

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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

AUGUST 26, 2004

## Food, Fun, Music, Sports Events, Exhibits and More Fill Festival

by Patti Brothers

The city's 50th Annual Greenbelt Labor Day Festival is almost here. The festival starts Friday, September 3 and continues through Monday, September 6. If the wishes of all are granted, bright sunny days will be the background for this year's event.

The festival marks the culmination of a year of planning by an independent, all-volunteer committee and the participation and involvement of hundreds of citizens, businesses and organizations throughout the city. Festival proceeds benefit the many service organizations that operate the booths.

Attendees can toss and turn on carnival rides or twist and shout to the music of the area's top bands. Stroll through the carnival and visit the many booths and savor the tremendous variety of foods and goodies. Browse the photo exhibit and art show in the Community Center and cheer for local performers at the talent show.

Kids can participate in a variety of kids' games, sponsored by the Recreation Department and enter their pets in the Pet Show. On Sunday, they can interact with animals in the petting zoo and the reptiles in the reptile display.

Be there for all three nights of the Miss Greenbelt Pageant and



For your convenience we have included in this issue a Special Pull-out Labor Day Festival Program. Be sure to keep it on hand as a quick reference!

feel the suspense mount before the crowning on Sunday of Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Greenbelt for the year 2004-2005. Then stroll down to Crescent Road to watch the Labor Day Parade on Monday – with marching bands, fife and drum corps, bagpipes and more. A detailed schedule of events is included in the special pull-out in this paper – which can be saved as a souvenir program. A summary of highlights follows.

The stage will be located in front of the aquatic center, with nonstop acts throughout the weekend. The carnival will operate in the parking lot of the Roosevelt Center Mall and on the Community Center lawn.

Major events will also occur

inside the Community Center and at Braden Field and Schrom Hills Park. In the event of rain (that is a dirty word), stage events, bingo and selected activities will continue in the Community Center.

### Shuttle Bus

Free shuttle buses leave the Municipal Building every hour on the hour throughout each day to pick up and drop off festival goers at three locations: Eleanor Roosevelt High School (at 15 minutes past the hour), Greenbelt Elementary School (at 30 minutes past the hour), and Green Ridge House (at 45 minutes past the hour). The last runs will be timed each night to coincide with the close of the carnival. More information on the shuttles in the festival schedule is also located in the special pull-out in this issue. Call 301-345-0204 during the festival for more information.

### Friday Festivities

The festival officially opens Friday evening at 7 p.m. on the festival stage where the Greenbelt Police Department Honor Guard presents the colors, Heather Byers sings the national anthem and the area's dignitaries are introduced. Then, after weeks of submissions and the final selec-

See **FESTIVAL**, page 12

## Seeking Excellence Among Us K of C Award to Officer Marks

by Eileen Farnham

In March, the Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus made its annual awards for outstanding contributions to the community in a number of categories. One awardee, fittingly enough, was Greenbelt police officer Randy Marks. Our police, proud of the recognition for one of their own, informed the News Review in a press release.

Later we received a story of the event from Austin Conaty, who is an active member of the Knights of Columbus and frequent News Review volunteer, including a photo by Agnes Conaty of Officer Marks receiving the award, along with a brief explanation of why he was selected. The News Review thought all this was worth more than a brief announcement, that a real story was needed and assigned it to a seasoned reporter with experience writing about both the fire and police departments. That reporter has been pursuing Officer Marks for quite some time, though Marks has proved an elusive target for an article of praise and commendation.

From time to time you find people like that, who for whatever

reason, do not want to bask in any glory or limelight. Whether it is "aw, shucks" at work or "I'm part of a team and everybody did this job" or simple unwillingness to take a place in the public eye, there has been no getting Officer Marks to hold still and submit to a real interview. We have now given up the hope of providing our readers with more information about this outstanding officer. So without further delay, let the News Review share with the community the award to Marks and the circumstances for which it was made.

Greenbelt Police Officer Private First Class Marvin "Randy" Marks was chosen by the Knights of Columbus for their 2004 Police Officer of the Year Award. The award is presented annually to a police officer who "has demonstrated an untiring commitment to preserve and enhance the quality of life and property in the community." This year the award was presented during an awards banquet after the annual Founder's Day Mass and Reception on Sunday, March 21, at the St. Edward the Confessor Church in Bowie.

Founder's Day celebrates the March 1882 founding of the Knights of Columbus by Fr. Michael J. McGivney 122 years ago.

Winners were chosen from entries submitted by more than 100 councils in Maryland. Richard Smith, Knights of Columbus program director, indicated there were many excellent nominees and that Marks was chosen because of excellent police skills and dedication to the safety of the Greenbelt community he serves. Marks accumulated a list of accomplishments that in-

See **MARKS**, page 2

### What Goes On

**Monday, August 30**  
8 p.m., Council Worksession re: Proposed Plans for Former Nursing Home Site, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)  
**Thursday, September 2**  
7:30 p.m., GHI Board Meeting, GHI Board Room



Getting off the school bus Monday morning at Greenbelt Elementary School students lined up in preparation for their first day back, with a few smiles and some nervousness all around.

PHOTO BY MARAT MOORE

## Council Reviews New Study Of Traffic Calming Designs

by Thomas X. White

Celia Craze, director of the City's Planning and Community Development Department, presented a comprehensive plan for traffic calming improvements for Greenbelt East at the Greenbelt City Council worksession on Wednesday, August 18. Craze prefaced her presentation by advising council that the plan "reflects the comments of the Greenbelt East Homeowner Associations (HOAs) made during meetings with them over the past two years. There should be nothing in the plan that is not what the HOAs requested."

The planning work for traffic calming is part of the \$3.5 mil-

lion bond issue approved by Greenbelt voters in November 2001, of which \$500,000 is allocated for traffic calming and playground improvements serving the Greenbelt East communities. In a brief cover memo transmitting the study plan to council, City Manager Michael McLaughlin noted that the cost estimate for the work amounts to \$263,485, including a larger than normal contingency of nearly \$50,000.

"If the proposed traffic calming work comes in near the estimated cost, [that] and the almost

See **CALMING**, page 11

## Top Area Bands Perform At this Year's 50th Festival

by Patti Brothers

The stage at this year's Labor Day Festival will host some of the area's best bands – as well as a very special one from Britain and one from Hollywood.

### Diamond Alley

On Friday night, the stage will host Diamond Alley, one of Washington, D.C.'s most popular

groups. Diamond Alley, a five-piece dance/rock and variety band performing an exciting, diverse mix of contemporary and classic hits as well as original tunes, is best known for their unusual vocal talent (all five members sing), outstanding live performances and audience rapport. This group is one of the few bands that perform tunes by Queen. The band has received



"Diamond Alley" returns for another Labor Day performance on Friday night from 9 p.m. to midnight.

numerous awards and has worked with groups such as The Rembrants, Eddie Money, Nils Lofgren, Roger Clinton, The Four Tops, The Coasters and Mick Fleetwood of Fleetwood Mac. Band members are lead vocalist /keyboardist Kris Fath, bassist David Oliver, guitarist Marc Musser, keyboardist/saxo-

See **BANDS**, page 13

# Letters

## Pet Lost or Taken?

Maybe it's a sad coincidence but in my neighborhood, Plateau Place, I've been made aware of three missing cats and one missing dog since May 2004. That's one animal a month! I'm concerned that we may have a predator, either of the four-legged or possibly the two-legged variety. Has a pet of yours disappeared in 2004? If so, please call me and leave a message giving me your name, address, phone number, type of animal and when last seen. I'd like to collect this information and then speak with someone at the Humane Society to see if we have a predator problem or just a sad number of coincidences. Please call me at 301-474-5576.

Thank you.

Ginny Mudrock

## THANKS

Special thanks to all our friends and neighbors for their support and love during these sad times as we mourn the sudden death of our grandma and our dog's passing.

Big Dan and  
Li'l Dan Celdran

## Correction

In an article titled How to Resolve School Problems (August 19), outdated information from the Prince George's County School System's website was included. The incorrect information referred to the Chief Educational Administrator (CEA). According to School Board Member Abby Crowley, that position was eliminated several years ago. Thus parents of elementary and middle school students should not contact the principal of Eleanor Roosevelt High School in resolving problems. The other contacts can still be used.

## Visit the Museum During the Festival

A tour of the historic Greenbelt Museum will be held on Sunday, September 5 from 1 to 5 p.m. This is an opportunity to learn about Greenbelt's history.

On Monday, September 6 from 2 to 4 p.m., after the parade, make hand-cranked ice cream at the museum. Admission is free with the ad in this week's News Review on page 12.

## OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

Week of August 27

GARDEN STATE (R)

Friday

\*5:15, 7:30, 9:35

Saturday

\*3:00, \*5:15, 7:30, 9:35

Sunday

\*3:00, \*5:15, 7:30

Monday-Thursday

\*5:15, 7:30

\*These shows at \$5.00  
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745  
129 Centerway  
www.pgtheatres.com

## MARKS continued from page 1



**Pictured (from L to R) are Program Director Richard Smith of the Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight Sean Bailey of the St. Hugh Council Knights of Columbus, Chief James Craze of the Greenbelt Police Department, Police Officer First Class Marvin R. Marks of the Greenbelt Police Department and State Deputy Richard Sherbert of the Maryland State Council Knights of Columbus.**

cluded the location and arrest of four murder suspects in two different 2003 homicide cases.

On January 29, 2003, a lookout was received from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department for a suspect wanted for murder there. That person was known to regularly visit an address in Greenbelt. Marks obtained the subject's name and photograph and made it his mission to find him. He located the wanted person the next day and the suspect was taken into custody without incident.

The second case occurred on June 21, 2003, when the Greenbelt police were investigating a robbery/shooting that resulted in the death of a Greenbelt resident. Marks, who was off duty at the time, responded to a call to assist on-duty officers. Acting on information from witnesses, Marks located four people nearby who

closely fit the description of those involved in the shooting. A witness then positively identified two of them as having been involved in the homicide.

Our community benefits greatly from the hard work and contributions of all our police; it is fitting we notice and commend exceptional action as well as awards to our officers when they come to our attention. So, Officer Marks' reticence notwithstanding, the News Review wants to recognize his award with kudos and thank those who contributed to making us aware: Knights of Columbus, Austin Conaty, MPO George Mathews and reporter Randy Crenwelge.

(Photos of the Founders Day awardees including Officer Marks, appeared in the July 15 article "Knights of Columbus Awards for 2003-2004" by Agnes Conaty.)

## Board of Education Committee to Meet

The Finance, Audit and Budget Committee of the Prince George's County Board of Education will meet on Monday, August 30, at the Sasser Administration Building, 14201 School Lane in Upper Marlboro. The meeting will convene at 6 p.m. in the Board Executive Meeting Room. The committee will focus on background and status briefings. The meeting will be open to the public; however, there will be no public participation.

Call Jackie Gray at 301-952-6116 for additional information.

## LABOR DAY FESTIVAL USED BOOK SALE

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School PTA

Book donation drop-off at  
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301-441-8312

or email  
amy.hansen@nasw.org

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## Luncheon on the Lawn After the Parade, Sept. 6

BBQ, baked beans, cole slaw,  
hot dogs for the kids, drinks and dessert.  
\$7.00 adults, \$5.00 children (under 12)

Greenbelt Community Church  
Hillside and Crescent Rd.



The following articles were submitted in response to our call for Labor Day Festival memories. Do the people and events sound familiar to you? Sprinkled throughout this issue are many more recollections. How many of these moments did you share?

## Over the Top!

One of my memories is of a misadventure on a carnival ride. I asked my sister, Cindy (Osborne) Donn if she had any special memories of Labor Day and she replied, "Yes, I have one right here" as she pointed to a lingering scar on her leg from Labor Day 1977. It just so happened that year there was a ride which probably had some official carnival type name but was referred to by all as "the cages." The idea was to swing the cage back and forth to gain enough momentum to swing the cage completely over the top to complete a full circle. Apparently, Frank Ricciutti was the only one having any success at swinging the cage over the top, so Cindy arranged to go on the ride with him. Well, things went well until the moment that the cage went over the top and Cindy lost her grip and was flung against the side of the cage where she cut her leg and emerged at the end bloodied and wiser.

— LCDR Elizabeth "Beth" Osborne

## No Umbrellas

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival of 2002 made a lasting impression on me. I had already made plans to take my mom so we could have lunch, play bingo and enjoy the sights. Rain was in the forecast but we just knew that it would never rain on our festival plans. We are both "fair weather people" and we don't like being out in the rain and definitely not without an umbrella. So off we went with no umbrellas.

We were sitting at a table eating our hotdogs when it started to sprinkle. For some reason it didn't seem to bother us. My husband Bill found us there and he couldn't believe his eyes! Later we were playing bingo and it started sprinkling again. Bill walked by with a huge turkey drumstick. When he saw us all he could do was laugh. He told us that we must really be enjoying ourselves.

I will always remember that day and all of the fun that we had. I enjoyed it so much that I went back later that weekend with my sister Debbie and my niece Rachel to enjoy the rides. We didn't win any money but we will always treasure our memories.

— Margaret Smith

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## 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

## Tutoring Program Begins this Week

The fall semester tutoring programs sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Department are now starting. The Greenbelt Moving Ahead Program begins Saturday, August 28 at Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 9:30 a.m. to noon for middle and high school students. Tutoring and Homework Clubs for elementary school students start at Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Tuesday, August 31, 2:45 to 5 p.m. and at Schrom Hills Park on Wednesday, September 1, 3:45 to 6 p.m.

Students are encouraged to bring their textbooks and homework assignments to the sessions. For information call Janet Goldberg at 301-397-2212.

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

A large group of August birthday honorees enjoyed the pot luck lunch on August 18. Paul Sabol and Arlie Dobbin won the birthday raffle. The club enjoyed the August birthday poem by Joe Rimar.

The 50/50 winners were Paul Sabol and Betty Deitch.

Activities Chairperson Harold Miller announced that on August 31 we will have an evaluation and discussion of the film "Fahrenheit 9/11." Keep checking all the trips planned for September and October and other club activities.

We need volunteers to help keep the Golden Age Club functioning. There's a real need for committee members and officers for next year.

## "Romeo and Juliet" Rescheduled Aug. 28

The Greenbelt Arts Center's performance of "Romeo and Juliet" which was rained out Saturday, August 21 has been rescheduled for Saturday, August 28, 5 to 7 p.m. at Buddy Attick Park.

As before, the performance will be cancelled if ground conditions are not judged safe enough for the fight choreography (performers don't mind getting a little wet, but their producer does not want performers to bleed on the costumes, so no slippery footing will be tolerated).

If this coming weekend's weather duplicates last weekend's, a rainout on Saturday will not endanger Sunday's performance at Springhill Lake Community Center. There is no charge.

### On Screen

## At the Theater: "Garden State"

In "Garden State," the film which opened August 20 at the Old Greenbelt Theatre, a 26-year-old New Jersey native goes home for his mother's funeral and his first visit to the old neighborhood in nine years. Played by writer-director Zach Braff (who grew up in New Jersey), alienated TV actor Andrew Lergeman tries to find his way with those from the past - including a remote psychotherapist father (Ian Holm) and an old pal down on life - as well as newcomers, especially free-spirited Samantha (Natalie Portman).

Drug use, smoking, drinking, profanity and sex help earn the R rating. Overall "Garden State" has won good marks for being smart and funny and for a "sweet, likeable, offbeat story." The City Paper concludes that the film's "unadulterated warmth is difficult to resist."

- E.F.

## Astronomers Host Star Party Sept. 4

The Greenbelt Astronomy Club will host a star party on Saturday, September 4 beginning at dark. This event will take place at Wolfe Field on Northway. There is no charge and all are invited to attend. Club members will have telescopes available to share views of celestial objects. In the event of precipitation or hopelessly cloudy skies at the time of the event, it will be cancelled without further notice.

## ACE Sponsors Reading Program

The City of Greenbelt is sponsoring a free reading incentive program that will be offered in children's classrooms this year (check with a teacher) and that can be utilized at home as well. The ACE Reading Club is a community-based youth reading program established with the purpose of exciting children about the activity of reading thereby helping them to improve their reading abilities and increase self-confidence. The club is voluntary and open to all children in grades K through 12 who attend school or live in Greenbelt.

Club members visit local schools to promote reading through several unique activities and events. The most popular activity is the Book It! television reading program where students are given the opportunity to share favorite books, creative writing and other creative reading projects on the city's cable channel. Additional activities include a website, club meetings, incentives, Interschool Reading Exchange, International Reading Exchange, monthly activity calendar and monthly newsletter. Annual community events include the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, Back to School Nights, the Youth Writing Contest, Greenbelt Youth Literary Showcase and the Club's awards receptions. This is the fifth year that the ACE Reading Club is being offered to Greenbelt schools.

Regular book discussions may be started in the schools and will be taped and aired on the city's cable channel. If there is a teacher interested in starting a book discussion group, contact Liz Murray using the information below.

For more information or if a child is interested in participating in this club at home, visit the club's website found through a link at the bottom of the city's main page at [www.ci.greenbelt.md.us](http://www.ci.greenbelt.md.us). An enrollment form can be downloaded from the website.



PHOTO BY MARAT MOORE

It was a big day for parents as well as young students. Like many moms and dads, Sandy Daly brought her daughter, Deja Freeman, to school Monday as Deja began her first day of second grade.

## Choral Society Holds Auditions

The Prince George's Choral Society announces auditions for the 2004-2005 season. Auditions will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 30 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Road. For an appointment call Ron Freeman at 703-525-1397 (daytime) or 703-941-5625 (evening) or Dottie Carroll at 301-336-8539.

All ages are welcome at the audition. It will consist of singing a simple scale and a verse of a well-known song. This is done for the sole purpose of determining the person's voice pitch.

## City Still Opposes Road Relocation

In responding to an opportunity given by the National Capital Planning Commission to review and comment on the Proposed Federal Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 2005-2010, City Manager Michael McLaughlin remarked that the city is most interested in projects adjacent or close to Greenbelt. This includes the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) of the Department of Agriculture and the Goddard Space Flight Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

"The city supports all of the projects proposed for BARC and Goddard with the exception of the Road Modification project for the Goddard Space Flight Center which relocates Soil Conservation Road. The city strongly supports research facilities in their respective areas of expertise," McLaughlin said.

"However, the city continues to be opposed to the relocation of Soil Conservation Road as proposed as part of the Goddard Road Modification (Master Plan) project as it has indicated in past reviews," he reiterated.

## County Registering Performing Artists

A performing artists registry is being developed by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Arts and Cultural Heritage Division.

The Arts and Cultural Heritage Division recognizes the importance of a comprehensive listing of performing artists and companies and is conducting a survey. Three primary reasons for creating the registry are to inventory the rich heritage of the performing arts in the county, to use the information to retool the 30-year-old educational program entitled "Art's Alive" using Prince George's County artists and to provide public access to the general public through a comprehensive listing of working performers in the county.

The three-page survey can be found online at [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com) - Arts Programs - Arts Survey. For information call the Arts and Cultural Heritage Division at 301-454-1459, TTY 301-454-1472.

### Greenbelt City Stars Accepting New Members

The Greenbelt City Stars Jump Rope Team will begin accepting new members for its fall training session beginning on Sept. 8, 2004, for jumpers ages 6 to 13. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. Registration will be held at Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Sat., Aug. 28 from 10 to noon; Mon., Aug. 30 and Wed., Sept 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Jumpers will be introduced to double dutch turning & jumping skills, single rope, basic tumbling, proper nutrition and exercise. For more information about the program, please call Kim Bradshaw at 301-336-0966 or send an email message to [jumprope@greenbeltsitystars.com](mailto:jumprope@greenbeltsitystars.com). Information is also available online at the team's website at [www.greenbeltsitystars.com](http://www.greenbeltsitystars.com).



**GHI MEETING  
OF THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Thursday, September 2, 2004  
7:30 p.m.  
GHI Board Room

**Key Agenda Items**

- Fall Concrete Program - 2nd Reading
- Proposed Change to GHI Rules - Section VI, Subsection F - YARDLINE DESCRIPTIONS
- Technology Audit - Specifications for RFP

Regular board meetings are open to members.



**Knights Bring back Labor Day Pancake Breakfast**

**Menu**

- Regular and Blueberry Pancakes
- Breakfast sausage
- Coffee
- Orange Juice

**St Hugh's  
Knights of Columbus**

Questions call John 301-345-3794

## Labor Day Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus are pleased to bring the Labor Day Pancake Breakfast back to the festival. Start your Labor Day Saturday off with a great breakfast with your friends and neighbors.  
Breakfast will be served from 9:00 to 11:00.



**Adult: \$4.00**  
**Kids under 10: \$2.00**  
**Seniors: \$3.00**

Location: On the lawn in front of the Community Center



# Obituaries



## Bernice Werner

Bernice Frances Werner, 82, of Churchton, Md., died August 19, 2004, of complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Born in Washington D.C., she graduated from Immaculate Conception Academy. A long-time resident of Greenbelt, she lived on Research Road, Ridge Road and Laurel Hill Road. She was a secretary and retired from the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center in 1973. Mrs. Werner enjoyed music, gardening, decorating and shopping.

She was the widow of Joseph Werner who died in 1987.

Surviving are three daughters, Veronica Werner Lefebvre, of Churchton; Bernadanne Werner Weisel of Greenbelt; and Regina Werner Perry, of Inwood, W. Va.; sister Mary Bissett of Laurel; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Daughter Donna Werner McFaull preceded her in death in 1997.

No formal services are planned. Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of Maryland.



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3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi (301-937-3666)  
*Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community*

August 29, 10 a.m.  
"How Many Angels CAN Dance on the Head of a Pin"  
A "Question Box" Sermon



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

## Baha'i Faith

Registration is now open for our children and youth classes held Sunday mornings from 10AM-12noon at Springhill Lake Elementary School. The public is warmly invited to attend. For additional information call Joy at 301-513-0446.

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

www.bahai.org www.us.bahai.org



Catholic Community of Greenbelt

SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM  
AT MUNICIPAL BUILDING

SERVE BREAKFAST  
AT S.O.M.E.

Sunday, August 29, 2004

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

Greenbelters were saddened to hear of the death of former Greenbelter Bernice Werner. Our sympathy to her daughters Bernadanne Werner Weisel of Greenbelt and Veronica Werner Lefebvre of Churchton and Regina Werner Perry of Inwood, W.Va.

Condolences to Danielle (Lil' Dan) Celdron of Plateau Place on the recent death of her grandmother, Mildred S. Peele.

Congratulations to Greenbelter Richard J. Weeden who has developed the ultimate shower massager. Weeden's invention is now being made available for licensing to manufacturers interested in new product development, especially in the bath and shower industry.

Joseph Wargo was among 21 students who entered their second year of Providence College's Providence Alliance for Catholic Teachers (PACT) program. A graduate of the University of Virginia, Wargo will be teaching at St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, R.I., for the 2004-2005 academic year. PACT - established in 2001 as an affiliate program with the University of Notre Dame - offers recent graduates the opportunity to teach for two years in Catholic schools in New England.

## Diabetes Education Center Programs

Diabetics: Attending diabetes classes could be life-saving and help to minimize complications of diabetes. The Doctors Community Hospital Diabetes Care Center offers a diabetes education program to all diabetic individuals and their family members.

During the six hours of instruction, learn the basics of living with diabetes, including monitoring blood sugar, the role of exercise, how to stay healthy and proper nutrition.

A one-and-a-half-hour "Nutrition for Diabetics" class is offered for all persons completing the four-and-a-half-hour diabetes course.

After the classes, people will receive individual consultations to help manage diabetes and an opportunity to participate in support groups covering a variety of informative topics. Classes are held Mondays at 7 p.m. and Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Ambulatory Surgery Building, 5th floor Classroom, 8118 Goodluck Road, Lanham. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Elaine Stone, R.N., C.D.E. at 301-552-5134.

## Systematics Display at Arboretum

The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. has a new exhibit on the highly specialized science of systematics and its impact on society.

Called "Systematics: The Invisible Safety Net for Food Security and the Environment," the exhibit will be on display from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily in the main lobby of the arboretum's administration building until the end of September. The arboretum is located at 3501 New York Avenue, N.E. in Washington D.C., and is operated by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS).

Systematics is the science of classifying and identifying species, which provides a formal nomenclature system - the task of assigning a name to a species - and allows systematists to identify, describe and organize these myriad living things. It is central to the study of the diversity

of life on earth and of the relationships among all of the planet's organisms.

The arboretum's systematics is one of many in this metropolitan area that collectively contain millions of samples of plants, insects, nematodes, fungi, bacteria and other microorganisms. The various collections are used each day by scientists who work in the field of systematics, also known as taxonomy.

Scientists at the ARS Systematics Research Laboratory in Beltsville serve as a link between the biological collections and scientists, academics, government agents, private citizens and other users. With its partner, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, ARS helps maintain hundreds of collections of thousands of insect species from all corners of the world.

## Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbelt.com/gcuccc/

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..."

## GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212

www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net

Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor



Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am

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: 9 a.m.

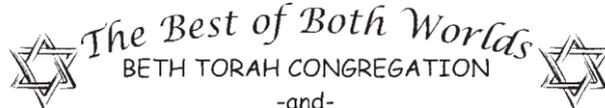
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Pastor: Fr. Walter J. Tappe

Pastoral Associate: Fr. R. Scott Hurd

## ST. HUGH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Md.



The Best of Both Worlds  
BETH TORAH CONGREGATION

-and-

MISHKAN TORAH CONGREGATION

are pleased to announce a cooperative educational program for 2004-2005, featuring:

- ✧ a comprehensive Judaic curriculum including Hebrew, history, rituals and values
- ✧ instruction from Kindergarten through Confirmation
- ✧ school on Saturdays or Sundays
- ✧ an innovative new Family Education Program
- ✧ varied instructional practices designed to reach different styles of learning.

## Classes begin September 8<sup>th</sup>

to register, contact either synagogue office:

Beth Torah Congregation  
6700 Adelphi Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20782  
301-927-5525  
bethtorah@starpower.net

Mishkan Torah Congregation  
10 Ridge Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4223  
mishkantorah@hotmail.com

## 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

## St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church

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

Sundays:	8:00 am	Simple, quiet Mass
	9:00 am	Christian education for all ages
	10:00 am	Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
	1:30 pm	Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)
Wednesdays:	7:00 pm	Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors"

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
301-474-9410  
SUNDAY



HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE  
www.gbgbm-UMC.org/mowatt

Sunday School	9:45 am
Worship Service	11:00 am
Wed. Prayer Meeting	7:00 pm
Third Friday, Games Night	7:30 pm

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

August 29, 13th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: "Forgotten Past Legacy"  
Commissioning Sunday

YIELD

Giving in charity is one of the important teachings of Islam, greatly rewarded by God and an obligation on every individual who has the means to do so.

"And the likeness of those, who spend their substance, seeking to please God and to strengthen their souls, is as a garden, high and fertile; heavy rain falls on it, but makes it yield a double increase in harvest, and if it receives not heavy rain, light moisture sufficeth it. God seeth well whatever ye do . . . O ye who believe, give of the good things which ye have earned, and of the fruits of the earth which we have produced for you . . ."  
- The Holy Qur'an, 2:265 & 267

To find out more about Islam, call 301-982-9463 or e-mail us at muslimguide@hotmail.com or visit the website www.islam-guide.com.

# High School Student Goes High Tech for Summer

by Jim Lara

Stephanie Ruiz is one of many students privileged to spend the summer working in computer technology for a major government agency. The summer work program, High School/High Tech, is sponsored by the United Cerebral



Stephanie Ruiz sits in front of her computer screen.

Palsy of Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. The program provides students with disabilities exposure to professions in science, engineering and technology-related fields.

Ruiz, who is deaf, spent six weeks working at the Goddard Space Flight Center as a web developer. The 17-year-old from College Park is a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Ruiz learned about High School/High Tech from her teachers and applied for the program online. Using sign language through an interpreter, Ruiz said she worked up to five hours a day, five days a week helping to develop a simplified website for the NASA Visitor Center and using Dreamweaver software to design the student site for High School/High Tech.

She said she got along quite well with her Goddard supervisors and co-workers who offered their help if she had any questions. Overall, she remarked that the program, which ended on August 6 was a worthwhile opportunity. "I thought it would be fun and interesting and in the end it was a good experience," said Ruiz. In an appreciation ceremony at the end of the program the students received certificates. Ruiz gave credit to her summer instructor Kelvin Hux and mentor Maurice Henderson, both of whom guided Ruiz through her work.

Ruiz has always loved working with computers. When she was a kid, she would have fun using computer tools like a paintbrush program. In addition to the computer design and keyboarding classes she has taken in school, she also enjoys art and geometry. Ruiz says that she would like to learn more about computer science and make it a profession. She plans to attend Galludet University in Washington D.C. Her mother Carina says that she is very proud of her daughter and thankful that

such programs are available to students. "I'm happy that these organizations are giving them a chance to work with an agency like NASA allowing them to feel special by having the experience," she said.

High School/High Tech started in 1992 with help from Goddard, which offered \$25,000 to start a program. A proposal was submitted by United Cerebral Palsy whereby students who are between their junior and senior years of high school could learn about technology through work opportunities. According to Dr. Charles McNelly, he and the other NASA officials saw it as a way of developing talent to work at Goddard. The Beltsville Agricultural Research Center has also received the help of these students.

Michael Hartman is a program manager at Goddard who works with people with disabilities and saw some of the work Ruiz and others have done. "We feel that people with disabilities are an untapped resource and there are many people who are qualified to work here. We're making a strong effort to find these applicants and encouraging them that they can do this," Hartman said. He added that traditionally people with a disability wouldn't take a job in the high tech field. Now they're changing the attitudes of educators, counselors and parents, showing they are very capable of this type of work.

Hartman has been impressed with students like Ruiz not only because of their knowledge and enthusiasm but also their independence. For example, Ruiz didn't always rely on an interpreter and often communicated directly with her supervisors. Hartman believes that the work experience is very important for students to be able to add to resume, to prepare them for college and life after graduation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UCP, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Stephanie Ruiz (C) with her High School/High Tech summer instructor Kelvin Hux (L) and the summer director, Dr. Mary Pannella (R), taken at the appreciation ceremony on the last day of the program.

## City Notes

The week of August 16, the streets crew dug the grave and assisted with the Pilski funeral at the city cemetery; installed a culvert pipe along Crescent Road near St. Hugh's School for better drainage and to reduce walking hazards, repaired potholes throughout the city and cleaned storm drains and underpasses.

The facilities maintenance crew replaced conduit that was damaged by vandals in the underpass at Crescent and Gardenway and met with staff at Public Works to discuss installation of the new bollards outside the nursery school at the Community Center.

The horticulture crew weeded and cleaned beds at Schrom Hills Park and the traffic circle and other landscaped beds around the city, cleaned and mulched the city cemetery, planted liriope in the beds and mulched the trees at the Youth Center and pruned and trimmed trees in East Greenbelt and chipped branches.

The parks crew continued work on the retaining wall at the Roosevelt Center parking lot and backfilled with soil, cut grass, cleaned and painted the sign at the Greenbelt Cemetery and spread wood carpet at the playground at 2 Court Northway.

### Recreation Dept.

Staff is working with a floor refinishing company to repair damage to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center floor.

### Aquatic/Fitness

The Prince Georges County Health Department performed unannounced inspections. One minor violation was found and corrected.

### Arts

Staff met with representatives from St. Hugh's School and Greenbelt Elementary School and will approach Springhill Lake Elementary in the near future to discuss collaborative school-day arts education programs for the coming academic year. It is hoped this initiative will bring more young artists to city programs and facilities on a regular basis.

### CARES

Judye Hering began publicizing the fall GED course. Registration will be held Tuesday, September 21 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. GED I and GED II will be held for 10 weeks, every Tuesday and Thursday, ending Thursday, December 2. Students should call CARES for registration and information.

Liz Murray has started the year again as the coordinator of the ACE reading club. In that capacity Murray has begun regular planning sessions with Wendy Wexler and contacted local schools to begin scheduling of events. A number of new programs will be put into place this year including Reading Pen Pal Exchanges, both inter-school locally and internationally with a reading club in England. Many of last year's events are also still on for this year including television program tapings, club calendar activities and many contests.

The Governor's Office of Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF) conducted a site visit at CARES. The focus of the visit was to gather information about CARES operations and services as a youth and family services bureau. Information from the visit will be used to inform GOCYF's report to the Maryland Legislature regarding a plan to expand the network of Youth Services Bureaus in Maryland.



## Out-of-Towners Join Local Families

Ronnie and Tim (Paul Sabol's nephews) visit Greenbelt for Labor Day (c. 1980).

The Carnival: The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee contracts with a carnival company - Rosedale Amusements - each year to provide rides and other forms of carnival entertainment. Tim and Ronnie enjoyed the ping pong ball toss, with each successfully netting a goldfish. The goldfish never made it beyond the carnival grounds - Tim and Ronnie swallowed them. They wanted to see how I would react. They also successfully played another game (I think it was darts), each winning a choice of a picture of various contemporary artists. But they were not done - they proceeded to win a prize to take home for their sister Michelle.

The Parade: Greenbelt has a traditional Labor Day Parade in the morning. The three of us staked out a nice shady spot on Crescent Road about a block from the reviewing stand. The two nephews were impressed when city councilman Ed Putens greeted me by my first name, as the city councilmembers processed by.

- Paul Sabol,

Tim's uncle and godfather, Ronnie's uncle

Note: At that time Ronnie and Tim Sabol resided in Pawtucket, R.I.

## Second Try Produces Winner

In 1968 I had two sons; Alexander was born in January and David was born in December. When the Labor Day Festival rolled around in September 1968, Alexander was barely eight months old. He had just learned to crawl and I entered him in the Diaper Derby. When all the crawlers entered the chalk lined circle, Alexander was a little bewildered. I crouched at the "finish" line and urged him on. A little reluctantly, he came to me and finished a proud third among the dozen or so babies.

When David was born in early December, I knew he would be a month older than Alexander by the time the next Labor Day Festival occurred in 1969. Sure enough, David was an active crawler. Also, David loved my car keys. So, I wiggled my car keys at him and he crawled right to me, a big smile on his face. We had a first place Diaper Derby winner that year!

- Sandra Lange

## Blind NASA Employee Is New Patent Attorney

A totally blind engineer, Kenneth Silberman of Southway, began work as a patent attorney at Goddard Space Flight Center on Monday, August 9. This groundbreaking event marks the first time that a blind person has begun to practice in this specialized area of law. "I'd like to thank the



Silberman managed the National Space Science Data Center's publications group. Before assuming this post in 1991, Silberman programmed computers for NASA and the Navy from the beginning of his service to America in 1988.

NASA's confidence in Silberman is reflected in his academic and personal accomplishments as well.

Selected to train as a patent lawyer in 1997, Silberman began his studies at night while continuing his distinguished, fulltime NASA career. He proposed and is currently the principal investigator of the Science Information Testbed for the Blind, a project that is working to improve blind persons' access to technical materials. In addition, Silberman has worked with the high-speed networks of the Earth and Space Data Computing Division, Goddard's supercomputing center, since 1995.

Prior to this promotion, Silberman managed the National Space Science Data Center's publications group. Before assuming this post in 1991, Silberman programmed computers for NASA and the Navy from the beginning of his service to America in 1988.

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Prior to being admitted to the Patent Bar in 2003 and the Maryland Bar in 2002, Silberman earned his Juris Doctor from Catholic University of America in 2001. He received a master of engineering degree in aerospace from Cornell University in 1987 and a bachelor of arts degree in astronomy from the University of Pennsylvania in 1984.

Silberman is active in the Greenbelt community and enjoys helping other blind persons, scuba diving, singing and ham radio. When asked how he does all these things, Silberman said, "When given proper training and opportunity, blind people can compete on terms of equality in the workplace and can participate on terms of equality in the community."



## Always a Parade!

My happy memories of Labor Day include many about people helping each other for the community's benefit at festival planning meetings, in the pageant, in the art show, with communication throughout the annual four-day event, in the selection of the outstanding citizen, on the midway, at the festival stage and in the many other aspects of this great celebration. One of my most vivid and lasting memories is that of the first time I chaired the parade. The year was 1975.

Greenbelt always has a parade on Labor Day. Once it started late. That year I had a lot to learn about the process of presenting a parade. We prepared and mailed invitations to entertainment groups, to celebrities and to politicians. We recruited the volunteer groups that support the parade in communications, as parade marshals and as judges. We secured the necessary city permit and the promise of a reviewing stand from the National Park Service. We distributed directions, instructions and information to all who agreed to participate. We thought we were ready for the parade.

We then prayed about the rain. This is a common Labor Day Festival duty. Perhaps our prayers were misunderstood that year. Perhaps the Supreme Being answered by telling us to work it out. The rain started during the festival and on Sunday night it rained hard enough during the night that it woke me several times. By an hour before the scheduled start of the parade the condition could have been described as being a bit less than a deluge. Fortunately the rain stopped before reaching that stage.

A while before the parade normally would have started I met with several of the parade marshals. Would we have a parade? Greenbelt always has a parade on Labor Day. One of the marshals had a speaker and two of them attached it to a car and drove through the community announcing the parade would start an hour late, at 11 a.m. instead of 10 a.m. The rest of the marshals and communications personnel spread out to take care of activities in various areas of the parade. The marshals had to try to convince the entries to stay and wait for the parade to start.

At the same time that all of the activity was going on throughout the parade area, the telephone at my home had been ringing continuously. I had received a few calls before I left the house that day to meet with the other volunteers, but my wife Ginny received continuous calls after I left. Only a few of us can imagine receiving dozens and dozens of calls over a period of an hour or so and trying to respond to all of them. She relayed our plans to the callers who wanted to come. She also received information from those who were calling to say they could not come.

The National Park Service was ready to assume we would not have a parade. We had to convince them to come and bring the stage and try to get here to be set up by the time of the parade. We had been going to place the stage along Crescent, next to Southway but when the National Park Service driver got the truck and stage here and pulled the truck onto the ground at that point, it sunk and stayed there, unable to move. Many people volunteered to help pull the stage from behind the truck to Southway and set it up. (The truck spent the parade and, I believe, several days afterward stuck in the ground.)

With so many helping and doing so many different things to assist, by 11 a.m. everything was as ready as we could make it considering the conditions. Because of those who roamed the community announcing the delay in the parade, many people did see a parade that day. Many of the groups, especially those concerned about possible rain damage to musical instruments or to their uniforms, did pull out of the parade or never came to it. Some probably had to go to other parades. But at 11 a.m., Greenbelt started its Labor Day Parade. It may have been the shortest parade on record. I believe the only music may have been the recording of "Candy Man" played by the Gino's (fast-food restaurant) float. Many who assisted with the preparation early in the day got very, very wet. The rut at the corner of Southway and Crescent remained for a long time. But still that parade stands out as a symbol to me of how great the people in Greenbelt are, how willing they are to support the community, how important Greenbelt's traditions are and have always been to its citizens. And the parade is one of the greatest of these traditions. Greenbelt always has a parade on Labor Day. Once it started late.

— Wayne Williams

## First Art Show

I remember [the] early [Labor Day] art shows very well! I recall the first one, in 1955, when my sculpture was in the exhibit around the pool (I was 12 years old). My sister Kathleen and I regularly entered the shows and won awards in the ensuing years.

— Barbara Simon

## Smoke Alarms Save Lives

More than 4,000 Americans die each year in fires and more than 25,000 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only had the information they needed to avoid disaster.

The following life-saving tips could help save a life.

Place a smoke alarm on each level of the home and outside all bedrooms.

Check smoke alarms monthly by pushing the test button. If the button is hard to reach, use a broom handle.

Change the batteries in smoke alarms twice a year – perhaps when changing clocks for daylight savings time.

Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do – leave the building immediately by crawling under the smoke – when it sounds.

If smoke from cooking sets off the alarm, do not disable it. Turn on the range fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm.

Smoke alarms will wear out, replace after 10 years.

Consider buying a lithium battery-powered smoke alarm which will operate for 10 years and is sealed so it cannot be tampered with or opened.

## Gas Co. Implements Rebate Program

The Maryland Public Service Commission has granted Washington Gas Light Company (Washington Gas) permission to implement a "Residential Essential Services" (RES) pilot program. Under the RES program, customers approved for assistance through the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) who are current on their gas utility payments, will receive a retroactive credit on their Washington Gas bill for natural gas used between January and April 2004. Depending on the amount of natural gas used during this period, this credit could be as much as \$98.74.

MEAP assists eligible customers in paying their winter heating bills through grants based on family size and income. The Maryland RES pilot program will continue through the 2004-05 heating season. This will allow eligible customers to benefit from the RES program next winter heating season.

Washington Gas has notified customers of this program through monthly bill inserts. For questions about this program, contact Luisa Heredia-Sauseda at 301-595-8039.

## Sculpture Garden Jazz Nights

The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden is the place to go on Friday nights this summer when visitors can sit by the grand fountain and reflecting pool and listen to live jazz from 5 to 8 p.m., through September 3. The Pavilion Café serves a special concert menu that can be enjoyed inside the café, outside on the patios or on a picnic blanket.

For a schedule of performances, menu details and to request an image, visit <http://www.nga.gov/press/2004/releases/spring/gardenjazz.htm> or call 202-289-3360.

## Fire Dept. Presents Grill Safety Tips

In order to prevent the possibility of grill fires, the following safety tips have been offered by the Prince George's County Fire Department:

- Never use a grill indoors, including garages, overhangs and canopies.
- Grills should be at least 30 feet away from any dwelling.
- In Prince George's County, it is illegal to use grills on balconies of apartments and condominium apartments.
- Do not allow children and pets to play near a grill.
- Only use approved ignition fluids and never use gasoline to ignite a grill.
- Keep a fire extinguisher, garden hose or bucket of sand nearby to douse a grill fire.
- Inspect the grill before igniting to ensure everything is in working order.

### Gas Grills

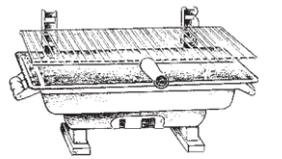


Each year, about 600 fires/explosions nationally occur with gas grills resulting in injuries to dozens of people. Propane gas is highly flammable. The new safety standard for propane gas tanks requires that an "over-fill prevention device" be installed in new gas tanks. The new propane gas tanks have valve handles with three "lobes" (prongs) while older tanks have valve handles with five prongs. People with older propane gas tanks should trade them in for the new, safer tanks.

- Check grill hoses for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks.
- Make sure there are no sharp bends in the hose or tubing.
- Move gas hoses as far away as possible from hot surfaces and dripping hot grease.
- Always keep propane gas containers upright.
- Never store a spare gas container under or near the grill or indoors.
- Never store or use flammable liquids, like gasoline, near the grill.
- Never keep a filled container in a hot car or car trunk. Heat will cause the gas pressure to increase, which may open the relief valve and allow gas to escape.

### Charcoal Grills

Each year 19 people die nationally as a result of fumes from charcoal being burned inside. Charcoal produces carbon monoxide (CO) when it is burned. CO is a colorless, odorless gas that can accumulate to toxic levels in closed environments.



- Never burn charcoal inside of homes, vehicles, tents or campers.
- Charcoal should never be used indoors, even if ventilation is provided.
- Since charcoal produces CO fumes until the charcoal is completely extinguished, do not store the grill indoors with freshly used coals.
- Use only charcoal lighter fluid to start charcoal grills. Once the coals have been lighted, never add more lighter fluid to the fire – flames may travel up the stream of lighter fluid resulting in serious burns.
- After the barbecue, make sure that the hot coals from the charcoal grill are in a safe location and not allowed to come in contact with anything that will burn. Coals can continue to be hot enough to ignite a fire hours after the BBQ.

Observe these guidelines every time you use a grill and then have a safe and delicious meal.

## Kindergartners Get High Technology

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) recently signed a \$1 million contract with LeapFrog SchoolHouse to utilize its LeapTrack Assessment & Instruction System. PGCPS utilized the LeapTrack system in its new kindergarten summer school program and it will be expanded this fall to 216 kindergarten classrooms in 70 Title 1 schools.

The LeapTrack system delivers individualized assessment and instruction in reading, language arts, and math. Students receive a multi-sensory learning experience that also provides performance data to educators.

PGCPS began implementation of these tools in a new summer school program for 500

kindergartners who were at risk of not being promoted to first grade. The classes utilized the LeapTrack system of need. These students are now prepared to enter first grade. "This is a very powerful instructional tool and we are pleased to have these interactive instructional technology materials in our Title 1 kindergarten classrooms this fall," said Dr. Judith Finch, chief of the learning technology support group for PGCPS.

For additional information contact Finch at 301-925-2874. For information about LeapFrog technology, visit <http://www.LeapFrogSchoolHouse.com>.



### Idyllic, Care-free Days

The summer I turned 18 ended in mid-August when I went to Baltimore to begin nursing school. So Labor Day weekend was my first trip back to Greenbelt. I felt so very mature and experienced already. But this year was a little unusual too because I was going to be a part of the festivities rather than the observer I had always been. My boyfriend was working on a political campaign and had volunteered me and my best girlfriend to be in the parade, passing out literature for the candidate along the route.

I chose to ignore the sexist implications of having young women dress up to pass out literature because it sounded like fun. It didn't even bother me that I knew nothing about the candidate's politics but since my boyfriend and I thought similarly, thanks to our teachers at Parkdale that my father always called Communists after one of our political arguments.

So after a few hours the evening before of agonizing over what to wear and combining wardrobes – my friend and I wore the same dress and shoe sizes, by a real stroke of luck – we set out early for the Center. I can remember so very vividly standing there by the theater in a borrowed pink and purple dress that barely reached my fingertips. I was a couple of inches taller than my friend, high heels and even pantyhose in the summer, talking and laughing with friends in the early morning sunlight. It was one of those moments imprinted indelibly into my memory as idyllic and that I'd give up a lot to relive just for 10 minutes: a beautiful summer day with all the promise of a wonderful day ahead, my closest friends around, my entire future ahead with the promise of exciting times and being totally care-free. I can't remember much of the parade beyond being very hot and having sore feet, which didn't stop me from dancing for hours that evening at the festival.

I live in Greenbelt again and am rediscovering many other memories, along with a jealous streak – I want to be the girl in the Center again and I want to have the promises of being 18 again, as if no other girl can have such a beautiful moment in the sun, as if there was no other Labor Day parade after I was gone.

But maybe some other middle-aged woman looked at me and thought the same things on that morning. I know my place here is not diminished by others who came after me, just as mine was not lessened by the presence of those who'd been there before. We're all a part of the experience of life in Greenbelt.

– Carol A. Griffith

### Diversity Marks Festival

My wife and I bought our first home, a townhouse in Charlestowne Village in 1992.

After seeing your request for Labor Day Festival memories, we had quite a discussion on the diversity of the festival. Being a native of El Salvador, my wife Luz recalled how amazed she was at the variety of ethnicities present during our first festival visit. Not only was the attending crowd ethnically diverse but even the foods represented a large variety of regional and national flavors. Also, the musical entertainment covered quite the range of tastes, from rock to country to a wonderful jazz.

We still live in our quaint townhome in Charlestowne and look forward every year to the festival and its uniqueness, yet at the same time, comfortable and warm sameness.

– Mike and Luz Scoville

Your Vote

IS Your Voice

**WANTED**

**CARRIERS  
TO SERVE  
WASHINGTON  
POST**

In Greenbelt

Earn \$200 to \$500 monthly by spending about 1 hour each morning serving newspapers. No collecting or billing necessary. If interested, please call **301-262-3596** and leave message.



# City Information

## OPENINGS ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups.

Vacancies exist on the:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board
- Recycling & Environment Advisory Committee

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

## Meetings for Aug. 30 – Sept. 6

Monday, August 30, 8:00pm, COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Proposed Plans for Former Nursing Home Site, Municipal Building (live on Channel 71).

## GREENBELT MUNICIPAL/PUBLIC ACCESS CHANNEL 71

MUNICIPAL ACCESS 301-474-8000: Monday, August 30th at 8pm "Council Work Session" live, Tuesday & Thursday, August 31 & September 2: 10am & 6pm "Ask the Expert Special Edition with Helen Barnes," 11:00am & 7:00pm "Ask the Expert-Diabetic Care," 7:30pm: "Replay of Council Work Session."

PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, September 1 & 3: 7:00pm "Future View," 7:30pm "Public Safety Spotlight," 8:00pm: "GAC presents Marvin's Room."

## USED VEHICLE SALE BID 2004

The City of Greenbelt will be accepting sealed bids for sale of the following vehicles.

Interested bidders may view vehicles/equipment the week of August 23rd, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., at the Greenbelt Public Works Department, 555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. For questions regarding the condition of the vehicles, contact the City Mechanical Shop at 301-474-0426.

Sealed bids shall be submitted to the City of Greenbelt, 555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770, no later than 4:00 p.m. Monday, August 30, 2004. Bids will be opened on Tuesday, August 31, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. Bids must include the name, address and phone number of the bidder and the complete vehicle/equipment description, including the serial number. The highest bidders will be notified by phone or mail. Once notification has been made, successful bidders will have three working days to remove the vehicles from the Public Works Yard.

The City reserves the right to reject any bids.

### Vehicles

- Unit #2 1994 Pontiac Grand Prix, Ser.#1G2WJ52M4RF271033, Odometer 120,582
- Unit #24 1992 Chevy Caprice, Ser.#1G1BL5377NR150849, Odometer 113,052
- Unit #815 1995 Chevy Caprice, Ser.#1G1BL52P8SR167351, Odometer 103,915
- Unit #816 1996 Ford Crown Vic, Ser.#2FALP71W7TX186653, Odometer 101,686
- Unit #900 1994 Chevy Caprice, Ser.#1G1BL52P9RR195394, Odometer 155,145
- Unit #707 1991 Pontiac Grand Prix, Ser.#1GNDT13W5R0177808, Odometer 137,216
- Unit #111 1993 Chevy Dump Truck, Ser.#1GBJK34N7PE232117, Odometer 30,881
- Unit #115 1987 Ford Pickup, Ser.#1FTHF26HXHNA77631, Odometer 219,538
- Unit #126 1991 Ford Dump Truck, Ser.#2FDLF47M7MCA45815, Odometer 31,161
- Unit #160 1990 Chevy Fleetside Ser.#1GCCS14Z3M0137543, Odometer 61,376
- Unit #261 1987 Ford Truck/Comp. Ser.#1FDYW82A6HVA59330, Odometer 56,012
- Unit #402 1993 Chevy Dump Truck, Ser.#1GBJK34N2PE231781, Odometer 24,905

### Equipment

- Unit #120 1985 Case Loader, Ser.#17025469
- Old 8hp Mont. Ward Snowblower Ser.#8317C1 379
- Old Hunter Sys. 700 Tire Machine Ser.#BA2737
- Old Fuerst Tractor Mount Fertilizer Spreader- no serial number

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**Babysitter Needed**  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:15am to 11:00am for Fit "n" Fun Aerobics class at the Greenbelt Community Center. Call 301-397-2208 for more information. \$7.00/hour.

## BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, September 7th from 2:00pm – 8:00pm  
Greenbelt Municipal Building  
25 Crescent Road  
Council Room  
**Please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE to schedule your Life Saving Donation.**

## An Artful Afternoon

Sunday, September 5 from 1-5pm at the Greenbelt Community Center

Enjoy this free mini arts festival featuring a studio open house, art exhibits, projects, Greenbelt Museum tours, etc.

1-4pm make a unique sculptural hat to keep, or a fanciful foam rubber "pet." Hands-on activities will take place from 1-4pm. All materials are provided.

3-5pm ART EXHIBIT Make sure you see the "binks," in their temporary habitat in the Community Center Gallery in the new show, *Dangling, Draped and Dilly-Dallying*, an installation by Chicago artist Carole Loeffler. These imaginative, alien-like soft sculptures will bring a smile to all ages. Additional Labor Day Festival activities will be taking place in historic downtown Greenbelt throughout the weekend.

## ACE Member Wins McAuliffe Award

by Mary Moien

La Shelle Ferguson, vice chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) is the winner of the Christa McAuliffe Outstanding Teacher Award. Ferguson, a Greenbriar resident, was honored in June at both the School Board Awards Night and the Employees Recognition Night. She was nominated for the award by a co-worker at Eisenhower Middle School in Bowie where she has taught for seven years.

The school system initiated the award to honor the memory of Christa McAuliffe, a school-teacher who died in the Challenger explosion in 1986. McAuliffe had been a teacher in the Prince George's County schools during the 1970s. The criteria for the award are excellence in teaching, professional development, leadership ability and volunteer work.

Ferguson grew up in Prince George's County, graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in Upper Marlboro and then earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland College Park in government and

politics. She also has two master's degrees from Bowie State University, one in teaching and one in administrative management with a concentration in public administration. Ferguson was also selected Bowie Teacher of the Year in 2000. At Eisenhower, she has been teaching language arts, but this fall she will be teaching 8th grade U.S. History.

On ACE, Ferguson serves as vice-chair. When asked why she volunteered for ACE, Ferguson commented that she has "always been involved in the community" where she lived. She liked the idea that the committee was linked with her career and liked the mission of the committee. Each ACE member is a liaison with one Greenbelt school; Ferguson is the liaison from the committee to St. Hugh's School. She also is responsible for keeping the committee informed of county education activities and news events that are related to the schools. Ferguson has enjoyed being a part of Greenbelt, calling it a caring and activist community.

## SHL Elementary School Promotes Wearing "Uniforms"

by Judy Bell

A voluntary uniform program – white shirts and dark bottoms – has been in place at Springhill Lake Elementary School for years, according to Linda Sherwood, principal. She reports "great success" in the younger grades with the white shirts, and "less so" with the dark bottoms, partly because many of the students like to wear jeans to school.

Sherwood stated that the policy "has improved behavior problems," such as students competing over clothes, saying "Johnny has [this] or Susie has [that]."

She added that "A lot of the students are not native Americans" and have worn uniforms previously in their countries of origin. Coming here and wearing the voluntary uniforms at SHL Elementary provides a "nice bridge for them," she said.

Sherwood is currently trying

to get fifth and sixth graders on board. As some students are hard-pressed to afford the clothing, donations are needed. All sizes, including adult, and types of white shirts, such as polos, knit style or button-down shirts, either new or "almost new" can be brought to the school Monday through Friday, anytime between 6:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. If the school is not open, donations may be given to the custodian or placed at the door.

Gift cards to Target and Value City as well as checks are also welcomed and may be mailed to Linda Sherwood, Springhill Lake Elementary School, 6060 Springhill Drive, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

As this paper went to print, 710 students have been enrolled for this year. Sherwood reports the school is "at capacity" with only one temporary classroom, which was that teacher's choice.

## Owners' Property Tax Credit Has Deadline

The State of Maryland has developed a program which limits the amount of property taxes any homeowner must pay based upon his or her income. This plan has been in existence since 1975 when it was known as the "circuit breaker" plan for elderly homeowners because it shut off the property tax bill at a certain point just like an electric circuit breaker shuts off current when the circuit becomes overloaded. The Maryland General Assembly has improved the plan through the years so that now this program is available to all homeowners regardless of their age and the credits are given where needed based upon a homeowner's income.

There are three basic requirements for participation in the program. A person must own or have a legal interest in the property. The dwelling must have been the applicant's principal residence for at least six months of the year, including July 1 unless the home was recently purchased or the owner was unable to live there because of health or the need for special care. The owner's net worth, not including the value of the property on which the credit is sought, must be less than \$200,000.

Homeowners who file and qualify by May 1 will receive the credit directly on their tax bill or as a credit certificate issued at the same time the property tax bill is mailed. Persons who file later, until the September 1 deadline, will receive any credit due either in the form of a revised tax bill or a tax credit certificate to be used in payment of the bill. Applicants filing after May 1 are advised not to delay payment of the property tax bill until receipt of the credit if they wish to receive the discount for early payment offered in some areas. A refund check will be issued by the local government if the tax bill was paid before the tax credit was granted.

The homeowners' tax credit is not automatically granted and each person must apply and make an income disclosure. People must reapply every year by Sep-

## New Bus Shelter Dedicated



PHOTO BY THOMAS X. WHITE

Shown cutting the ribbon for the ceremonial dedication of the new shelter are from left, Councilmember Leta Mach, Mayor Judith Davis, Silke Pope of the Public Safety Advisory Committee, Councilmember Konrad Herling, City Manager Mike McLaughlin, Public Works Supervisor Karl Skaggs and Councilmember Edward V.J. Putens.

by Thomas X. White

After many requests over the past decade for a safer location and crosswalk to serve Metro bus users of the westbound stop across Greenbelt Road (Md. Route 193) from the Greenway Center, the Greenbelt City Council dedicated a new bus shelter and relocated bus stop on Wednesday evening, August 18, just prior to their scheduled worksession on Greenbelt East Traffic Calming projects.

At the city's request the Maryland Highway Administration re-engineered the roadway to accommodate a new bus bay for westbound buses to use to pick up passengers and created a new pedestrian crosswalk equipped with a "Demand" crossing light for Greenway Center patrons to make their way safely across busy Route 193. The new crosswalk is at the western edge of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway off-ramp as it intersects with Greenbelt Road. For its part, the city constructed one of its trademark bus shelters at the new location to give prominence to the new facility and to protect bus patrons from the elements.

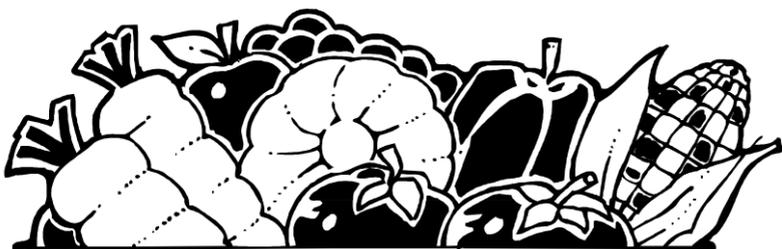
tember 1 on a standard application supplied by the Department of Assessments and Taxation. Applications are available as of February each year at the local assessment offices at the website <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/county.html> and at most public libraries or by calling the Tax Credits Telephone Service at 1-800-955-7403.

**GIVE BLOOD**  
in Greenbelt  
on Sept. 7  
from 2 to 8 p.m.  
at the Greenbelt  
Municipal Building



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# POLICE BLOTTER

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

## Robbery

August 13, 6:10 p.m., 7200 block Hanover Parkway, a man reported that as he walked to his car, a youth approached him, brandishing a knife and demanding his wallet, while a second youth acted as a lookout. The man stated that he began to scream for help and the two youths fled the area. Both suspects are described as black males in their teens, 5'6", one was about 150 pounds, wearing a gray/blue T-shirt, dark pants and armed with a knife. The second was about 165 pounds, wearing all dark clothing.

August 15, 10:14 p.m., Damsel Court and Vanity Fair, a taxicab driver reported that he had just left his cab for the evening when he was approached by two men, one of whom was brandishing a small black semi-automatic weapon and demanding the driver's cash. After he was robbed, both suspects ran toward Lakecrest Drive. They are described as black males in their 20s. One had a medium complexion, wearing a long, white T-shirt and blue jeans, armed with a black gun; the other had something black on his face.

## Drugs

August 13, 5:52 p.m., 7500 block Hanover Parkway, police stopped a suspicious vehicle. The occupants of the vehicle matched the description for a shoplifting incident that had just occurred. The officer noted an overwhelming smell of marijuana within the vehicle. A search revealed that the front seat passenger had a bag of marijuana on his person and CDS paraphernalia on the floor of the vehicle. The passenger, a nonresident man, was charged on citation with possession of CDS paraphernalia and released. The remaining three occupants of the ve-

hicle were released. All four were later positively identified in the shoplifting.

August 16, 11:59 p.m., 7200 block Kenilworth Avenue, two nonresident men were arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana and possession of CDS after being stopped for a traffic violation. Both were released to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a District Court Commissioner.

## Malicious Destruction

August 13, 4:35 a.m., underpass near 161 Centerway, two men were observed removing the conduit connecting two overhead lights causing damage to the lights. They are described as two white males in their 20s, one 5'10" with thin brown hair wearing a brown shirt.

## Alcohol

August 17, 5:47 p.m., 100 block Centerway, a resident man was arrested and charged with consumption of an alcoholic beverage on public property. He was released on a criminal citation, pending trial.

## Trespass

August 14, 6:56 p.m., 6000 block Breezewood Court, a nonresident man was arrested for trespassing after he had been previously banned from Springhill Lake Apartments. He was charged on criminal citation and released pending trial.

## Suspicious Fire

August 19, 10:50 p.m., 5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace, police found a bag on fire in front of the doors of an apartment building after a citizen reported that he smelled smoke.

## Burglary

August 18, 1:38 a.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane, unknown person(s) entered a residence by unknown means. The victim later recovered his property in

the bushes in front of the residence.

## Vehicle Crimes

August 16, 6:33 p.m., Greenway Center, two nonresident youths were observed attempting an auto theft. They aborted their theft efforts and fled, but were apprehended and positively identified. A search revealed suspected marijuana residue in one youth's pocket. Both were charged with attempted theft of auto, attempted theft over \$500, malicious destruction, one was also charged with possession of CDS paraphernalia. Both youths were released to their aunt on juvenile petition pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

Six nonresident men were arrested for stolen tags and charged with theft under \$500. One was also issued numerous traffic citations. One nonresident woman was arrested for stolen tags and charged with theft under \$500 and driving while suspended and released on criminal citation to the Department of Corrections for service of two warrants.

Three vehicles were stolen: a 1999 blue Mazda Protégé, 4-door, Maryland tags GZB656 from the 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive; a 1996 burgundy Nissan Sentra, 4-door, Maryland tags MRC456 from the 9200 block of Springhill Lane; a 2004 silver Toyota Corolla, tags not yet registered, vin 2T1BR32E44C286200 from Greenway Center.

Six vehicles were recovered, two by Greenbelt police and four by other police departments. No arrests were made in any of the recoveries.

Vandalisms to vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza Mall, 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace and 7800 block Jacobs Drive.



## Rides Were a Blast

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival has been an annual event for as long as I can remember – with the exception of the four years I spent away at college. When I was growing up I would ride all the rides and have a blast. I can remember even back when I was in elementary school bravely boarding a large circular platform and being centrifugally forced against the edge as it spun at a 40-degree angle. But fast forward to my return after graduating college a few years ago, there was no way I would go on anything except maybe the ferris wheel.

I should have made a visit back each year I was at college so I would stay in the habit and avoid developing a fear of going on any ride more traumatic than the bumper cars. Then again, I am now very content going on the bumper cars, with my kids.

– Erik Sellin

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## Park Police Seek Volunteer "Ears"

The Park Police Volunteer Association (PPVA) is in need of volunteers dedicated to the service of the Park Police and the Prince George's County community. All PPVA volunteers have completed the Park Police Volunteer Academy.

Volunteer services include: walk or bike ride the many trails in the county to extend the "eyes and ears" of the Park Police. PPVA provides fingerprinting of citizens and children at headquarters and many community events and assists with traffic and crowd control at festivals. From the Park Police booth volunteers hand out brochures and talk with the public about the services and programs of the Park Police, help in writing grants for funds to further the operation of the department. PPVA assists battered women with cell phones that have been programmed for 911 use only and provide clerical help to the Park Police at headquarters. For information about becoming a PPVA member call 301-429-5623, voice mail extension 601 or visit <http://ppva.net>.

## Parking Enforcement Results for FY 2004

"Parking Enforcement continually strived to put forth a positive public image," said Parking Enforcement Officer John P. Wojcik in the FY 2004 Parking Enforcement Report. "We continued to emphasize compliance rather than punishment," the report said.

In FY 2004, 4,282 parking tickets were written, down from 4,793 in FY 2003. While there were 511 fewer tickets written this past year, \$256,385 was realized in revenue, an increase of \$27,196 from last year. Unlicensed/unregistered vehicles continued to be a common violation. This year 80 vehicles were tagged for towing, of which 34 were impounded.

Handicap violations amounted to 484. Fire lane violations came to 845 and "Not a Designated Space" violations totaled 567. Expired tags accounted for 232 violations and Prohibited Hours/Time violations added up to 234.

## Homeland Security Conference Sept. 10

Melvin C. High, Chief of Police of Prince George's County, has invited members of the county's business community to attend a conference on Homeland Security and Crime Awareness.

The conference will be held on September 10 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Marriott. Approximately 250 attendees are expected.

The conference is designed to heighten awareness in regard to homeland security and crime-related issues. This event will expose the attendees to information sharing, networking, crime prevention and other resources that would aid in the event of a critical incident.

**GIVE BLOOD**  
in Greenbelt  
on Sept. 7  
from 2 to 8 p.m.  
at the Greenbelt  
Municipal Building



## Featuring:

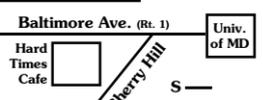
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Washingtonian Magazine

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## CALMING continued from page 1

\$240,000 for the recently completed roundabout at the entrance to Hunting Ridge on Hanover Parkway will have spent nearly the full \$500,000 of the 2001 Bond Fund allocated, leaving little or no funds for any playground work." In that case, McLaughlin said, "funding for playground upgrades in Greenbelt East will have to come from the city's Capital Projects Fund."

Craze suggested that council review the plan and refer it again to the HOAs for final comments. If the plan is approved this fall, staff could prepare the bids for contracting the work, which could begin in the spring of 2005 with project completion in about eight to 12 weeks.

### Plan Reviewed

Council then reviewed the proposed plan street by street. The overall plan would affect nearly every residential street in Greenbelt East with a variety of traffic calming measures recommended. Such features include striping for one travel lane in each direction (Hanover Parkway and Mandan Road in Greenbriar and Mandan Road and Ora Glen Drive in Windsor Green), improvements to or additions to medians (Hanover Parkway, Mandan Road and Ora Glen Drive) and speed humps on Hanover Parkway, Greenbrook Drive, Mathew Street and Megan Drive.

Designated crosswalks were also recommended at various intersections or areas with pedestrian traffic, an additional stop sign was shown at the Canning

Terrace intersection with Mandan and full intersection treatments (south entrance to Greenspring off Hanover and the Ora Glen Drive intersection with Mandan) were suggested. In addition, proposed new traffic circles could be added at Frankfort and Ora Glen and in the vicinity of Morrison Drive and Ora Glen, also at Mathew and Megan and at Craddock and Megan.

The report also recommends the addition of new sidewalks on Ora Glen near the proposed new post office site and on Hanover Parkway near the new Hunting Ridge roundabout. One new bus shelter would be constructed just south of the Schrom Hills roundabout if council agrees.

Council members appreciated the obvious hard work that staff had put into the very comprehensive plan and the effort to assure that the plan reflected concerns, problems and issues identified by the affected communities. Elements of the plan receiving most council attention were the proposed one-travel lane demarcations on Hanover Parkway in the vicinity of the back entrance to Eleanor Roosevelt High School, the type of "speed humps" to be installed, the difference between "traffic circles" and "roundabouts" and the need to look at the optimum pedestrian crossings for the proposed crosswalks.

### Council Responses

Mayor Judith Davis and Councilmember Leta Mach wanted to make sure that there were adequate merge and turn

lanes on Hanover Parkway for safe ingress and egress in and out of Greenbriar and that there was safe and adequate space for ERHS student drop-off near the rear entrance to the school. Councilmember Rodney Roberts argued for additional speed humps and pedestrian crosswalks for Hanover Parkway in the Greenspring and Megan Drive areas.

Craze alerted council that one possible area of controversy could be the replacement of existing four-way stop signs at the intersection of Craddock and Megan Drive. Although Craze believed that the majority of residents in that area supported the change to a traffic circle, she felt that others may be concerned about losing the four-way stop. The staff perspective was that a high level of noncompliance existed at that stop because of the small amount of Craddock Road travel through the intersection.

The worksession closed with Craze indicating she will have the plan revised to address the merge lane issues concerning Hanover Parkway. She will also look at placements of the proposed crosswalks on Ora Glen, and she said, within the next few weeks a post-roundabout study of speeds and behavior on Hanover Parkway will be conducted.

The revised plan will be referred again to the HOAs and to the Advisory Planning Board. Council will be able to conduct a public hearing on the traffic calming study at its second meeting on September 27.



### Truly Memorable

Greenbelt's Labor Day Festival has always been a special time for me, especially while its Carnival Chair, but the Festival of 1995 was truly a memorable one. That weekend my parents, Dorothy and Gerald Fintak, flew in from Sun City, Ariz., and experienced the festival for the first and, unfortunately, only time.

I had spoken so highly of all the fun and small-town feel of the festival that they were convinced to make the trek, which was particularly difficult for my mother. My sister and her family also joined us. We had a great time eating our way through the Carnival and Luncheon-on-the-Lawn, listening to all the music and playing countless games. My mother spent hours at the bingo table and my dad enjoyed learning about Greenbelt's history. The highlight was having my parents and my niece ride with me in the parade in a big convertible and joining me on the reviewing stand.

My parents were very impressed by the warm welcome they received. I myself was so pleased that they had finally gotten the chance to see me in action as Carnival Chair and as a first-term City Councilmember.

— J Davis

### Indigestion

This has become a "twice told tale" in the Osborne household for many years: It was 1982 and Bridget Osborne was taking advantage of some of the culinary delights one can always find at the Labor Day Festival booths and had settled on an Italian sausage with peppers and onions from the booth sponsored by St. Hugh's. Unfortunately, soon after eating the sausage she began to complain of the worst indigestion of her life and blamed it on the sausage. It seemed she could get no relief despite plenty of good advice and solid home remedies. Soon afterward, she discovered that it was not indigestion after all, but she was having her own "Labor Day" and the sausage was not the culprit after all. Tessa was born on that Labor Day and cherished participating in the festival every year since her first.

— LCDR Elizabeth "Beth" Osborne

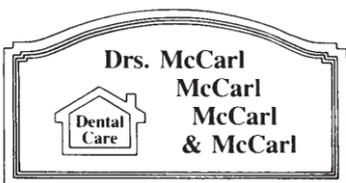
## AND THE WINNER IS . . .



**BEFORE**

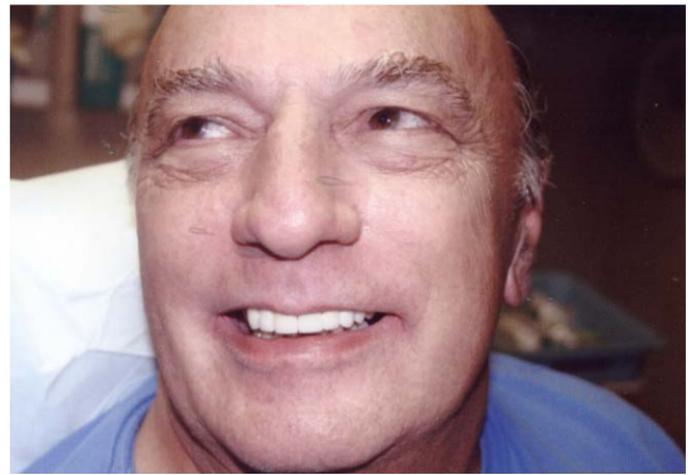
It's never too late to give yourself a beautiful smile. For over three generations the McCarl family has provided a full range of dental services to Greenbelt and the surrounding communities. In the past, cosmetic dentistry was only for the wealthy. Today, however, cosmetic dentistry is affordable and available to everyone. Give someone you love the gift of a smile!

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## FESTIVAL continued from page 1

tion, the Outstanding Citizen is named. Each year the selection is a well-guarded secret but the honoree is always greeted with rounds of applause in recognition of all of the activities and contributions that person has made to the city. A reception for the Outstanding Citizen is held in the Municipal Building immediately following the award.

At approximately 7:45, the 2004 Miss Greenbelt Pageant contestants are introduced on stage. Ranging in age from 7 to 19, they exemplify some of the best qualities of young women today in community involvement, academic achievement and interests and abilities in sports and the arts.

At 9 p.m., Diamond Alley returns to the Labor Day stage and fills the nighttime air with their wonderful, get-up-and-get-moving sounds, opening the festival on the right note!

### Carnival Rides

Friday evening the carnival starts its four-day run of rides for all ages from toddlers to teens and beyond. Ride a horse (wooden, of course) on the carousel, whirl and twirl on the thrilling rides and get the "view from the top" on the ever-traditional Ferris wheel. Toddlers and infants can also grab the wheel, fly the plane and bang the gong on the "kiddee" rides.

Again this year bracelets will be sold which allow a wearer to ride all rides for one price on Saturday or Sunday. A new bracelet is needed for each day. Discount vouchers for the bracelets may be purchased at the Greenbelt Co-op now until 9 p.m., Thursday, September 2. Discount coupons for the ride bracelets will be available throughout Greenbelt, including the city offices, the recreation and youth centers and businesses in old Greenbelt and Greenbelt East.

### Carnival Booths

The carnival booths, which are sponsored by community organizations, are the main fund-raisers of the year for many of the groups. The booths provide an opportunity to become acquainted with many of the activities and programs that make up this great

community. A complete listing of booths and their menu selections is in the festival pull-out.

There's the traditional bingo, always popular, as well as the used book sale sponsored by the Greenbelt Elementary School PTA. Other popular booths return including the Goldfish Toss, the Zoo Dip, bean bag and ball throwing. Kids can have their faces painted, have a temporary tattoo applied or have their fortunes told. Festival goers can make a button or create with paint and learn about public and traffic safety.

Funnel cakes are a Labor Day Festival tradition – as evidenced by the long lines at this booth. Maryland's Chesapeake Bay is honored with crab cakes and fish sandwiches. But festival food is far-ranging, including cheese steaks from Philadelphia, Cajun chicken sandwiches by way of New Orleans, Italian and Polish sausages and gyros, fajitas, bratwurst and other exotic sounding but now familiar delicacies.

Round out the offerings with pit beef and turkey sandwiches, baked potatoes, fruit cups, many types of drinks from Frappuccinos to smoothies, sodas, iced tea, lemonade, herbal chillers and even bottled water. Desserts are not left out – try sundaes, cookies, Dove bars, milkshakes and floats. Traditional fare is present with hamburgers, hot dogs, french fries and of course pizza. There is literally something for everyone – leave your diet at home.

### Sports Events

The Greenbelt Recreation Department plans and coordinates tournaments and sports activities including softball, tennis, swimming, table tennis, T-ball, volleyball, horseshoes, golf and races during the Labor Day weekend. Check the pull-out for details and times of events. The department also coordinates the annual Larry K. Noel 15K Foot Race on Sunday at 5 p.m. and a 3K Fun Run at 5:10 p.m. Registration for both events is from 4 to 4:45 p.m. at the Youth Center.

### Art/Photo Shows

The exhibitions of paintings, sculpture and photos are popular ways for visitors to spend a portion of their time at the Labor Day Festival. Many types of artistic work will be on display by adults and children in the art and photo shows in the galleries inside the Community Center. Entries are accepted on Friday and the galleries are open to the public Saturday through Monday. These shows are judged by professional artists and photographers and awards are given in each category.

### Pancake Breakfast

Start Saturday off with a pancake breakfast on the Community Center lawn. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, this breakfast runs from 9 to 11 a.m.

### Information Day

On Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. many community organizations and businesses will operate tables in Roosevelt Center to provide information to the community about their causes and products. The tables give small groups a chance to reach the public without operating a four-day booth. There are no sales at the tables but information and opinions are freely distributed.

### Kids' Day

Saturday is Kids' Day with games, events and entertainment especially designed with children in mind. Games for all ages from

crawlers competing in the diaper derby to tests of skill for older children begin at 8:30 a.m. on the front lawn of the Community Center. The Children's Pet Show is also on Saturday morning. All types of pets are welcome and prizes will be awarded in many categories. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. on the lawn in front of the Community Center.

Opening the entertainment on stage at 1 p.m. on Saturday is Herman's Hermits – for "kids" of all ages. This is a true treat for the festival which is honored to be able to host this great group. Their performance should not be missed. Bring those records of the '60s and any other Herman's Hermits collectibles to have autographed or buy a commemorative festival T-shirt and have that autographed. Don't forget cameras.

At 2 p.m. (while the Hermits are on stage) the New Deal Café will sponsor a Celebrity Watermelon Eating Contest in Roosevelt Center. Come see some esteemed neighbors show their true colors as they slurp their way to the championship!

Following Herman's Hermits will be the Nicolo Whimsey show – with juggling, comedy, storytelling and clown antics. The Blue Sky Puppets will follow Nicolo with a magical puppet show that will take kids on a special journey through the land of imagination. Magic Mike, who has dazzled audiences at the New Year's celebration with his "the hand is quicker than the eye" moves will be on the Labor Day stage to perform those moves at 5 p.m.

Homegrown entertainers take the stage at 6 p.m. when the Talent Show unfolds. Come see neighbors perform and see the talent they've been hiding. The Miss Greenbelt contestants present their own talents beginning at 7:15 p.m., followed by Spin – new to the festival this year from Baltimore – don't miss their great sounds.

### Family Day

Sunday is billed as Family Day with entertainment appealing to all members of the family. The carnival and rides continue and a variety of acts are scheduled for the festival stage. At 1 p.m., the group "24U" (pronounced two-for-you) returns to the festival with a delightful blend of tunes from Patsy Cline to Celine Dion to Elvis. It's a great performance by a duo that encourages the audience to enjoy themselves and get lost in familiar melodies. What a great way to start a Sunday afternoon.

At 3 p.m., John Hill, who has performed at prior festivals and New Year celebrations, takes the stage making it easy for festival goers to just lie back and enjoy a Sunday afternoon as he fills the carnival area with his beautiful voice and skilled guitar playing.

"Adrenalin," a '70s band that is new to the festival this year, provides great "take you back a few decades" music at 5 p.m. The Greenbelt Arts Center will perform Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" on the Arts Center stage at 5 p.m.

The crowning of Little Miss, Junior Miss and Miss Greenbelt begins at 6 p.m. The stage presentation is sponsored by Capitol Cadillac and each contestant has her own separate sponsor. The announcement of the queens is ultimately the most exciting mo-

## Cherishing an Antique



The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. will host the dedication of their original 1935 Ford-Howe fire engine on Saturday, September 4 from noon to 3 p.m. The fully restored 1935 fire engine will be on display. Small commemorative items will also be available for purchase. Fire department members extend an invitation to the entire community to take part in this historic event.

ment of the weekend for many of the festival goers.

The art, photo and booth awards will be presented at the conclusion of the Miss Greenbelt pageant. At 9 p.m., "Wayne Brown and 2nd Conspiracy" will bring decades of music to the Labor Day stage. Go back in time with this great group.

### Parade

Greenbelt has long been known for its Labor Day parade and this year's promises to be the best ever. Area dignitaries will attend as they have in the past. The 2004 Outstanding Citizen will be the parade marshal and members of the city council will ride in the Greenbelt Fire Department's historic fire truck. There will be marching bands, fife and drum corps, bagpipe bands and more. There will also be floats, Smokey the Bear, the ERHS pom-pom girls, the Miss Greenbelt pageant participants and other varied acts marching down Crescent Road from Buddy Attick Lake Park to the reviewing stand at Southway, beginning promptly at 10 a.m.

The Lions Club again will sponsor the Kids Bikes & Trikes event which takes place in Roosevelt Center at 9:30, just before the parade. Don't forget the traditional "Luncheon on the Lawn" at the Greenbelt Community Church immediately following the parade.

The festival is fortunate to have a nationally known group, straight from Hollywood, "Shoe Suede Blues," featuring Peter Tork, returning to the festival this year. This group with their wonderful blues, oldies and, yes,

Monkees tunes should not be missed – especially by fans of The Monkees. They will be performing from noon to 3 p.m. on the festival stage. Bring Monkees memorabilia to be autographed, as well as that 50th Anniversary commemorative T-shirt. Again, don't forget to bring a camera.

The presentation of the parade awards will take place during Shoe Suede Blues' first band break. The carnival midway is open until approximately 4 p.m. The Greenbelt Museum will be open on Monday after the parade until the closing of the festival.

### Next Festival

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee begins meeting soon after the end of this year's festival to plan the next one. The committee always needs volunteers and monetary support. It is currently seeking volunteers for next year's festival, even as this one is going on. To volunteer, make a donation, provide a suggestion or even file a complaint, stop by the Festival Information Booth directly across from the stage. While there, purchase a collectible "50th Festival" T-shirt in either green tie dye or plain grey. This T-shirt is truly something to be cherished.

Raffle tickets for Co-op groceries, a 50/50 drawing, a Longaberger wood and woven chest and a \$25 gift certificate from Jaspers as well as "Proud to be American" T-shirts can also be purchased at the Information Booth. These are all part of the ongoing fundraising efforts of the committee.

Have a great time at the festival – the best one ever!



The 2003 Miss Greenbelts – 2003 Little Miss Greenbelt Lindsay Hepler, 2003 Junior Miss Greenbelt Jenny Lindvall and 2003 Miss Greenbelt Danyelle Thomas – will be turning over their crowns to a new trio who will represent the city. The pageant takes place throughout the festival climaxing with the crowning on Sunday evening from 6 to 9 p.m.

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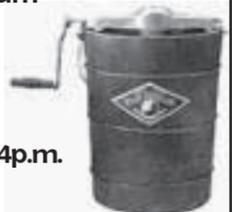
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**BANDS** continued from page 1

phonist Bill Baker and drummer Doug Macuch. Hold onto your seat for great Friday night sounds!

**Herman's Hermits**

The Saturday daytime stage this year will host a band that is new to the festival and a very special treat – Herman's Hermits, featuring Peter Noone. They will perform from 1 to 3 p.m. At the age of 15, Noone achieved international fame as "Herman" in the '60s. The group sold over 60 million recordings – of which 14 singles and seven albums went gold. They were twice named Cashbox's "Entertainer of the Year." "Herman" Noone performed on hundreds of top-rated television programs with such luminaries as Ed Sullivan, Jackie Gleason, Dean Martin and Danny Kaye and starred in three highly successful feature films for MGM, "Dick Wittington," "Aladdin" and "Sinbad the Sailor."

In the '80s he performed on Broadway in "The Pirates of Penzance."

He has also appeared on prime-time television shows such as "Married with Children" and "Dave's World."

For four years, Noone served as host of VH1's "My Generation" and hosted the PBS Special "The British Invasion Returns."

Accompanied by his band, Vance Brescia, Mike Brucoleri, Dave Ferrara and Tony Tallarico, Noone plays to sold-out venues the world over. There is no doubt that his compelling stage



**Peter Noone achieved international fame as "Herman" in the '60s. "Herman's Hermits" will perform from 1 to 3 on Saturday afternoon.**

presence will delight fans of all ages (and all those in Greenbelt) for a long time to come. The festival is happy to have them be part of the 50th Labor Day Festival.

**"Spin"**

"Spin" is new to the festival this year also and will be performing on the Labor Day Festival stage Saturday night. The four-piece dance/rock/party band was formed in 2002 – with Kimberly Stone on vocals, Jim and Jeff Black on keys and percussion and Rob Michaloski on guitar. Michaloski and Jim Black were members of the band "Pride" which had performed at past festivals. The new band performs all over the Baltimore/Washington area in clubs and at private functions. They provide listeners with powerful, well-blended vocals and instrumentation resulting in a strong, solid sound. Spin plays a diverse mix of contemporary and classic hits as well as original tunes. It will have the Saturday night Labor Day Festival stage rockin'!



**"Spin" will perform at the Labor Day Festival from 9 p.m. to Midnight on Saturday.**

*Part 2 – 1964: the 10th Year*

**History of the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Art Shows**

by Barbara Simon

1964 was a crucial year for the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. The festival was 10 years old but its future still uncertain. Even its name was not fixed; the August 29 issue of the News Review of the previous year printed the program for the festival but referred to it as the ninth annual Greenbelt Festival.

However, by July 1964 things were looking better. In the July 2 issue of the News Review an article stated that a "City Fair" was being planned for the Labor Day weekend. An article the following week mentioned that the festival might have been allowed to lapse but that the idea was "resuscitated by the Greenbelt Shopping Center Association." Representatives from local organizations had met and voted to set up a permanent steering committee (apparently for the first time) for the festival. Leo Gerton was the chair.

One of the first things the new steering committee needed to decide was the name. By the next issue (July 16), the editors could state that plans were being made for "the 10th Annual Labor Day Festival." In the same article, Frank Lewis is listed as chair of the committee planning a competitive arts and crafts exhibition at the new municipal building, which was to be dedicated that weekend. The 10th Labor Day Festival and its 10th art show were off to a good start!

Two weeks later, in the July 30 issue of the News Review an article headed "Labor Day Art Show" said that cash prizes were being planned. There would be two divisions, professional and amateur and

two categories in each division – paintings (including collage) and "mixed media, water color, pastels, graphics and drawings." Plans for a "most popular entry" would be based on balloting by visitors to the show.

Professor George O'Connell from the University of Maryland Art Department had agreed to be the chief judge. Invitations to enter the show were being sent to all Washington area art clubs. The Greenbelt Arts and Crafts Guild was listed as sponsor for the show.

Back in the fall of 1959, Ben Abramowitz, who had headed the effort to have an art show in the Labor Day Festival, expressed hope that the excitement the art show generated in the city would encourage other arts activities, such as an art club, in Greenbelt. In the intervening years the Greenbelt Arts and Crafts Guild was formed and during the summer of 1964 it sponsored an exhibit of work by local artists at the Twin Pines and Savings Loan office in the Center.

That year in August in his "Arty Facts" column in the News Review, Lewis noted that critiques by James Forbes and Peter Birmingham were included in weekly Wednesday night painting workshops the guild was holding at the Youth Center. That month the show at Twin Pines was work by the Thursday Night Art Club, a small group of "housewives," according to an article in the News Review.

Given all this activity, it's not surprising that the guild was soon making plans for two other projects besides the show for the Labor Day Festival – a showing of a color film on the life and works of Van Gogh and a booth featuring "on-the-spot portrait sketches" by an area artist as

well as "smaller paintings, water colors, drawings and the like" for sale. One major and much more valuable painting was to be raffled off.

A week later Lewis revealed that Keith Pendleton would be the sketch artist at the guild booth and a landscape by Marie Picard for the raffle was on display at Twin Pines, a very life-like New Hampshire winter scene. Lewis described one phone call from a prospective exhibitor, a professional of recognized standing, who wanted to enter 20 paintings.

In the September 3 special festival issue of the News Review it was noted that another artist had been added to the guild booth: "Harry Hetzler will specialize in quick, informal sketches, while Keith Pendleton will offer more finished posed studies." The winners of the Art Festival, including the winners of the "most popular" awards, would be presented with their checks on Monday at 7 p.m. with Mayor Edgar Smith doing the presentations, after which the drawing for the landscape painting would be held.

All of these plans resulted in an art show that "contained nearly 200 entries," while "more than \$200 in cash prizes and merchandise certificates" were given out, according to the article in the September 17 News Review headed "Art Festival Attracts High Quality Exhibits." According to that article, the chief judge, Professor George O'Connell, stated that it was unusual to find such a high quality of work in the amateur division, particularly in the category of oils.



**No Secrets in this Town**

On Friday, August 29, 1997, I proposed marriage to Bernie McGee at her home. I got down on bended knee and she readily accepted. After she donned my ring, she helped me up and we left for dinner.

It was a quick supper, as we wanted to see the opening ceremony of the Labor Day Festival. With few minutes to spare, I dropped Bernie off with chairs at Centerway and went looking for a parking place. I arrived just as the ceremony began. One of the first things on the program is introduction of dignitaries. After doing so, Mayor Toni Bram, to my complete surprise, announced our engagement from the platform. Boy, you can't keep a secret in this town! Especially when your bride-to-be is unwilling.

Later, we visited the booths. At one, George Kochell, an artist, drew a caricature of me kneeling before Bernie with a rose in my mouth (not true) and Bernie holding a ring with a huge diamond (exaggerated). The framed picture is in our entrance hall.

That was my most memorable Labor Day Festival. Bernie's, too.

– Jim Giese

**Good Old-fashioned Fun**

What I remember most about the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival is the good old-fashioned fun and the great diversity among the friendly Greenbelt community we live in. Since attending the festival in 1988, I can recall families and friends, young and old, strolling around the festival grounds smiling, laughing and playing while having a busy good time.

I fondly remember the Labor Day parade floats, marching bands and live stage entertainment that proudly display Greenbelt pride. The festival carnival rides like the Ferris wheel and spinning buckets are fun. The water toss and basketball games where my sons won their first live goldfish and stuffed animals are fond memories.

The Labor Day Festival offers interesting booths to visit for delicious Italian sausages, hot dogs, hamburgers, fresh-squeezed lemonade, candy apples and cotton candy that melts in your mouth. Community organization booths provide the latest interesting updates regarding year-round activities and the Save the Greenbelt environmental initiatives about our parks and lakes. The festival is also a great place to pick up like-new used books at good discount rates.

What I remember most about the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival is the good old-fashioned community fun!

– Jacqueline Miller Byrd



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Remodeled townhome with modern kitchen. Fenced backyard with large custom-built shed. Near USDA property - great location! \$105,900

**Historic Greenbelt**

Single-family home with in-law apt. and separate entrance. 4 br. & 2 full baths. Completely renovated. Large deck and shed. \$324,900 SOLD

**Three Bedroom Townhome**

One of the few GHI homes with a bedroom and full bathroom on the first floor. Remodeled kit., stacking w & d and fenced yard. Coming Soon.

**Brick Townhome**

Unique GHI townhome on the library end of town. Many modifications and improvements. Large yard and close to Center. \$174,900 SOLD

**Townhome With Addition - Backs To Woods**

Frame townhome with extra half-bath on first floor. Large addition that overlooks Parcel 1 protected woodlands - very private! \$129,900 SOLD

U.C. = Under contract; seller may consider back-up offers



## Results from Last Election Survey Are Made Available

by Barbara Hopkins

For a number of years voters exiting polling places during Greenbelt city elections, have been invited to provide city staff



and officials with feedback on how well the city serves its residents. This feedback is received in the form of a questionnaire developed and periodically revised by city staff and approved by the city council. Results of the 2003 survey, tabulated by Sukol Communications, presented here.

### Voter Characteristics

The questionnaire was completed by 1,149 people or 55.4 percent of voters in the 2003 city election. Just under 30 percent of respondents lived in single family homes and 34.5 percent lived in GHI. Apartments (12.7 percent), townhouses (13.5 percent) and condominiums (9.4 percent) made up the rest of the housing types of those responding.

Forty percent of responders were between 45 and 60 years of age and 31.5 percent were over 60. Thirty-nine percent had lived in Greenbelt for more than 20 years (compared to 36 percent in 2001 and 42 percent in 1999) and another 23 percent had lived here from 11 to 20 years.

About one-fifth (20 percent) of working participants worked in the city, 32 percent worked in the county and 22 percent worked in the District. Twenty-nine percent of respondents were retired. The majority of working people (66 percent) drove to work with less than 10 percent using either the bus, a carpool or vanpool, walking or cycling to work or telecommuting. Fourteen percent used Metrorail.

### Services Rated

Respondents were asked to rate city services with a score of four for "excellent," three for "good," two for "fair" and one for "poor."

The highest rated services were horticulture/planting (3.6), special events (3.58), Aquatic & Fitness Center (3.53) and Community Center (3.51). Trash collection and recycling pick-up tied for fifth with scores of 3.5 each. Greenbelt citizens seem well educated on their recycling program with 90 percent indicating they knew what items to recycle.

Traffic control (2.84), parking enforcement (2.88), animal control (2.99), police presence (3.09) and street lighting (3.12) were the service categories with the lowest ratings. Animal control had an increase of 16 percent from 2001 and parking enforcement also improved from that year.

There was also a considerable improvement in the scores for Greenbelt CARES, although the number of people who responded to the CARES questions was relatively low (less than 15 percent of respondents).

Those who had contact with either the police department or the community development staff indicated most of the time that the contact

was satisfactory and that employees were polite and courteous.

The Assistance in Living Program was new at the time, but 63 percent of responding voters indicated they were aware of it and over half reported an interest in senior counseling programs.

### Schools Evaluated

Only 219 respondents indicated they had school age children, but most schools showed improvement in their ratings. Springhill Lake Elementary improved by 32 percent, Greenbelt Middle School by 24 percent, Greenbelt Elementary by 19 percent, St. Hugh's by 11 percent, Eleanor Roosevelt by seven percent and Magnolia Elementary by less than one percent.

The "most critical needs" reported for schools were the same as in 2001: smaller classes (nearly 79 percent of the 219 people with school age children) and more teachers (67.5 percent). Books had the next highest response (nearly 40 percent).

### Arts Categories

The questionnaire asked what three arts activities most interested the responder. The highest categories were music, crafts, photography, painting/drawing, drama, dance, film/TV, sculpture/ceramics and creative writing.

Viewers of the city's cable channel decreased in 2003 compared to 2001. Only 35 percent of respondents said they had watched a city council meeting on the cable channel, down from 50 percent in 2001. City staff speculate that it may have something to do with the change in location of the channel between those years.

In 2001, 34 percent of responders indicated they had watched other programming on the city's cable TV channel, but in 2003 this percentage went down to 18.

The number of people visiting Greenbelt's website since 2001 went up six percent to 47 percent. Eighty-two percent of responders indicated they have Internet access.

### General Comments

The responses to the "General Comments" question at the end of the survey were too varied and numerous to categorize effectively.

### New Survey

Assistant City Manager David Moran says information gleaned from the survey is distributed to appropriate personnel for consideration in budgeting and programming decisions. He said a decision to continue the survey will be made as the 2005 city election draws closer. The survey is not conducted during the years of a general election.



## Do You Remember?

Do you remember when the parade route took a turn at the Mobil station and traveled down along Centerway before going back up to Crescent Road? It was a much more intimate setting, but, yes a little tight for some units. And, of course, Centerway was a little wider in those days as it handled traffic in both directions.

And another remember when: The bandstand and carnival used to be in the parking area behind the Center (between what is now the post office and what was then Candy Cane playground). The sloping hill behind the mother and child statue provided an excellent place to lay out a blanket and watch the events on the stage.

And a memory about being in the parade: The year I was Outstanding Citizen (1990) I was sitting all perky and dignified on the back of my convertible at the beginning of the parade route, basking in the glory of being the honorary grand marshal of the parade. Just as we were to begin, the organizers came rushing up to my car in a panic and asked whether it would be all right for Governor William Donald Schaefer to share my car. It seems that his car had broken down and he had no place to ride. We actually drew a lot more attention as a team than we would have individually. And even in that short distance, we had a lot of politics to discuss.

And a question: There have been some pretty major rain storms that have almost washed out the Labor Day weekend festivities completely. I hope some weather man among us has the statistics on bad weather and how many times (if ever) the festival was shut down for good. I remember sitting under a tarp more than once to watch the Miss Greenbelt pageant. And I sold B-B-Q sandwiches many times from the Cultural Arts booth when I was amazed that anyone in their right mind would actually walk around in the downpour.

— Joyce M. Chestnut



## Such Great Friends

One of the best memories of my life happened at the Greenbelt Labor Day festival. I decided to be a contestant in the Miss Greenbelt Pageant. Since it was the first pageant I had ever competed in, I based my expectations on a movie I had seen, where the girls were conceited, self-absorbed, and only cared about looks. In actuality, the Miss Greenbelt Pageant is a scholarship competition, not a beauty pageant. Personality is worth much more than looks. Also, the nine beautiful and talented young women I competed against became my closest friends. They weren't the snobby, mean girls we see on television. These girls were my sisters. They cheered me on in hopes that I would do well, as I did for them. We believed that if one of us won, we were all winners. In the end, I did not win or even become the runner-up. But when they announced the winners, I was still smiling because we were a team that had just won the championship. The experience I had with them is a memory I will cherish forever because when you have such great friends, who needs a title and crown?

— Jayashree Katta

The city's public work trucks always mark the end of the parade.

## Extraterrestrial Report

TO: Central Command

FROM: Ziklfgg'n-Dingdang

The following is my report as to why I was late returning to the base.

My zzlerpniks failed and I was forced to land on some backwater planet in Sector 432. Well, you know how hard it is to find a good mechanic, so I kept my eyes peeled (two of them, while the other three caught some z's). Using my scanners, I thought I spotted an open-air launch station.

Numerous inhabitants lined up with tickets waiting to enter a number of machines which I took to be interstellar vehicles, several of which looked like older-model short-hop shuttles. One, labeled the "Gravitron," looked especially promising. So I set down there.

But they weren't vehicles at all. The machines are used for no discernable purpose. Or at least none that I could fathom.

Apparently, they just stand there and go round and round, turning the occupants upside down and flinging them about. It seems like a painful experience. The screaming is something awful to hear.

I tried one of them, just to be sure I wasn't misunderstanding something. I got so dizzy I nearly blrffed by blerddneg.

The machines were set up temporarily for an event known as a "Labor Day." Perhaps it's a fertility rite symbolizing birth pangs. Some form of penance seems involved.

In any case, I recorded some observations, which you can forward to the Ministry of Strange and Deviant Subcultures, if they're interested.

Another noteworthy feature of this place: While not particularly rational, the inhabitants, who are just about our size, are quite friendly, and are of surpassing generosity. At all times, they accompany themselves with surly creatures nearly twice their size who they apparently keep as pets, despite their penchant for ill-tempered barking. Their pets have some surface similarities in appearance, so they may be a related species further down the evolutionary scale.

I never did locate a competent mechanic, but — since I obviously managed to return — you might want to know how I did it. A local gave me a device that I was able to use to bypass the entire control board. It's got some features that we haven't developed yet, so I'm sure you'll want to study it carefully. The inhabitants call it a "Super Nintendo."

**Note:** this story, "intercepted by David Morse," originally appeared in the September 8, 1994, issue of the Greenbelt News Review.



1996. All set up for fun with face painting and a new red nose from Notlim the Clown and green hair.

Photo by Tom Carter