

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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DECEMBER 10, 2009

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown Meets Greenbelters at ERHS Town Hall

by Cindy Henneberger

Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown called together his Facebook friends and Prince George's residents for a unique community meeting on December 2 at Greenbelt's Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Proclaiming the gathering a session where he would "listen and learn," Brown made it his first order of business to pull a barstool away from the podium and place himself face to face in front of the audience.

Opening with a warning shot, Brown discussed Maryland's economy: "For the first time since the depression, our state budget today is smaller than it was four years ago." Education and public safety, he said, were progressing despite budget cuts.

In public safety, "Prince George's County is leading the way," Brown said. "We've seen a decrease in violent crime over the past year, a decrease in the number of homicides."

Brown ended his seven-minute



PHOTO BY CINDY HENNEBERGER

Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown

speech by tossing the ball back to the audience. Re-emphasizing his intent to listen and learn, Brown opened up the floor to questions and ideas.

At the meeting Greenbelt and Prince George's County residents were outnumbered by the sea

of state and other government officials in attendance. But the residents proved to be a vocal minority, sometimes asking, sometimes firing questions at the lieutenant governor and his team of public servants.

Industry Development

Reggie Dixon from the Mission Arts Foundation complained, "I don't see the development of industry within this county." He asked what the state was doing to help. Citing poor public education and high crime as deterrents to business development, Dixon said that nearly 400,000 residents leave the county every morning to go to work and "our dollars are leaving with them."

Tying in economic recovery with the strength of public education, Brown pointed to Maryland's standing as number one in the country in education. But when it came to Prince George's

See **TOWN HALL**, page 6

Council Plans Tennis Lighting And Cameras around the City

by Stacy Jones

The Greenbelt City Council knows that all kinds of funding will be scarce during the next fiscal year, so it's trying to spend its remaining money as judiciously as possible.

At a worksession last Wednesday, the council discussed plans to install new lights on some of the Braden Field tennis courts, test new street lights along Springhill Lane in Empirian Village, install two surveillance cameras near the Metro station and give some of the city's roadside trees some much-needed pruning.

Assistant Director of Recreation for Operations Joe McNeal said the council plans to replace the light poles on four of the eight Braden Field tennis courts with new 24-foot lights that use 6,000 watt bulbs, half the wattage of the current bulbs. While it's hard to determine exactly how much the city pays to light the tennis courts since they run on the same meter as some street lights and other fixtures, the councilmembers reasoned that the drastically lower wattage would be budget-friendly.

McNeal said it would be best to ask contractors for separate bids on relighting work on four and eight courts to give the council a chance to decide whether replacing all the \$1-per-hour lights is financially feasible on a budget of \$330,000.

The pay-to-play lights currently bring in between \$700 and \$1,000

annually, which comes nowhere near the cost to the city.

About 20 members of the Greenbelt Tennis Association (GTA) attended the meeting to advocate on behalf of replacing lights on all eight courts carrying signs that read, "Light All Tennis Courts." Some told stories about joining pricey fitness clubs in neighboring cities to avoid the poorly-lit courts in Greenbelt.

"It's not like we'll have no lights on those courts," said Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis. If in fact only four courts' worth of lights are replaced now, the other four would be maintained with parts from the others until

the budget allowed for upgrades. Jokingly, City Manager Mike McLaughlin called it cost-saving light fixture cannibalism.

If the city awards a bid, 75 percent of the funding for the project will come through a Program Open Space grant and the remainder from city funds. McNeal predicted that if the bids were sought this month, council would be able to choose a contractor and have work begin between February and March and the project could potentially be completed by May.

Just in time for the GTA tournament during the first weekend in May, said members.

What Goes On

Saturday, December 12

9 a.m. to noon, Donation Drop-off, Parking Lot between Municipal Building and Community Center

10 a.m. to noon, Santa visits Greenbelt, Youth Center. Free picture of child's visit.

2 p.m., Youth Advisory Committee Interest Meeting, Youth Center

Sunday, December 13

3 p.m., Holiday Lights Concert by Greenbelt Concert Band, Community Center

7:30 p.m., Combined Choir Concert, Greenbelt Community Church

Monday, December 14

8 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 p.m., Council Worksession with Civic Associations, Community Center

Thursday, December 17

7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Board meeting, GHI Board Room

American Education Week November 15 to 21, 2009

In a celebration of American education, these columns have been telling the stories of selected teachers from the schools that serve the Greenbelt community.

This final week readers will get a glimpse inside St. Hugh's School.

Past week's issues featured teachers from Greenbelt, Magnolia and Springhill Lake Elementary, Eleanor Roosevelt High and Greenbelt Middle Schools and Turning Point Academy.

This series has been developed and coordinated by David Lange, who is the coordinator of volunteers at Greenbelt Elementary School.

De Le Grand's Passion Is To See Her Students Learn

by Altoria Bell Ross

To say that De Le Grand is enthusiastic about teaching would be a gross understatement. Actually, she's rather fervent about the business of learning.

"Watching their whole world come alive is a joy," Le Grand says of her first-grade students at St. Hugh's; her classroom is a reflection of her passion.

Surrounded by pint-sized desks and seasons of the year deftly applied to window shades in the azure room, Le Grand explains that instruction is broken down by learning centers: computer, reading literacy, art, brain game, independent work and teacher time where two to three of her 11 students read to her.

"They are so spongy at this



De Le Grand

age. It is just beautiful," says Le Grand, gesturing while she shows off the Christmas card kit that her students have been working on at the independent station.

Pupils also get to soak their sponges in math, writing and responsibility. A gigantic page of figures hangs from the wall as Le Grand

reviews the day's math lesson. She also points out a draft essay at the head of the room where she has instructed students earlier in the day on the fine art of revision. In addition, students learn about responsibility by taking turns passing out paper, being line leader and other tasks that build self-confidence.

See **LE GRAND**, page 11

Erin Fritsch's Dream Is Her Science Teacher Job

by Altoria Bell Ross

While some people inherit their family's sense of humor, eye color or blood type, Erin Fritsch inherited education. The St. Hugh's science teacher comes from a strong line of teachers. Her mother was one and her brother too.

Fritsch, a native of Ahoskie, N.C., began her educational journey at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received her degree in education with emphasis on math and science. Upon graduation, she taught at Eastway Elementary School in Durham, N.C., for a year. Then she moved to the Washington metropolitan area and taught at Patrick Henry in Arlington, Va. for another year. Afterward, she taught general ed-



Erin Fritsch

ucation at Arlington Science Focus School for three years before her dream came true this year - landing a science specialist position at St. Hugh's where she teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

"My teaching philosophy is that students need to have a variety of channels through which to

learn information. Specifically related to science, I think that students need to have a concrete experience, through laboratory activities but then other types of instruction to follow it up to reach auditory and visual learners as well," Fritsch says. "Every lesson should try to address as many of the multiple intelligences

See **FRITSCH**, page 11

Letters

THANKS!

Thank you, Community Church, for so generously allowing us to use your meeting room last Saturday for Ronda Ansted's moving slideshow presentation on the joys and heart-breaks of her recent Peace Corps experience in South Africa.

Our county RESULTS (www.results.org) group was privileged to sponsor Ronda's program. We're delighted she's chosen to add her energy to our nonpartisan citizens' action group which seeks an international Global Fund for Education.

Pat Behenna
RESULTS volunteer

Wintry Foods Focus Of "Shop Healthy"

The next program in Co-op's ongoing free "Shop Healthy Series" is on wintry, savory foods and will be held on Wednesday, December 16 from 7 to 8 p.m. Meet in the produce department.

Winter is the time to incorporate more "building" foods in the diet. People tend to eat comfort foods that contain more fat, heavier proteins and root vegetables to help endure the harshness of winter. Ellen Siegel and Kim Rush Lynch will focus on savory dishes using ingredients that warm the body and soothe the digestive tract such as legumes, healthy fats, hearty grains, root vegetables and herbs.

December 30 is patron appreciation day with five percent savings on purchases. Beginning in January, the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy will sponsor "Seasonal & Savory" monthly to celebrate patron appreciation day. There will be a series of cooking demos and samplings to encourage shoppers to increase their consumption of fresh fruits and vegetables. Each month, staff members Siegel and Rush Lynch will prepare a savory dish that will feature items from the produce department along with other unfamiliar ingredients from the store. Co-op wine consultant John Mealey will recommend a few wines to pair with the tasty fare. There will also be other samplings of products from the store.

The next Shop Healthy event, "Enhancing the Immune System with Whole Foods," will take place January 13. The January 27 program will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. with a Tamarind theme.

A Review

"The Devil's Christmas Carol" Is Clever Take on Classic

by Carol Griffith

Imagine Hell as a place where one goes after death temporarily to work through a few issues before being sent on to wherever one is destined to go for eternity. And one of the ways to learn your lesson is to be ordered to play a part in a never-ending performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." That's the premise of "The Devil's Christmas Carol," a musical drama completely written by Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) veteran performer Penny Martin, which will be performed at GAC again this weekend.

Hell is a very interesting place in the play. It is inhabited by demons, imps (cutely played by Julia Sharapi and Kathryn Turnbull) and the appointed director of the ongoing play who really does appear to belong in Hell (a fiendish Phil Brandis).

Although some of the temporary inhabitants of Hell seem to be too good to have been sent there, one man's story is a central part of the plot. In the course of rebuilding his relationship with his daughter (beautifully played and sung by Christa Kronser), he has been forced to play the part of Tiny Tim over and over. Played very well by John Madi-

gan, he is shown vignettes of his daughter's life by a trio of ghost dancers, in a manner similar to Scrooge being given glimpses of Christmases past, present and future in the Dickens classic. The scene is particularly well-choreographed by Sara Herrera and danced beautifully by Cloe Bush, Francesca Gonzalez and Barbara Turnbull.

Cindy Madigan, Jerry Martin and Trix Whitehall round out the cast, with frequent GAC performer Glen Nelson doing his always excellent job.

The talented Martin has also written all of the music for the play. The instrumental overture and March of the Imps are intriguing compositions. The 20 musical numbers have very clever lyrics and melodies. Kudos to musical director John Ward for his very able assistance with the music.

"The Devil's Christmas Carol" will play on Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 13, at 2 p.m. Reservations may be made through the box office at 301-441-8770 or at the Greenbelt Arts Center at 123 Centerway, located beneath the Co-op supermarket.

St. Hugh Announces School Is Closing

It is now official that St. Hugh School will close at the end of this school year. Following years of declining enrollment and months of discussion, St. Hugh Pastor Walter Tappe announced the closure both from the pulpit and in a letter to church members. Father Tappe sought and received permission from the Archdiocese of Washington to close the school in June 2010. As reported recently in local papers, St. Hugh is one of several

area Catholic schools facing declining enrollment, including St. Mark's and St. Jerome, both in Hyattsville.

Tappe indicated that St. Hugh hopes to merge with St. Joseph's School in Beltsville to form a regional school at the Beltsville location. He indicated that the merged school will remain the official school for the St. Hugh parish and will be supported financially and pastorally by the parish.

— Mary Moien

Send Your Holiday Greetings



The News Review will publish Holiday Greetings in the December 17 issue of this paper.
The ad desk is open on Mondays 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays 2 to 4 and 8 to 10 p.m.

NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Thursday, December 17, 2009

GHI BOARD ROOM, 7:30 PM

GHI Key Agenda Items:

- State's Attorney's Office: Nuisance Abatement Policy
- Unpermitted Oversize Shed, 10M Southway
- Unpermitted Shed, 20C Ridge
- Proposed Bay Window, 8B Plateau Place
- Yard Line Certification: 12 Court Plateau Place
- Crescent Road Right-of-Way Cost Proposal
- Materials Rules Changes: Member Feedback
- Proposed Rules Change: Placement of HVAC
- 2010 Business Owner's Insurance Policy Renewal
- Contract for Repairs, 2D Northway
- Frame Homes Siding Recommendations

Regular Board meetings are open to Members
For more information, visit our website - www.ghi.coop

Grin Belt



AGNES CONATY ©2009

"I want a Zhu-zhu pet hamster that won't eat my acorn."

On Screen

Jenny Gets An Education in Life

In the early 1960s in London, Jenny, a young girl (Carey Mulligan), is pushed by her family to be educated at Oxford. She meets a much older man (Peter Sarsgaard) who shows her the rich, sophisticated life and she begins questioning her life and goals. "An Education" includes a cameo appearance by Emma Thompson.

Rated PG-13 for adult themes; runs 100 min.

— Carol Griffith

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Carol Griffith, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Mary Willis Clarke

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.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF DEC. 11

An Education

(PG-13)

Friday

*5, 7:30, 9:30

Saturday

*2:45, *5, 7:30, 9:30

Sunday

*2:45, *5, 7:30

Monday - Thursday

*5:15, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.00
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pandgtheatres.com

Community Events

At the Library Storytimes

A librarian will read age-appropriate stories.

Tuesday, December 15, 1:30 and 2 p.m., Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months old with caregiver, limit 15 babies for each group.

Wednesday, December 16, 10:30 and 11 a.m., Toddler time for ages 18 to 35 months, with caregiver, limit 15 children for each group.

Thursday, December 17, 10:30 a.m., Drop-in Storytime for ages three to five years, limit 20 children.

Caregivers are asked to pick up a free ticket at the Children's Desk.



GHI Notes

Friday, December 11, offices closed. Emergency maintenance available. Call 301-474-6011.

Wednesday, December 16, 7 p.m., Buildings Task Force Meeting – Board Room

7 p.m., Woodlands Committee Meeting – GHI Lobby

7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee – GHI Lunch Room

7:30 p.m., Nominations & Elections Committee Meeting – GHI Library

Thursday, December 17, 7:30 p.m., Board Meeting – Board Room

Friday, December 18, GHI offices will close at noon for the staff holiday party.

Saturday, December 19, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Room.

Committee and board meetings are open; members are encouraged to attend.

Honey Dewdrops Play Café Next Wednesday

The Honey Dewdrops, Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish, a duet specializing in deep-rooted harmonies and honest melodies, will play at the New Deal Café on Wednesday, December 16 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Honey Dewdrops released their debut record, *If the Sun Will Shine*, this past May and just finished two cross-country and northeastern support tours. They play original and American traditional acoustic music focusing on harmonies and complementing instrumentation. They received a first place in the Prairie Home Companion 2008 talent show, bringing them national attention; were finalists from this year's Mountain Stage New Song Contest; and took second place in Decatur, Ga., in the 31st Eddie's Attic Open-microphone Shootout.

New Deal Café Upcoming Events

Thursday, December 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. there's an open microphone session for music, poetry and prose.

Weekend

Friday, December 11 from 8 to 11 p.m. The Furies play all-original modern rock. On Saturday, December 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., share a laugh with TV John's comic music and his Legendary Band. Bruce Kritt, the "Wunderboy" of classical guitar, plays from 4 to 6 p.m. From 8 to 11 p.m. Georgie Jessup breaks and rebuilds hearts with her original rock songs. Sunday, December 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. features the hospitable and versatile Jack Couldn't Make It American/country gang.

Next Week

Dan Walters will play folk/roots on Tuesday, December 15 from 7 to 9 p.m. The Honey Dewdrops duo brighten with American/folk harmonies Wednesday night, December 16 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Thursday, December 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. the Songwriters Association of Washington returns to host the third-Thursday open microphone night.

Next Weekend

The Andy Poxon Band plays blues from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday, December 18. On Saturday, December 19 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. TV John returns, then Steve Pollack plays guitar without a pick from 1 to 2:45 p.m. From 8 to 11 p.m. Jazz Great Buck Hill returns for his monthly engagement with "the smalltrio" jazz band, just 12 days before he celebrates New Year's Eve at the Café. On Sunday, December 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. it's the Not 2 Cool Jazz Trio for brunch, then Sahffi showcases Indie/acoustic/folk rock from 5 to 8 p.m.

ACE Science Club Meets on Dec. 17

The ACE Science Club, a free Greenbelt children's group for kids age 8 to 14, will meet on Thursday, December 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. Come enjoy science experiments, explorations, magic tricks and more.

The ACE Science Club is sponsored by the City of Greenbelt and administered by the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education. In 2010 the Science Club will meet on the fourth Thursdays of each month: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 24 and July 22.

GIVES Meeting, Holiday Celebration

Greenbelt's Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will hold its regular quarterly meeting and annual holiday celebration on Saturday, December 12 at 10 a.m. in Room 114 of the Greenbelt Community Center. Current members, as well as those who might be interested in joining, are invited to attend the meeting and then celebrate the season together.

Those wishing to do so are invited to bring food or drink to share. This is an excellent opportunity to see what GIVES does for the community. Come and join. For further information call Jean Cook at 301-345-2597.

Kids Can Breakfast With Santa Claus

The Greenbrier and Glen Oaks community will host a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. Children of all ages are welcome to have breakfast with Santa in the Terrace Room. There is no fee but attendance is limited.

For reservations call 301-441-1096.

Free Film Viewing And Silent Auction

Attend an internationally acclaimed film screening of "The Meaning of Tea," at the New Deal Café on Monday, December 14 starting at 6:30 p.m. After the movie, viewers can participate in a silent auction of elite competition-grade teas from China, Japan, Korea, India, the U. S. and Kenya. Auction proceeds will help poor children receive medical care and treatment from major trauma injuries and burns. GATE's Utopia Film Festival & Hand Reach Children's Healing Initiative are the event sponsors.



Greenbriar, Glen Oaks Toy Drive Underway

Greenbriar and Glen Oaks residents are asked to lend a helping hand by participating in a toy drive. This is a perfect way to clean out homes and help those in need. The toy drive will end on December 18. Bring unopened or gently used toys to the Greenbriar office Monday through Friday.



GATE's Utopia Film Festival & HandReach Children's Healing Initiative

Bring a free screening of the award winning film
"The Meaning Of Tea"

Monday Night, Dec 14, 6:30 – 9:30 PM
New Deal Café
(Kitchen is open for your dining pleasure (301) 474 5642)

Film was # 1 in audience attendance at the 2008 Utopia Film Festival.

Before and after this internationally acclaimed film screening, there will be a **silent auction** of a featured collection of elite competition-grade teas from the finest tea-producing nations of China, Japan, Korea, India, the United States, and Kenya. **Auction proceeds go to helping poor children suffering from major trauma injuries and burns obtain medical care and treatment.**




Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club Meeting

Friday, December 18, 2009 at 7:30PM

Greenbriar Community Center Terrace Room,
7600 Hanover Parkway, Greenbelt, MD

Please join us for our annual holiday party and swearing in of our officers by Justin Ross.

All are welcome!

For information please call 301.386.0762
or visit <http://roosevelt.pgdems.com>.

Please bring a snack or dessert to share.




Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday 10am – 4pm

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

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

Greenbelt Arts Center
Closing THIS WEEK:

The Devil's Christmas Carol

December 11-12: Friday & Saturday at 8:00PM
Sunday Matinee: December 13 at 3:00pm

Book and Lyrics and Directed by Penny Eileen Martin

Tickets are \$15 general admission, and \$12 for seniors and students.

Call for reservations at 301.441.8770

123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • <http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org>
Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

Coming Soon: *The Chromatics* – December 19 at 8pm

Auditions: *Greenbelt Voices* – January 2 and 3 at 7-9:30pm

Man of La Mancha – January 4 and 5 at 7pm

Pleasant Touch Holds Holiday Open House

Pleasant Touch Wellness Center and Day Spa will hold a holiday open house on Wednesday, December 16 from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be information and special holiday prices available on some of the spa's Eminence product line.

During the open house Sarah Garcia will demonstrate healing mandala, a preview of mandala workshops she will facilitate at the spa on January 9 and 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.

An additional pleasure of a visit is to view Pleasant Touch's art deco furnishings, decorated for the holidays. The highlights are eight art deco statues by master sculptor Demetri Chiparus (1886-1947) on loan from Greenbelter Marsha Voigt's collection – reproductions using Chiparus' chryselephantine (ivory and bronze) production technique.

Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall
Center Court
301-220-1155

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.
Adults/Seniors: \$6.50
Children: \$6.00

ALL SHOWS BEFORE NOON
ON SATURDAY \$5.00

ALL SHOWS AFTER 5 p.m.
Adults: \$8.50
Students/Military: \$7.50
Children: \$6.00
Seniors: \$6.50

R = ID Required
(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

Week of DEC. 11

FRI. – SAT.
2012, PG-13
12:20, 3:30, 6:35, 9:45
Twilight Saga: New Moon, PG-13
12:30, 3:50, 7:05, 10:10
Invictus, PG-13 (!)
12:25, 3:45, 7, 10:05
Brothers, R
11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
Armored, PG-13
11:20, 1:30, 3:45, 6:10, 8:20, 10:35
Princess and the Frog, G
11:10, 1:20, 3:35, 6, 8:20, 10:25
Precious, R
11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50, 10:25
Ninja Assassin, R
11:10, 1:20, 3:35, 6, 8:20, 10:25

SUN.
2012, PG-13
12:15, 3:25, 7
Twilight Saga: New Moon, PG-13
12:30, 3:50, 7:05
Invictus, PG-13 (!)
12:25, 3:45, 7
Brothers, R
11:45, 2:30, 5:15, 7:50
Armored, PG-13
11:20, 1:30, 3:45, 6:10, 8:20
Princess and the Frog, G
11:10, 1:20, 3:35, 6, 8:20
Precious, R
11:45, 2:30, 5:05, 7:50
Ninja Assassin, R
11:10, 1:20, 3:35, 6, 8:20

MON. – THU.
2012, PG-13
12:15, 3:25, 7
Twilight Saga: New Moon, PG-13
12:45, 3:45, 7:30
Invictus, PG-13 (!)
12:45, 3:45, 7:30
Brothers, R
12:10, 2:35, 5:15, 7:40
Armored, PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:05, 7:30
Princess and the Frog, G
12:10, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20
Precious, R
12:10, 2:35, 5:15, 7:40
Ninja Assassin, R
12:10, 2:25, 4:50, 7:20

Live Musical Theater For the Holidays

The Trinity Assembly of God Church will present The Richest Man in the Valley, a live musical theater production for the holidays. This free show will be offered on Sunday, December 13 at 10:45 a.m. and December 19 and 20 at 6 p.m.

For more information call the church at 301-552-9322. Trinity Assembly of God is located at 7800 Good Luck Road in Lanham.

Christmas Concert By Combined Choir

The Greenbelt Combined Choir under the direction of Jean Cook will present its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Church, located at the corner of Crescent and Hillside Roads.

The audience will be invited to join in the singing of traditional Christmas carols. The choir will sing a diverse collection of old and new selections, while small groups of performers will add their special talents to the evening's entertainment.

Following the concert there will be light refreshments for all in the Fellowship Hall of the church. All are invited to join in this traditional Greenbelt event.

Mowatt Holds Blue Christmas Service

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will hold a special "Blue Christmas" worship service on Sunday, December 20 at 7 p.m.

For many, Christmas is a bittersweet time of year – a time for remembering both people and events that have been part of life in the past but that are now changed or gone. Others are facing uncertain futures due to loss of jobs, illness or disease. It is also the time of year with the longest nights. The Blue Christmas service is a quiet meditative worship service that makes time for remembering, sharing hurts with God and preparing hearts for the coming of Christ.

Mowatt Memorial Church is at 40 Ridge Road in Greenbelt.

Kids Candlelight Holiday Tour

Small revelers are invited to a special children's candlelight holiday tour of Belair Mansion on Saturday, December 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. Youngsters can explore holiday traditions, enjoy cider and cookies and make a special holiday craft to take home.

So that youngsters can have an opportunity to share holiday giving, donations to the Bowie Food Bank will be accepted in lieu of an admission fee. Non-perishable food items will be collected at the door. Belair Mansion is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive in Bowie. For further information call 301-809-3089 or email museumevents@cityofbowie.org.



Condolences to the family and friends of Greenbelt pioneer Ann Walker Bittenbender, 75, who died of cancer on November 21, 2009.

Congratulations to:

– Greenbelt's Congressman Steny Hoyer, who was honored by the nonprofit distiller's Century Council for his commitment to fighting drunk driving and underage drinking. In June 2009 Hoyer provided leadership and support for the council's Ask, Listen, Learn program. The campaign emphasizes that communication between parents and children is key to stopping underage drinking by encouraging parents to talk with their middle school through college age children about alcohol early and often. The Capitol Hill event also included Olympic gold medalist Misty May-Treanor and NBA All-Star

Antawn Jamison.

– Former Greenbelt anchor business, engineering consulting firm Greenhorne & O'Mara, now in Laurel, named Prince George's County Business of the Year.

– Jon Gardner, whose article, "Finding the First Galaxies," is featured on the cover of this month's Sky and Telescope magazine. The cover is at <http://www.skyandtelescope.com/skytel>, although the article is not online.

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

– Kathleen McFarland

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

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

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

Sunday, December 13, 10 a.m.

Music, Dance and Lights by Rev. Diane Teichert with Jennifer Grant, worship associate
On the third Sunday in Advent and the second day of Hanukkah, we'll be lighting five candles, reflecting on these traditions and enjoying seasonal creativity.

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

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111

Sunday 8:15 am Worship Service
9:15 am Sunday School/Bible Study
10:30 am Worship Service



Fax 301-220-0694 • E-mail myholycross@verizon.net

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

301-474-4322

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

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

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd



Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

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

Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM

Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

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

Conservative and Reconstructionist

Happy Hanukkah



PHOTO BY MARY MOJEN

Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, begins on the evening of December 11 with the lighting of the first candle.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am

Prayer Meeting Sun. 9:45 am

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads

Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings

www.greenbeltucc.org

Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.

Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

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

Grieve thou not over the troubles and hardships of this nether world nor be thou glad in times of ease and comfort, for both shall pass away. This present life is even as a swelling wave or a mirage or drifting shadows. (Abdu'l-Baha)

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

Greenbelt Baptist Church

101 Greenhill Road

Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212

www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School

Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service

Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

ALL are Welcome!

"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"



Bible Study & Worship

9:30 "Good Morning! Coffee and Snacks

10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship

Pastor Nigel C. Black, MDiv.

99 Centerway Greenbelt Rec Center

(Behind the Community Center)

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301-474-4499

Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Museum Will Display Trains and Planes

During the holiday season College Park Aviation Museum gets ready for the festivities as miniature trains, villages, tunnels and depots spark the imagination and bring history to life.



The National Capital Trackers bring a fascinating and constantly moving display of model railroads to the museum. This exhibit will be displayed from Saturday, December 19 through Saturday, December 26.

It is free with regular museum admission.

Video Orchestra Performs at UM

The University of Maryland Video Game Orchestra will offer a free concert at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 12. This public event will be presented at the University's Memorial Chapel.

Founded in 2005 by six students, the orchestra has 95 members including a 25-person chorus which sings on its own in addition to accompanying the orchestra instrumentalists. It is the first organization solely devoted to video game music at the collegiate level.

More information is at <http://umd.gamersymphony.org/>.

"Green" Cooking

Cooking instructions often seem like unbreakable codes. If it says 10 minutes, it means 10 minutes, right? Not necessarily: Once one heats up an oven or pot, it retains heat well. So consider turning the oven or stove off several minutes before the timer rings. The food will keep cooking and energy use will be reduced. It's even possible to bring water to a boil, put pasta in, cover it, turn off the stove and go for a walk. On return the pasta will be ready.

- Sierra Club

NAMI Celebrates Its Volunteers

On Saturday, December 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. the local chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) will present its Christmas program, "The NAMI Annual Volunteer Awards Luncheon" at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway in New Carrollton. Everyone is invited to this annual event to honor NAMI members and friends for their outstanding contributions during 2009.

RSVP with number of guests by December 14 to 301-429-0970.

Show and Santa In Laurel Sunday

On Sunday, December 13 from 7 to 8 p.m. the South Laurel Recreation Council presents "The Snow Show" by the Bob Brown Puppets. This free show will be followed by a visit from Santa and his friends.



The program will be held at the Deerfield Run Community Center, 13000 Laurel-Bowie Road Route 197 in South Laurel.

For more information call 301-776-2805 or 301-953-7882.



City Information

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 14, 2009 - 8:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Recycle Right Awards
- Annual Report – School Resource Officers

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

Minutes of Council Meetings

- - Executive Session, November 16, 2009
- *- Interviews, November 23, 2009
- *- Regular Meeting, November 23, 2009

Administrative Reports

Committee Reports

- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Report #09-1 (Annual Open Forum Report)
- Advisory Committee on Education, Report #2-09 (Grants to Educators Program)

LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of a Security Gate and Fencing for the Police Facility from Long Fence Company of Capitol Heights, Maryland

OTHER BUSINESS

- Numbered Trail Markers at Buddy Attick Park
- Advisory Committee on Education, Report #2-09 (Grants to Educators Program)
- Appointment of Councilmembers to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Policy Boards and Committees
- * Reappointment to Advisory Group
- * Resignations from Advisory Group

MEETINGS

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

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 12-18

Saturday, December 12th at 2:00pm, **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE-INTEREST MEETING**, at Youth Center, 99 Centerway .

Monday, December 14, 2009, 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**, Municipal Building. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 8:30pm, **CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**, re: Civic Associations, Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000 or contact the City Clerk at cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

ANIMAL SHELTER PETS OF THE MONTH



Duke: 1 year old neutered male long haired tuxedo. Good with other cats.

Tomas: Big, lovable and super friendly. 3 year old male mastif. Waiting for a best friend.



Ike: Sweet black white male cat. Ike is still waiting for someplace to call home. Free to a good home.



Kittens, Kittens, Kittens: All cute, lovable and playful.



Males and females.

Congratulations to Violet, Sadie, Mama & BaeBae, Smokey and Tia on their recent adoptions. We are sure they will be happy in their new homes!

NEW! Make a donation to the Greenbelt Animal Shelter in someone's name and we will send that person holiday greetings and notification of your donation. Visit all of our available pets now on Facebook. Become a fan of the Greenbelt Animal Shelter.



Visit pets at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter on Wednesdays, from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm. For more information on any of these pets, call 301.474.6124.

DONATION DROP-OFF

American Rescue Workers
Saturday, December 12th
9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
Parking lot between City Office and the Community Center
Info: City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8308.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

- Vacancies exist on:
- Advisory Planning Board
 - Arts Advisory Board
 - Forest Preserve Adv. Board
 - Park & Recreation Adv. Bd
 - Public Safety Adv. Board
 - Youth Advisory Committee

For more info call 301-474-8000.

75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The celebration of the City's 75th Anniversary will occur in 2012. Applications are being accepted from residents interested in serving on this volunteer planning committee. Applications are available on the City website, www.greenbeltmd.gov, or at the City Office Building, 25 Crescent Road. Council will begin interviewing applicants soon.

Become a fan of the City of Greenbelt on Facebook!

INVITATION TO BID

The City of Greenbelt, Maryland, invites sealed bids for furnishing the following:

Tennis Court relighting and resurfacing work on four (4) of the Braden Field Tennis Courts (#1 thru #4). In addition to this work an alternate bid to include lighting on four (4) additional tennis courts at Braden Field (#5 thru #8) is requested.

This work is to be done at the Braden Field Tennis Courts behind the Greenbelt Youth Center, 99 Centerway, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Interested bidders may pick up a bid specifications package for Bid 2009-4 at:

City of Greenbelt Finance Office
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Please call Joe McNeal, Assistant Director of Recreation Operations at (301) 397-2200 regarding bid submission questions. Bids must be RECEIVED no later than 11:00 a.m. on 1/21/2010. Bids will be opened publicly at 11:10 a.m. on 1/21/2010.

CITY OF GREENBELT FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Saturday, December 12 from 10am-12 noon, SANTA VISITS GREENBELT, at the Youth Center, 99 Centerway. Free picture of your child's visit.

Saturday, December 12 from 1:30-3:30pm, ELVES WORKSHOP, at the Youth Center, 99 Centerway. Children ages 6-12, make cookies and crafts with Miss Gaye. \$5 pre-registration required. Info: 301-397-2200.

Sunday, December 13 at 3pm at the Greenbelt Community Center, HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONCERT. Enjoy this free holiday tradition featuring the Greenbelt Concert Band.

Tuesday, December 15 through Thursday, December 17th, NORTH POLE CALLING, Santa and his elves have set aside some time to call Greenbelt's children. Fill out the application form and deliver it to the special mailbox at the Youth Center. Visit the website below for more details.

For a full schedule of Festival of Lights activities, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

TOWN HALL continued from page 1

County, he wanted to focus on progress rather than rankings. "If we focus on where we rank," Brown admitted, "we're at the bottom."

Brown assured the audience that kindergarten through 12th grade were immune from impending budget cuts. "K through 12 is off the table," he proclaimed. As for other programs, Brown said, "It will be a balanced budget. It will be painful."

Higher education was a different story. Brown pointed out that Governor O'Malley and he had succeeded in holding tuition flat for four years at public colleges and universities. He explained, however, "There's a lot of pressure on at least letting it raise with some index," referring to the inflation index as a possibility.

Transportation Issues

Several people brought transportation concerns to the lieutenant governor. Mayor Judith Davis asked for support of transit-oriented development in Greenbelt. "What's holding it up is that we can't get state funding for the interchange off the Beltway," she told Brown.

"We got the funding issue," Brown answered. "I mean there's no money." Reflecting back on 2007, Brown said developers in the private sector were considering forward-funding the Greenbelt transit project but admitted, "Today we couldn't find anyone to do that."

The lieutenant governor nonetheless voiced his advocacy of Metro. Arriving 44 minutes

late for the community meeting because of traffic delays, Brown said, "This is why Governor O'Malley and I are fully embracing and supporting the Purple Line."

Sitting perched on his barstool throughout the evening without raising his voice, Brown fielded tough questions. He made it clear he had not come to "sugar coat."

Alex Hirtle, legislative aide to Thomas Dernoga, chairman of the Prince George's County Council, did not mince words either. Meeting Brown head-on with complaints about the environment's negative effect on Maryland's economy, Hirtle said, "No one wants to open up a business that's next to a river, the Anacostia River, which is one of the most polluted in the nation."

Hirtle also said the state had reneged on its promises of environmental mitigation related to the Intercounty Connector, including mitigation for Indian Creek, which runs through Greenbelt. He reminded Brown that Dernoga had written the governor on this issue. Offering no immediate answer, Brown promised a reply would be forthcoming.

Davis did not let the meeting close without a final request for her hometown: "I just want to put in a plug that Greenbelt would love to be state capital for a day," she told Brown. The lieutenant governor said he would put Greenbelt down for 2010, then turned to his assistant: "We just made a commitment. They gotta be on."

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals need to be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for December 14 through 18 include:

Monday – Split pea soup, stuffed peppers with sauce, mixed greens, whole boiled potatoes, lemon parfait.

Tuesday – Orange juice, eggplant parmesan, seasoned spaghetti, Caesar salad with dressing, almond cookies.

Wednesday – Creamy broccoli soup, baked pork chops, mashed potatoes, sweet peas, apple crisp.

Thursday – Cup of eggnog, London broil with mushroom gravy, twice baked potato, vegetable medley, Watergate salad, apple pie and vanilla ice cream (premium meal).

Friday – Cranapple juice, turkey ham with pineapple sauce, macaroni and cheese, California blend vegetables, canned peaches.

Girl Scouts Collect Hats and Mittens

Greenbelt Girl Scout Troop 4816 is accepting donations of new hats and mittens to benefit needy children in the metropolitan area. Leave items in the designated drop box at the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

Patronage Refund Goes To Co-op Capital Fund

by Dorrie Bates

In a change from previous years' dispersals, this year the full amount of the Co-op Patronage Refund will go into the member's capital account rather than be distributed in the form of vouchers. As announced at its annual meeting in November, the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative will give members a patronage refund this year based on the previous year's earning: over \$71,000 in an amount proportionate to each member's purchases at the store over the past fiscal year. A report of the 2009 patronage refund and balance in the member's capital account will be mailed to members by the end of the year.

According to Treasurer Joe

Timer, keeping this money in the member's capital account will help the Co-op manage the current renovation of the store as well as assist with inventory control. The Co-op allows partial withdrawals from the accounts and pays interest on amounts over \$200.

The Co-op Board also made changes in the maximum that can be retained in member capital accounts, i.e., the account established when each member joins the Co-op. Previously there was a \$1,000 limit on the account – that limit has now been raised to \$2,000. This money remains the property of the member and is returned when the member withdraws from the cooperative.

Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club will be strong and active for another year. We have a full slate of officers ready and willing to go to work in 2010. Many thanks go to the nominating committee of Lori Moran, Dorothy Baluch and John Henry Jones. The officers will be sworn in at the first meeting in January.

We had a very busy and productive meeting on December 2 with discussion about donations and plans for trips for the next year.

Our condolences to the fam-

ily of Wally Taymen. The Club was saddened to lose another member.

The Birthday Luncheon on December 16 will have a Christmas theme under the direction of Hospitality Chair Solange Hess and helpers. No elves, just members and friends. Come, bring a dish!

There will be no meeting on December 23. There will be a sing-along in January so keep tuned for new activities and programs.

– Bunny Fitzgerald

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Farm Fresh Produce	
California Crisp Celery stalk 99¢	E-Z Peel Sweet Clementines 5 lb. box \$4.99
California Jumbo Size Naval Oranges each 99¢	Fresh Crisp Cut & Peeled Baby Carrots 1 lb. 99¢
Gourmet Russet Potatoes 3 lb. 99¢	Florida Jumbo Size Red Grapefruit each 99¢

Fresh Quality Meats			
Shurfine Boneless Whole Smoked Ham \$1.69/lb.	Fresh Value Pack Chicken Legs/Drumsticks or Thighs 88¢/lb.	Fresh Lean Beef Boneless Chuck Roast \$2.49/lb.	Fresh Natural Pork Baby Back Ribs Sold Whole Only \$3.99/lb.
Shurfine Frozen Grade A Basted Turkeys 89¢/lb.	Gusto Spiral Sliced Half Hams \$1.39/lb.	Hillshire Farms Smoked Sausage or Kielbasa 1 lb. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Hatfield Meat Franks 1 lb. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

Dairy	Deli	Frozen
Minute Maid Orange Juice Assorted 64 oz. \$2.50	Deli Gourmet Imported Cooked Ham \$3.99/lb.	Turkey Hill Ice Cream 1.5 qt. \$2.50
Kraft Cracker Barrel Cheese Chunks Assorted 7-10 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Deli Gourmet Peppered Turkey Breast \$6.69/lb.	Birds Eye Assorted Vegetables Assorted 8-16 oz. \$1.00
Kraft Phila. Cream Cheese 8 oz. brick BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Land-O-Lakes American Cheese \$5.99/lb.	On-cor Family Size Traditional Entrees Select Varieties 27-28 oz. \$2.00
Health & Beauty	Seafood	Natural & Gourmet
Tylenol Cold/Allergy Medicine 4-8 oz./24 pk. \$5.79	Canadian Frozen Snow Crab Leg Clusters \$3.99/lb.	Kristian Regale Sparkling Fruit Juices Assorted 25.4 oz. \$3.99
Western Family Body Lotion 10 oz. \$2.19	Seabest Frozen Tilapia Fillets \$3.49/lb.	Heartland Granola Cereal Assorted 14-16 oz. \$2.99
It's the season to be jolly...		Bakery
		Fresh In-store Baked Kaiser Rolls White/Wheat 6 pk. \$1.79
		Fresh In-store Baked Original Apple Pie 8 inch \$3.49

Grocery Bargains			
General Mills Original Cheerios 18 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Progresso Traditional Soups Assorted 18-19 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Wisk 2X Liquid Laundry Detergent 50-60 oz. BUY ONE GET ONE FREE	Green Giant Canned Vegetables Select Varieties 11-15 oz. 60¢
Skippy Peanut Butter Assorted 15-16 oz. \$1.88	Stove Top Stuffing Mixes Assorted 5-6 oz. \$1.25	Lipton Tea Bags 100 pk. \$2.69	Hershey Baking Chips Assorted 8-12 oz. \$2.00
		Maxwell House Ground Coffee Select Varieties 10-11 oz. \$2.50	Domino Baking Sugars 2 lb. bag 10X/Light & Dark Brown \$1.75

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Don't miss all of CO-OP's other great specials featured in our 6-page full color ad flier here in your News Review Andnowyoucanfindourentire weekly ad online at www.greenbelt.coop Check it out!		

Prices Effective: DECEMBER

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20						

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 Sunday 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-0522
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 Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. until 7 p.m.
 Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400
 Closed Sunday

Police Blotter

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

Robberies

November 27, 8:58 p.m., 9200 block Edmonston Road. A person was approached by another person who demanded money. The robber is described as a black male, 16 to 19 years old, 5'8" to 5'11" tall, 150 to 160 pounds, wearing a gray and black hooded sweatshirt and black jeans.

November 29, 11:07 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. Men with a handgun approached and assaulted some people, demanding money. Suspects are described as black males, 18 to 20 years old, 5'7" to 6'0" tall, 150 to 170 pounds, wearing dark clothing.

DUI/DWI

November 27, 1:41 a.m., 7800 block Greenbelt Road. Following a traffic stop a 35-year-old resident male was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol violations and negligent driving. He was released on citations pending trial.

November 28, 3:52 a.m., Crescent Road at Lastner Lane. A 24-year-old nonresident male was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol offenses after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

Drug Arrest

November 26, 1:03 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace. A nonresident juvenile was released to a parent pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services after being arrested for possession of marijuana.

Burglaries

November 25, 5:14 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. Wallet, cell phone and camcorder were taken.

November 28, 10:20 p.m., 7700 block Jacobs Drive. Nothing was taken.

December 1, 12:06 p.m., 6900 block Hanover Parkway. DVD player and two laptops were taken.

December 2, 10:03 a.m., 6200 block Breezewood Court. Camera, laptop and TV were taken.

December 2, 10:56 a.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive. Nothing was taken.

December 3, 1:40 p.m., 7500 block Greenway Center Drive. Attempted burglary.

Vandalism

November 27, 1:00 p.m., Greenway Shopping Center. Graffiti found on window.

November 28, 6:28 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road. Fiber-optic cable cut.

December 2, 9:45 a.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace. Rock thrown through window.

Vehicle Crimes

Three incidents of stolen tags (MD) were reported from 6200 block Springhill Court, 9300 block Edmonston Road and 7700 block Hanover Parkway.

A car window was damaged in the 8000 block Mandan Road.

Two MD tags reported stolen through the Prince George's County Police were recovered in

Sobriety Checkpoint Planned for Dec. 18

Between 9 p.m. on Friday, December 18 and 3 a.m. on Saturday, December 19, the Greenbelt Police Department will conduct a sobriety checkpoint as part of the Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign. Checkpoint Strikeforce is an intensive enforcement effort sponsored by the National Highway Administration (NHA) targeting alcohol and drug-impaired drivers.

The campaign will take place throughout NHA Region III, which includes Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. Law enforcement agencies in these jurisdictions have committed to conducting sobriety checkpoints to deter motorists from driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol as well as to identify and arrest those who ignore the dangers of getting behind the wheel while impaired.

For further information call MPO Scott Kaiser at 240-542-2114 or email Skaiser@greenbeltmd.gov.

the 9100 block Edmonston Terrace. No arrests were made.

Two MD tags stolen from the 6100 block Breezewood Court were recovered by the Bladensburg Police Department. No arrests were made.

Ansted Talks of AIDS Work, Education in South Africa

by Kyle M. Jones

After two years supporting the people of Makotse Village in Limpopo, South Africa, Ronda Ansted returned to share her experiences with Greenbelters Saturday at the Greenbelt Community Church.

Ansted, a member of the Peace Corps, was assigned to the Makotse Women's Club, a home-based care organization that assists patients with illnesses such as HIV, AIDS and Tuberculosis (TB).

While the group helped patients with things like taking medications, Ansted provided the people of Makotse Village one of the best tools to live an overall healthy lifestyle: education.

"Education is the cornerstone of health," Ansted said. She went on to explain that people with higher education tend to have better access to health-care services and will often live healthier lives, as reported in the 2000 Joint Economic Committee Study released by Congress.

In 2007, WHO reported that seven of every 1,000 people died in South Africa from HIV/AIDS and two of those had TB. In the United States, less than one per 1,000 people died of HIV/AIDS and there are no reports of death from TB.

Given the sharp statistics, Ansted worked on securing international and domestic funds to support the work of the Makotse Women's Club, which was the best paid home-based care service in the region.

Patients learned about managing their illness with medication and taking preventative measures with certain diseases, such as using condoms. The women in the club learned how to farm fields

and grow hydroponic plants to generate income for personal use and to support their organization.

"When I left, one of the women gave a speech on how working in the covered hydroponics fields made her life easier," Ansted said. In post-Apartheid South Africa, the woman was touched that "a white woman would come and make her life easier, that someone would think her life was worth saving."

Ansted lived in a small one-story house that was considered one of the better units in the village. The house had metal bars on the windows and door and she used a watering can for a shower because there was no indoor plumbing.

"For me, it was absolutely worth it," Ansted said. "That type of experience changes you."

Ansted is back in the U.S. volunteering now with RESULTS, one of 30 organizations that are part of the Global Campaign for Education. The campaign seeks to encourage President Obama to lead the world in improving education in the world's poorest countries by including funding for a global education fund in his budget request to Congress.

By providing education, Ansted believes there can be an improvement in overall lifestyle but also in knowledge and understanding of illnesses and, potentially, better access to care.

To learn more about the Global Campaign for Education and to find out more about the December 10 National Day of Action visit: www.campaignforeducationusa.org.

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

Schrom Festival, a Fun Time for Community Involvement

Although this year's annual Fall Fest at Schrom Hills Park fell on October 31, most knew that it wasn't a Halloween event. There was no trick-or-treating, no haunted mansions and very few came in costumes. Instead the festival, which was held from 1 to 5 p.m. had fall foliage, food, music, three bounce houses, a hay ride, a soccer shoot-out and an assortment of activities for kids. A city-wide event, the festival "draws community together," said Greg Varda, the recreation supervisor who has been managing the fall festival the last five years. This year's festival had been postponed for two weeks because of rain.

For the kids, there was a game area with bingo and prizes, face

painting and fake tattoos overseen by many recreation department staff. Miss Greenbelt Amber Youhouse and Little Miss Greenbelt Amanda Saucier volunteered at a pumpkin decoration table. Other than the pumpkin patch and the food, everything else was free.

Greenbelt Police Department members gave free kid IDs. The Greenbelt Fire Department had a fire truck for kids to climb on and learn about fire safety. Public Works managed the hay wagon, which had queues of up to 40 people. Animal Control did adoptions.

Vonetta King came to the festival for the first time this year and after visiting Animal Control was thinking of adopting a little

by Tami Le

cat. She brought her daughter Victoria, 3, to the fall festival as an alternative to celebrating Halloween. She said she liked it because of the safety and security of the event. King heard about the event through her friend Nneka Jefferson, who has been coming with her son Noa since 2006. Jefferson came because she said she can "find out some of the things happening in Greenbelt. I like the opportunity to get the kid ID and for good food."

Led by manager Ray Reed, six members of the Greenbelt senior softball team in uniform sought recruits for next season for men over 60 or women over 50. Reed said of men and women who have recently retired, "we want them to get out" and play ball and meet other teams.

Chris Purvis and Tony Thurston from the down-home band "Just Us" played at their fourth festival. Their music ranges from country to classic rock to top 40s to blues. "We like the local flavor they have," said Varda. The group's third member, Paula Clinedinst, missed the Fest this year. The band's name is a play on the word "justice" - Clinedinst works for the Department of Justice and Purvis and Thurston are both police officers.

Junior Girl Scout Cadettes



Lysonia Percival with her three kids and pirate costumed niece enjoying the festival for the first time.



"Just Us" band member Chris Purvis plays the guitar while Tony Thurston sings.

from Troop 4816 sold popcorn and drinks. "We use the money to spend on trips for ourselves and sometimes give to the animal shelter," said Kristen Beauchamp. Other activities the 7th and 8th grade girls have been involved with include cleaning the nearby pond, raking leaves for the elderly and serving food to the homeless.

This event was a "good opportunity for parents to eat and kids to run around" in a safe place, said Varda. Even though the weather was not ideal this

year, there was still a good turnout. He estimated there were 500 to 600 people in attendance including politicians mingling and shaking hands.

Babe Ruth coaches sold hot dogs, hamburgers and nachos to raise funds for team equipment. Betty Sonneveldt, who helped her husband Bob, said, "It's a community service because they charge so little for the food. We make some money but want to be part of the event and part of the community."

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Colder and Snowier Winter Forecast by Meteorologist

by Kyle M. Jones

The first weekend in December brought in the first snowfall of the year. Just an inch of snow fell Saturday and mostly rain with a bit of ice fell Tuesday, leaving some to wonder how harsh or mild the winter will be.

"I love the snow," said Leslie Stampfer of the Greenbelt Department of Public Works. "I don't want sprinkles and inches, I want feet," he said with a smile.

Stampfer is ready for the winter and anticipating a large storm this season.

"Most of the [plow] guys on the crew have been with us for 10 years," Stampfer added. "It's just another day in the office, it's what we do."

Norm Bernier was out at Eleanor Roosevelt High School Saturday afternoon with his son Daniel and his dog Tucker.

"We've had wet weather from spring through the fall," Bernier said. "We just need it to stay in the mid-30s and we'll have a great storm."

Bernier noted that the area has dodged major snow storms for years, with snow often falling west in the Hagerstown and Frederick areas.

"The skiers always have to get to travel to get to the snow," he said.

In fact, the record season for snow was the winter of 1995-1996, where 62.5 inches fell between November and March. Most memorable was on Jan. 7, where 15.8 inches fell in 24 hours. Nearly another foot fell by Jan. 12.

Schools were closed for almost an extra week just after the holiday season, as sheets of ice filled every parking lot in the area.

The most notable snow storm this decade was when 40.5 inches fell in February 2003, with 21.8 inches hitting the ground Feb. 16.

Could similar accumulations fall this year?

"Every year is different, so I have a hard time making a year-to-year comparison," said Matthew Kramar, Senior Forecaster at the National Weather Service. "I'd have to take a look at all of the factors" involved, such as El Niño, the warmer weather in the Eastern Pacific.

"A strong El Niño means there are a lot more weather patterns in the south and up the coast," Kramar said. "By itself, it means warmer weather, but patterns in the North Atlantic Oscillation can contribute to colder weather."

The National Weather Service three-month prediction calls for above-normal precipitation in December and increased chances of below-normal temperatures in much of the Eastern and Central areas of the country.

"I can't say that it will be snowier," Kramar said. "It could be wetter and cold. I just can't make that prediction yet."

Still, Bernier looks forward to the first heavy snow.

"It's most peaceful in the mornings when the snow is untouched and everyone is inside hunkered down and it's just me and the dog."



PHOTO BY TOM SIMON

Supporters of the New Deal Café ceremonially cut the ribbon on the Café's new sound system. The system had been in the initial planning stages when emergency repairs prompted immediate replacement. Pictured from left to right are Frank Kayser, Terri Rutledge, Chef Karim, Barbara Simon and Chris Logan.

New Deal Café Has New Sound System

On Monday, December 7 Café President Terri Rutledge, Chef Karim and Friends of New Deal Café Arts (FONDCA) President Barbara Simon announced a new Café sound system is in place at the Deal Café volunteer appreciation dinner.

With exceptional timing, over the past few months Café volunteers Frank Kayser and Chris Logan held planning meetings to discuss possible sound system replacement options for consideration in FONDCA's 2010 budget. Then the existing sound system failed abruptly and needed immediate replacement. Rapid purchase of a new sound system was possible because of the prior planning meetings and FONDCA's ongoing fundraising efforts.

Kayser, who designed the improvements and chose the sound system components stated, "we

wanted the system to give us a high quality sound, not just high volume." Logan, FONDCA's treasurer, who wanted the new sound system to be comprehensive, flexible and easy to use, added, "Since we have live music six days a week and many of our performers are first time visitors to the Café, the new system had to be easy to set up and adjust to produce the best quality sound. I think Frank's design achieved these goals."

Volunteers Sought


There will be training sessions in use of the system. Those interested should email Chris Logan at Chrislogan2@verizon.net or plan to attend an open microphone session on Thursday nights. Sound system set up starts after 6 p.m. for 7 p.m. performances. Volunteers will gain experience by operating the sound system during live performances.



PHOTO BY KYLE JONES

Norm Bernier was out at Eleanor Roosevelt High School Saturday afternoon with this son Daniel and his dog Tucker.

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LE GRAND

continued from page 1

Le Grand's confidence is derived from a combination of education and experience. A native of Washington, D.C., Le Grand earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in Catonsville. Her 11 years of teaching are spread among three schools. Le Grand began her teaching career at From the Heart Christian School in Suitland, Md. Over the course of eight years, she taught Latin, language arts, science and social studies. From there, Le Grand taught language arts for a year in a Prince George's County School. Then when she heard that St. Hugh's was hiring, she applied and the rest, as they say, is history.

And that's just fine with Le Grand, who is in her second year at St. Hugh's. "It's rewarding and fulfilling to help mold and influence your future," says the mother of four. Le Grand likens her love of teaching with taking a journey. "You watch them lift off. You are happy they can go on that trip and you are a part of it."

FRITSCH

continued from page 1

as possible." Fritsch describes a lesson using absolute and apparent magnitude – a method scientists employ to measure distance of the stars from the earth. Students used flashlights to simulate stars to measure beams of light from various distances and recorded the data. The end result is Fritsch's favorite part of teaching – the "aha" moment. When students figured out that the closer they got to the target, the brighter and larger the light and the farther they went, the smaller and dimmer the image became, students, then, understood the lesson. "It's nice to see the light bulb go off," she says.

Other nice things Fritsch enjoys when she is not teaching are reading books from the Renaissance such as biographies and historical fiction. As a child she enjoyed the television show Alf that featured a harmless and humorous alien. When asked about her best advice, familial educational roots reappear. The advice came from her mother, she said, "Don't stress."

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PHOTOS BY JON GARDNER

Singers from Eleanor Roosevelt High School perform at the tree lighting ceremony.

Music, Hot Chocolate, Santa Open 2009 Holiday Season

by Kyle M. Jones

Santa Claus arrived in Greenbelt on Friday, December 4 to light the Holiday Tree, marking the start of the 38th Annual Festival of Lights and the beginning of the holiday season.

"This is the time of year for us all to come together during this season of peace," Mayor Judith Davis said to the crowd of hundreds on the front lawn of the Greenbelt Community Center just before Santa took the stage.

"May the joy of the season be especially nice for you all," she concluded and invited people to participate in the many Festival of Lights activities.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School a cappella groups The Pearls, Harmonize and The Suspenders sang holiday tunes while the crowd enjoyed hot chocolate and waited for Santa Claus.

While they waited, many watched the children playing on the lawn and said that seeing the joy on the faces of the children was their favorite part of the season.

"I have a two-year-old now and the favorite part of the holidays is seeing him do all the holiday stuff, like seeing Santa and lighting the tree," Paul Wright said of his son, Timothy.

Children zipped past Elizabeth Smith and Kathy Wellborn, who stood by while the kids played an intense game of tag in the dark and muddy field.

"When Santa comes to light the tree and all the kids go running and screaming, that's the best," Smith said. Davis agreed.

"This is what makes it fantastic," Davis said, just as Santa arrived on a fire truck with lights flashing, sending the kids scrambling to greet him.

Andrew Phelan of the Greenbelt Recreation Department noted



Santa Claus lit the Christmas Tree.

that it took Santa a little longer to get to the stage this year. He credits the mild weather for drawing a larger crowd of younger kids to the event, who escorted Santa from the fire truck to the stage.

The children reached for pictures with him, shouted their hellos and made toy requests along the way.

Tree Lighting

After reaching the stage, Santa was joined by Davis and Greenbelt city councilmembers, who led the countdown to the tree lighting. After he flipped the switch, Santa handed out candy canes to the throngs of kids still waiting for another chance to speak to him.

Laura Holman's daughter Tatiana was one of them. Holman arrived at the Greenbelt Metro Station on the Bolt Bus from New York just moments before the tree was lit. The Festival of Lights became a yearly tradition when Tatiana was born five years ago.

"We moved to Brooklyn at the end of August, and tomorrow is my mother's birthday so we decided to come down," Holman said. "We're only here for 24 hours. The festival is like a family reunion of the city," she added.

Tatiana spent much of the evening playing with old friends, while Holman spent time with her mother and aunt, who also came out for the event.

Young Esmeralda Ferrer was also away from home and although she looked forward to the holidays, she is anxiously waiting to get back to her extended family in Puerto Rico.

While Greenbelt was not as warm as Puerto Rico on Friday, it was mild enough to draw a large crowd to the event. Davis recalls noting that they have not always been so lucky.

"We've had warmer ones, where people just wore sweaters," she said. "But we've had much colder ones as well. Everyone is enjoying the music and having a great time."

Davis also credited the Greenbelt Public Works Department and the Greenbelt Recreation Department for their work in putting the event together.

"This is the kickoff, and everyone is so excited," she said.



PHOTO BY KYLE JONES

Tatiana Holman and her mother have a family tradition of attending Greenbelt's Festival of Lights Celebration.

EPA Seeks Youth Environmentalists

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is encouraging students to apply for a Presidential Environmental Youth Awards (PEYA) program. The EPA wants to recognize students who have developed their own projects at school or in their communities to promote environmental awareness and care. Winners of the award are honored at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. each year. The mid-Atlantic regional winner will receive a plaque at an EPA-sponsored awards program next spring and all student participants will receive a certificate signed by the President honoring them for their efforts to protect human health and the environment.

Applications from student groups or individual students in grades K-12 may be submitted by an adult sponsor. Rules and applications can be viewed or downloaded in printable format from EPA's PEYA website at: www.epa.gov/peya. The deadline is December 31, 2009. For more information call Ellen Lucchetti in EPA's mid-Atlantic regional office in Philadelphia at 215-814-3287 or email lucchetti.ellen@epa.gov.

Past projects have included planting trees, building nature trails and preserves, scientific research, protecting endangered species, starting recycling programs, restoring native habitats, creating schoolyard habitats, producing videos and newsletters and other environmental activities.

Santa and Holiday Spirit Start a Festive Season

by Stacy Jones

An octet of high school girls, bundled in hats and scarves, sang a rendition of "Let It Snow" at the Greenbelt tree lighting ceremony Friday night. By 11 a.m. the next morning, fat and soggy snowflakes started cascading down to grant their a cappella request.

They stood on a stage surrounded by garland, red velvet bows and twinkling Christmas lights. The hedges behind them were aglow with even more lights. Some of the attendees making their way toward the quaint scene were already sporting Santa hats and other festive garb.

Despite the night's snowy forecast, Greenbelt Mayor Judith F. Davis took the stage after Eleanor Roosevelt High School's (ERHS) singers The Pearls and encouraged the crowd of residents to attend the city's Festival of Lights activities scheduled for the following morning and the rest of the month.

"Be assured that it's not going to start snowing until after noon," Davis said.

"The city council is coming up," she added, "and if need be, we'll sing." After glancing back at the councilmembers she remarked that she would likely be impeached for making them part of the night's singing entertainment.

The Festival of Lights is a celebration of the season held throughout the month of December. This year's festival will be Greenbelt's 38th, Davis said.

She urged residents to keep servicemembers in their hearts and to remember seniors who

might be spending the holidays alone.

Davis urged everyone to take advantage of the free hot chocolate and cookies available to attendees before turning the stage over to Harmonize, another of ERHS's a cappella groups.

Meanwhile, the children in the audience began to edge toward the stage, brimming with excitement for a special visitor who would be arriving to light the city's tree on the Community Center's front lawn. By the time the third singing group, The Suspenders, took the stage, it seemed as though the crowd's entire front row was of the 4-foot tall or less variety.

Once the Greenbelt Concert Band Brass Choir took to the stage, all sporting reindeer antlers save for one top hat, children had taken to dancing arm in arm, spinning and swaying just feet away from the stage. Perhaps, they must have thought, their joviality would conjure a jolly old someone.

After a medley of holiday tunes from the brass choir, a young scout at the back of the crowd caught sight of a fire engine and sent everyone running to greet Santa.

"I'm going to Santa," shouted one boy to his mother, "he's right over there."

Once the tree had been illuminated, handmade ornaments from the Greenbelt Co-op Nursery School could clearly be seen hanging on its boughs. Many of them looked like paper Christmas trees – laminated, to handle the weather, of course – decorated with shiny buttons and sequins.



Rebecca Gardner and Bela Martins, both age 5 of Greenbelt, got candy canes from Santa.

National Gallery Offers Concert

On Sunday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. the National Gallery of Art will offer a concert by Tine Thing Helseth, trumpeter, with Steffen Horn, pianist; with music by Falla, Grieg and other composers. This free concert is being given in conjunction with the Norwegian Christmas Festival at Union Station. The performance will take place in the West Garden Court with first-come, first-seated 30 minutes before the concert. Enter at Sixth Street until 6:30.

For details call 202-842-6941 or visit www.nga.gov/programs.concerts.

"In Plane View"

An exhibition of large-format photographs by Carolyn Russo showcasing the aesthetic quality of some of the National Air and Space Museum's iconic aircraft will be on display at the College Park Aviation Museum from December 4 through June 11. Close-up facets, sculptural forms and life-like elements direct attention to the often overlooked, simple elegance of aircraft design. Russo exposes the bold colors, textures, shapes and patterns that characterize diverse flying machines and transforms technology into art.

This exhibition has been organized by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.