continued from page 1

Dr. Hornsby closed with a call for all to get involved. He encourages PTA, PTO membership. He urges everyone to help secure Thornton funding, as it will provide much needed revenue for county schools.

A question and answer period followed. Participants were encouraged to write questions on note cards which were read by Dr. Katz and answered by Dr. Hornsby and his staff. Questions included issues of overcrowding, special education, magnet schools, security, HSA testing results, teacher training, accountability and busing problems associated with new bell times. All questions received respectful, if not completely satisfying, responses. Hornsby thanked everyone present and recognized the school board members, legislative leaders, principals and PTA presidents in the audience.

### Montpelier Exhibits

The work of local artists will be highlighted in exhibits at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center. "To Extremes - heightened realism and pure abstraction" will be featured in the Main Gallery through Nov. 30 and includes work from area artists selected in a juried process. The Library Gallery will feature "Real Ireland," photographs by Kathleen Gilson, through Dec. 28. The Resident Artists' Gallery will show fine jewelry by Karen Mesinger Miller and ceramics and sculpture by Sushama Parikh through Nov. 30. For more information call 301-953-1993.

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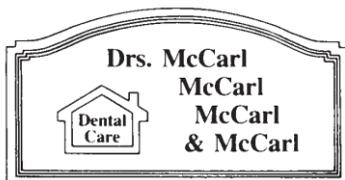
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Two bedroom townhome with wood deck that backs to protected woodlands. Hardwood floors and many improvements. Just \$94,900  
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## PRESERVE continued from page 1

changes in use unless approved by a super majority (4 out of 5) vote.

Four months later the council considered Wilson's proposal at a work session on June 17, 2002. Manzi recommended that the proposal be enacted in the form of an ordinance. The area under consideration was the woodland east of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. although Councilmember Alan Turnbull expressed the view that everything should be included that meets the definition "woodland" but does not already have its own management plan. There was a discussion as to what to call the woodland as the commonly used names of Parcel 1 and 2 made the land a target for developers, according to Turnbull (although the city owns it). Holding a naming contest was suggested. Craze was told to work on the proposal some more and then refer the plan to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB), the Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) the Advisory Planning Board (APB) and the Youth Advisory Committee for their review.

### Draft Ordinance

Amended language for the Greenbelt City Code of Ordinances was submitted to the advisory boards. The draft did not provide definition of boundaries for the land to be included. The intent of the draft was to protect, manage and administer certain designated areas for the present and future use and enjoyment of the citizens of Greenbelt from the impacts of a growing population, expanding growth and growing mechanization thus protecting and preserving these lands as an enduring natural resource. To restrict uses to those consistent with the goals of protection and conservation, the draft contained a list of prohibited uses and strictly limited maintenance activities that might be performed. It did permit pre-existing improvements on the designated land to be continued and maintained but not expanded. The draft also called for any ordinance providing for an addition, amendment or deletion from the proposed article to be referred to referendum by resolution of the city council. Prior to considering any amending ordinance, a mandatory referral to advisory boards was to be required.

### Responses

The first board to respond was APB. It took no position but questioned if the proposed ordinance was the appropriate tool. It felt that the draft relies on plans not yet developed and may allow political and/or personal agendas to influence land use decisions as they pertain to the designation and/or removal of greenlands. It also expressed concern that the draft was overly restrictive, particularly as relates to addressing erosion problems and the management of invasive species. Also it found the language on permitted special events to be too restrictive. The board noted the absence of maintenance and management policy guides and felt that information to be essential elements to be included in the ordinance. In closing, the board said that the ordinance "will have profound impacts on the future of the City's natural open areas and appropriate advisory boards and the public should have ample opportu-

nity to review and provide input . . . ."

By a five-to-three vote the Youth Advisory Board in January, 2003, voted in favor of the ordinance but expressed concern of several members as to its permanence and whether a small section of one of the parcels could be set aside for future development.

In February the Advisory Committee on Trees reported that it supported the "intent and structure" of the ordinance. However it called for a comprehensive review of city properties to provide an inventory of the particular types of undeveloped property that remain. A list of potential greenland properties should be developed and matched with the inventory. A list of future city projects should be created and matched with the inventory. It also said that all areas of Greenbelt should be considered to be potential sites for inclusion in the ordinance.

PRAB was last to report in March. PRAB recommended that the city first adopt a process which would include an inventory of the greenlands with a rating system of permissible usage, a vision of the land's use and a master plan. This was adopted by a nine-to-zero vote with one abstention. It further recommended the enactment of a legally binding document after the first recommendation had been done, but this recommendation was by a five-to-three vote with two abstentions. Based on the recommendations of the advisory boards, staff recommended to the council on June 13 that the next step should be to complete an inventory of open space owned by the city and then evaluate the level of protection required based on current and future use.

### Worksession

On September 15 council reviewed the greenlands ordinance at a worksession, ignoring the advisory board recommendations to first inventory the land. Minutes of the meeting indicate the council's concern with regulating the land in a way that it tied the hands of council to manage the property as well as regulating use by citizens. Emphasis was on prohibiting acts from being done rather than permitting uses. Although the minutes do not clearly reflect this, the council apparently agreed to call the regulated land forest preserves rather than greenlands. The council discussed what advisory group might oversee the forest preserve and prepare a management and development plan without apparent consensus. PRAB, ACT and a super committee of APB, PRAB and ACT were proposed. Also considered was which lands should be included. Besides the woodlands east of GHI, the parkland next to Boxwood, the 10-acre tract between Belle Point and Buddy Attick Park, the woodland at Schrom Hills Park and the Sunrise property were also mentioned but the latter was excluded because the city does not own it yet. When Councilmember Edward Putens stated that he wanted to limit the initial ordinance to the woodlands east of GHI and wanted a new board created for oversight it apparently was acceded to by the others. When Kelly Ivy of PRAB objected to council putting forward the ordinance without further advisory board review

and because board concerns had not been addressed, Craze agreed to get the revised draft to the advisory boards before the ordinance's second reading on October 27.

### Introduction

On October 13, Roberts introduced a new draft of the ordinance that included the creation of a Forest Preserve Advisory Committee without specifying how the members would be chosen. Although ordinances first introduced are not usually subject to discussion, the council did go over this ordinance in considerable detail. The official minutes of the meeting are not yet approved and available to the public. Apparently council made a number of changes to the introduced ordinance. For example the words "maintenance plans" were changed to "management and maintenance plans." Sec. 12-145(c) was changed to mandatorily refer amending ordinances to one or more advisory boards and committees instead of a forest preserve advisory committee. Deleted from the ordinance were the provisions for a forest preserve advisory committee with staff instructed to prepare a separate resolution on this. Normally, such amendments are made at second reading of the ordinance and after being amended the ordinance is returned to first reading. These changes, made without motion, were ruled as "not substantive" by the city solicitor and permitted to take place.

### Advisory Boards

With the ordinance rewritten at the October 13 meeting and final passage scheduled for October 27, the city's advisory boards had little time in which to review the ordinance. Some, however, began their review before the ordinance was even written. On September 25 PRAB "strongly" recommended by an eight-to-zero vote that a land inventory and boundary survey of the greenlands be done that specifically identifies and defines included and excluded lands prior to the adoption of the proposed ordinance. APB, on October 1, while finding that the concept of a forest preserve designation may be reasonable and desirable recommended that there should be a comprehensive and long range plan for the use of open space and park land. On October 14, the Youth Advisory Committee recommended by a six-to-zero vote that council table the ordinance until after the election, requested that some land be identified and set aside now for future parkland development and opposed the requirement of a referendum to remove land from the forest preserve. The Recreation and Environmental Advisory Committee recommended that PRAB instead of a new committee deal with the forest preserve. On October 20 PRAB strongly recommended that a Forest Preserve Task Force be created and make its recommendations before an ordinance is enacted and further recommended that a parcel of land next to the Wolfe Fields not be included in the ordinance until the planning for a park at the fields has been completed.

### Adoption

After much debate previously reported in this paper, the council unanimously adopted the ordinance creating the forest pre-

## "Art of Ability" Featured In Program at University

by Kristen Martin

The University of Maryland will be hosting a major diversity event on Nov. 25 called "Secret Blossoms: The Art of Ability 2003" that focuses on disability by celebrating the musical and artistic accomplishments of its community.

"I'm very excited about it," co-master of ceremony and poet Judy Neri said. "It brings together different arts and it showcases the abilities of the disabled." The event is the culmination of a poetry competition open to anyone associated with the university. There were 44 entries.

McKeldin Library Diversity Coordinator Ann Masnik, chair of the event, got the idea a year and a half ago after listening to the university's provost hold conversations on diversity but fail to mention disability.

Masnik, who considers herself a "fearless leader," then wrote Provost William W. Destler with the idea for a program using poetry and music as a vehicle to address disability.

"I think it's an interesting program without amendment. Councilmember Thomas White had proposed removing approximately two acres next to the ball fields from the boundaries of the preserve but had not made a motion. Debate was suddenly cut off when Councilmember Roberts called for the question (a vote), a non-debatable motion. White and Turnbull voted against Roberts' motion. Although Roberts Rules of Order calls for a two-thirds vote to cut off debate, no one challenged the majority vote and the council proceeded to vote on the ordinance and adopt it.

gram and probably has never been done before," Neri said.

The program will begin with remarks by Destler, a poetry reading by Poet Laureate of Maryland and co-master of ceremony Michael Collier, more readings from Neri and Yasmin Reyazudin, both of whom are disabled, as well as vocal musical selections by Ya-Hui Hsu, a visually-impaired graduate student at Maryland. Musical selections of the great deaf composer Beethoven will also be performed and an interactive lecture on the theory of music making.

The program will conclude with the results of the poetry contest competition. The four winners will read their pieces and receive prizes and recognition for their work.

"It's going to be a very exciting thing," Masnik said. Masnik, who is herself disabled, is a Greenbelt resident. Last year she was the recipient of the John King Disability Award at the university.

The program will be held at the Nyumburu Cultural Center from noon to 2 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by the Diversity Committee from the UMCP Libraries and VSA Arts of Maryland.

### Free Concert at UM

"Wagner plus Brass equals Dynamite" is the title of a concert to be presented by the UM Brass Ensemble on Monday, November 24 at 8 p.m. in Dekelboum Concert Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Faculty artist Milton Stevens, principal trombonist for the National Symphony Orchestra, will conduct music from Wagner's operas.

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