

VOL. 74, No. 2

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

DECEMBER 2, 2010

City Council Legislative Priorities Include Funds for Fire Station

by Barbara Hopkins

On December 8 the Greenbelt City Council will hold a dinner with the city's delegation to the state legislature and county councilmember to present the city's legislative priorities for 2011. At its regular meeting on November 22 council struggled to agree on just what those priorities would be.

City staff recommends keeping the list short to better manage the initiatives selected and to focus attention on key issues. Staff will develop a booklet for each item giving details and appropriate background. Prior to the dinner a summary will be provided to the group for their review.

Priorities

Staff proposed four state priorities, including protection of municipal funding, revision of noise barrier policies along the Beltway (to mandate additional sound barriers based on an increase in decibel levels), use of the UM shuttle by municipal residents if the municipality contributes financially to the shuttle and certain environmental initiatives previously supported by council (creating a container deposit program, encouraging alternative fuel options at gas stations, discouraging use of plastic bags).

County priorities suggested by staff include protection of munic-

Energy Experts Analyze

28 Pilot Homes in GHI

ipal funding sources, a new fire station and modification of pawn shop legislation (to prohibit pawn shops from selling gift cards or new, unopened merchandise). Council would also continue to support priorities of the Maryland Municipal League (restore Municipal Highway User Revenues and Police Aid, enable alternative revenue-raising means), the Prince George's County Municipal Association and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

Opposition to the Intercounty Connector (ICC) was on last year's list, but deleted now since the ICC is already under construction.

Council Dissension

Councilmembers had no shortage of ideas for prioritizing the list of legislation to support but few recommendations on what to leave off when adding something new.

Councilmember Konrad Herling wanted to add that the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) should receive sufficient state funding.

Herling and Councilmember Leta Mach asked to keep municipal electrical aggregation on the list. Included last year, it had been removed from the current list.

Roberts advocated for continued opposition to the ICC, citing a need to get away from a highway mentality to thinking more about mass transit. He garnered support on this issue from two members of the audience, Doug Love and Joe Murray. Love said it should be included under environmental issues, as the ICC has become a barrier to the movements of wildlife. Murray said he has seen research showing an increase in certain diseases among people living near highways.

Mayor Judith Davis, who will present council's ideas at the dinner, agreed with COG and staff recommendations that a short list made a more effective presentation and focuses attention on issues of highest priority.

She asked what issues could be left off to accommodate new ideas. Councilmembers Rodney Roberts and Edward Putens objected to the idea of limiting the number of issues to be supported. Putens said the priority is what's best for the citizens of Greenbelt, not conforming to a certain number of issues.

Other Important Issues

Issues on page two listed as also important to Greenbelt are: opposition to extension of Kenilworth Avenue, support of the Metro Purple Line, a prohibition on transfers of gas station liquor licenses and giving municipalities authority to assess fines and remove illegal signs on state

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What Goes On

Friday, December 3

7 p.m., Tree Lighting and Arrival of Santa Claus on Fire Truck, Community Center Lawn Saturday, December 4 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Grand Opening of Greenbelt Library 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Festival of Lights Art and Craft Fair, Greenbelt Community Center Sunday, December 5 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Festival of Lights Arts and Craft Fair, Greenbelt Community Center 7 p.m., Greenbriar Tree Lighting, Greenbriar Community Center

American Education Week November 14 to 20, 2010

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

This week readers will get a glimpse inside Turning Point Academy. It follows last week's feature on Eleanor Roosevelt High School teachers Jennifer Massagli and Danielle Sinclitico written by two 11th grade student reporters and prior profiles of teachers at Magnolia and Greenbelt Elementary Schools. In coming weeks we will focus on Springhill Lake Elementary and Greenbelt Middle Schools.

Energy and Passion Drive Turning Point Teacher

by Melanie Lynn Griffin

The last of the students have cleaned up their desks, hoisted backpacks and gotten safely onboard the yellow school bus. Kendall Wilson-Flippin leans back in her chair and breathes a deep sigh. After an hourlong morning commute, she's spent the last seven hours

graders. But she is still smiling and energetic. "Those are my kids - all 44 of them."

The classroom where Wilson-Flippin teaches language arts and social studies is housed in one of several modular buildings that Turning Point Academy on Good Luck Road has installed to accommodate a growing student population. The first charter school in Prince George's County, Turning Point has grown from See WILSON, page 6

120 to 464 students since opening in 2006.

Kendall Wilson-Flippin never imagined herself here. She was thinking more along the lines of Broadway when she chose the Visual and Performing Arts program at Suitland High School and

then graduated from

Kendall Wilson-Flippin

Spelman College in wrangling two classes of fifth Atlanta with a degree in theater and dance. "I never thought I would be a teacher," she says.

But when Teach for America came recruiting at Spelman, she "felt a calling" and signed up. She taught first grade for two years in Atlanta before moving home to Maryland to teach at a charter school in Anne Arundel County. Eight years after answering the call, she now feels

Teaching, A Family Tradition

by Melanie Lynn Griffin

Lesli Jackson sits on a miniature chair amidst the cheerful clutter of her firstgrade classroom. Buckets of crayons, pencils and scissors are lined up in the corner next to a large globe of the world and a birthday bulletin board Lesli Jackson features cutouts of green balloons, blue cakes and orange hats. Charts of numbers, letters, months and seasons cover the walls. Jackson's face comes alive as she describes the newest addition to the décor. A board festooned with colorful personalized popcorn boxes helps keep track of each child's progress in "spelling important high frequency words that 'pop up' when you're reading," she says.



part in the monthly opcorn celebration. "I've seen a lot of improvement since last year. Most kids get to participate. And popcorn's really inexpensive," she laughs. In only her second year of teaching, Jackson seems to have found her niche at Turning

by Gretchen Overdurff, GHI General Manager

During November the 28 senior research engineer at the homes in the Greenbelt Homes, program were thoroughly evaluated to see how they've fared after about 70 years of use. There is no cost to GHI because the National Association of Home Builders Research Center conducted the energy assessment under a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Building America program. During the assessment the layout of windows, heaters and other appliances was noted. A video camera recorded condensation problems, and a thermal infrared camera found insulation gaps and air leaks. In blower door tests, a large fan at the exterior entrance lowered the pressure throughout the house to measure air leakage. The 28 homeowners were given questionnaires about how they stay warm in winter, whether sealing windows with plastic, using draft blockers around doors or using plug-in heaters. "The way people live in the house can have a big effect on energy usage and comfort," said Joe Wiehagen,

Research Center. "People who Inc. (GHI) energy upgrade pilot cook a lot or take long baths are more likely to have moisture concerns in homes with poor ventilation. People who are in the home all day will usually have more energy use. But we're really looking for obvious improvements, where benefits would accrue to all homeowners regardless of individual preferences." David Morse, a member of the GHI Board of Directors, posted a video of his home's assessment on YouTube. He said, "This will give members a chance to see the Pilot Program in action. We need to do whatever we can to make the program more accessible and less mysterious." For more information about the energy assessments or the energy upgrade pilot program, contact Eldon Ralph, assistant general manager at GHI, at eralph@greenbelthomes.net or 301-474-4161, ext. 128. To watch the video go to www.youtube.com and search for "GHI community upgrade pilot: first hand look."

Monday, December 6

8 p.m., Council Worksession with NASA/GSFC (stakeholder) Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd. gov

Tuesday, December 7

7 p.m., Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center

Students who know their "popcorn words" get to take Point Academy. Principal Dr. Kenneth Jones says, "It's amazing what she can do with the youngsters. Some people just have that feel and she has it."

Following in the footsteps of her father, aunt and great grandmother, Lesli Jackson has always wanted to be a teacher. "I don't know if it's genetic but I can't imagine doing anything else," Jackson says. "I love my job, I

See JACKSON, page 6





Letters to the Editor

Thankful to Be in Greenbelt

As the holidays approach and I stop to think about all there is to be thankful for, in addition to the continuing presence and support of loving family and friends, I count as one of my true blessings the fact that I am so fortunate to live in Greenbelt. Over the last two months I have enjoyed several Reel and Meal presentations at the New Deal Café, including "Green Towns U.S.A." which kicked off the Utopia Film Festival, and another on environmental art which included local artist Paul Downs as a speaker.

The weekend before Halloween I enjoyed sitting in Roosevelt Center with many neighbors carving pumpkins and listening to various musicians, including the wonderful Caleb Stine.

The following evening, my teenage son and I followed the trail of the enchanting Pumpkin Walk, stopping often to take pictures of the amazing jacko-lanterns lining the path in the North Woods. (Thank you Alison and crew for keeping this 20-year tradition alive!)

The next day I enjoyed another autumn festival, with craftspersons, more wonderful musicians and an opportunity to make fall/winter faerie houses which we carried in a procession to the Three Sisters Garden by the Community Center, all sponsored by CHEARS and all part of putting the garden to bed for the winter.

That weekend, in particular, was full of so many simple pleasures (including perfect autumn weather), that I kept returning to it in my mind as things got rough at work in subsequent weeks. I just pictured all the wonderful activities I had been able to participate in, which resulted from the active leadership of so many different groups. It was a picture of bliss and it continues to restore my perspective in trying circumstances.

In November my family participated in another enjoyable Artful Afternoon where we played with words and images and, as always, were delighted to see the diversity of others' creative approaches. This was followed by the Alight Dance Theater's powerful and moving performance of "Speechless,' which explored the struggles of parents with special needs children.

I am always inspired by how much civic pride, civic involvement, artistic opportunities and focus on individual and community well-being there is at the heart of Greenbelt and I definitely count Greenbelt in my list of blessings this Thanksgiving. Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Deborah Bustin

GMS Reading Event Draws Rushern Baker

A free book drive and reading event at Greenbelt Middle School (GMS) will be the draw for an appearance by the county executive elect and other dignitaries on Sunday, December 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. Sponsored by the county Educators' Association, the event is to highlight literacy in Prince George's County.

County Executive-Elect Rushern L. Baker, III, other elected officials and local author Michelle Y. Green will be present. Baker will read to local children and speak with community members. There will be raffles and refreshments.



Donations of books by those attending will be accepted for distribution by the Literacy Council to local schools. GMS is at 8950 Edmonston Road.

The Greenbelt Computer Club will hold its December meeting on Thursday, December 9 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road in Room 103. Everyone is welcome.



Amter GCAN Talk On "The Polluters"

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will be held on Wednesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. in Room 114 at the Greenbelt Community Center. The program will feature a talk by Steven Amter, the author of "The Polluters: The Making of Our Chemically Altered Environment."

Amter's new book, "Polluters" is a history of the chemical industry and the environment. Amter says today's environmental problems were understood far earlier than most people realize but that the industry used its economic and political power to block regulation. The Washington Post review says the book" is "remarkably timely, extensively researched and accessible." Booklist calls it "an unlikely page-turner." His talk will draw historical parallels to present day issues including how the original fight over leaded gasoline was an early test (and loss) of the precautionary principle; the chemical industry's furious reaction to Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring;" how the early failures of regulatory agencies to control pollution led to the creation of the EPA; and how tactics still used today to fight environmental progress were pioneered in some of these early battles. Amter is a senior environmental scientist with Disposal Safety, Inc., a Washington, D.C., consulting firm that specializes in the history of pollution.

For information call Lore Rosenthal at 301-345-2234 or email lore@simplicity-matters.org.

Computer Club Holds Meeting



"Finish writing your Letter to Santa before you go to bed."

Writers Group to Sell Co-op Food Demo, Wares this Weekend

Authors who are members of the Greenbelt Writers Group will offer a variety of books for sale at the Festival of Lights Fair this weekend in the Community Center.

From fiction to nonfiction. inspirational to autobiographical, books make good holiday gifts. The authors will be present to sign their books from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 4 and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 5.



Wine Tasting Held

The next in the Co-op Shop Healthy series (and the last one for the year) will be a demonstration and sampling of glutenfree products available at Coop. It will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8.

On Friday, December 10 there will be a wine tasting of Kysela wines from 4 to 7 p.m. ID is required to participate.

Flu Shots

The Co-op will hold a flu shot clinic on Saturday, December 11 from 10 a.m. to noon. There is a fee, which must be paid by cash or check.



Fair Game (PG-13)

Friday *5:15, 7:30, 9:40 **Saturday** *3, *5:15, 7:30, 9:40 Sunday *3, *5:15, 7:30 Monday – Thursday *5:15, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.50 Tuesday is Bargain Day. All Seats Only \$6.50. Now accepting Visa, Discover and MasterCard for ticket sales only. 301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745 • 129 Centerway www.pandgtheatres.com • • • • • •



9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church 6905 Greenbelt Road Greenbelt, MD 20770

Come and enjoy Christmas goodies galore, as well as gifts and decorations!!! Tables are available for rent if you would like to display your wares, and they will be assigned on a first-come/first-served basis. Contact Shirley Lee (301-345-2556) if you would like to rent a table.

STAFF

Jon Aerts, Jackie Bealle, Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell, Rebecca Boggs, Judi Bordeaux, Jessi Britton, Sharon Carroll, Ashley Cherok, Mary Willis Clarke, Paula Clinedinst, Agnes Conaty, Bill Cornett, Cynthia Cummings, Peter Curtis, Patricia Davis, Elizabeth Eny, Joan Falcão, Chris Farago, Eli Flam, Janet Franklyn, Kathleen Gallagher, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, Denise George, Bernina McGee Giese, James Giese, Marjorie Gray, Melanie Lynn Griffin, Carol Griffith, Pat Hand, Stacy Hardy, Solange Hess, Rebecca Holober, Barbara Hopkins, Larry Hull, Elizabeth Jay, Ginny Jones, Sharon Kenworthy, Suzanne Krofchik, Vicki Kriz, Meta Lagerwerff, Sandra Lange, Jane Larrick, Susan Lesser, Jim Link, Catherine Madigan, Kathleen McFarland, Emma Mendoza, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Diane Oberg, Linda Paul, Leonie Penney, Shirl Phelps, Altoria Bell Ross, Ann-Marie Saucier, Angela Stark, Helen Sydavar, Nancy Tolzman, Heba Toulan, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Thomas X. White, Marie Wong, Renauta York and Dea Zugby.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Altoria Bell Ross, 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/vear.

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

Community Events

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 must 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 6 to 10:

Monday - Orange juice, stuffed peppers with tomato sauce, green beans, whole boiled potatoes, fresh tangerine.

Tuesday - Split pea soup, meatballs with sauce, spaghetti, mixed vegetables, garden salad, diced pears.

Wednesday – Cranapple juice, turkey divan, glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, fresh banana.

Thursday - Minestrone, barbecued chicken leg, chopped kale, black beans, peach cobbler.

Friday – Orange juice, Cajun tilapia, peas and carrots, wild rice, applesauce.

GHI Notes

Saturday, December 4, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation -Board Room

2 p.m. Buildings Committee & Friends – Board Room

Tuesday, December 7, 7 p.m., Buildings Task Group Pilot Program – Board Room

Wednesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee - Board Room

Thursday, December 9, 6:45 p.m., Investment Committee -Board Room

7:30 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting - Board Room

Friday, December 10, Offices Closed. (Note: Members needing emergency service during closings can call maintenance at 301-474-6011.)

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

Co-op Supermarket Has Annual Meeting

The Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative will hold its annual meeting on Saturday, December 4 at 10 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Reports on the Co-op's past year will be presented by the Store Manager Bob Davis and Co-op Treasurer Joe Timer. Elections will be held for two positions on the Board of Directors, with incumbent board members Robert Gordon and Joe Timer standing for re-election. All members and others interested in the workings of the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative are invited to attend the meeting. Light refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

Greenbelt East Has Tree Lighting

On Sunday, December 5 at 7 p.m. the Greenbelt East Advisory Coalition will hold its annual holiday tree lighting in the Greenbriar Terrace Room, 7600 Hanover Parkway. All are invited to this free holiday celebration which will include Christmas caroling and hot chocolate.

Arts Advisory Board Meeting on Tuesday

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

For additional information email Nicole DeWald, staff liaison, at dewald@greenbeltmd.gov or call 240-542-2057.

Synagogue to Hold **Blood Drive Dec. 5**

Mishkan Torah Synagogue will sponsor a Red Cross blood drive on Sunday, December 5 from noon to 4 p.m. in the synagogue at 10 Ridge Road in Greenbelt. Call 1-800-448-3543 or call Mishkan Torah at 301-474-4223 and ask for Andrea Weiss to schedule a donation.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald The Golden Age Club is getting ready for another active year. By the time you read this the new slate of officers will be elected. They will be installed at the first meeting in 2011.

Thanks to Solange Hess, hospitality chair for the chicken she purchased for the birthday lunch. It was delicious and enjoyed by all. The Christmas potluck will be on December 15.

The meeting on December 8 will be a surprise so put on your thinking cap and join in.

Our condolences to the family of Shirley Dwyer.

Now is the time to pay dues for 2011.

Don't waste energy thinking about what hasn't been done; use that energy for what can be done.

Middle School Holds **Free Winter Concert**

On Wednesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. a free Winter Festival Concert will be held at Greenbelt Middle School in the Multi-purpose Room. concert will feature the Greenbelt Middle School Concert Choir, Orchestra and Wind Ensemble. All are welcome to attend.

123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770

http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

Reopening Saturday

Saturday, December 4 at 1 p.m. is the grand reopening celebration for the newlyrenovated Greenbelt branch library.



Festivities will begin with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by remarks by local dignitaries and performances by EHRS choral groups Pearls and Suspenders and their musical ensemble Sax Appeal. There will be facepainting for children.

Light refreshments will be offered in the meeting room with tours available on request.

Library Holds Grand Franklin Park Has Holiday Party

On Saturday, December 11 from 10 a.m. to noon there will be a holiday party for Franklin Park residents, with Santa and Winnie the Pooh present to greet young partygoers. There will be craft activities, games, refreshments and a chance to meet neighbors, as well as opportunities to volunteer for community committees. Jointly sponsored by Franklin Park, CampFire USA and the City of Greenbelt, all are welcome.

Children will make holiday greeting cards for military members, Santa will review children's lists and give them a small treat.

Volunteers Needed

Community volunteers are needed to help with the holiday party. Those who can help with planning and activities for the day are asked to call Deborah Monts at 240-391-6246 or email volunteercoordinator@campfireusa-patuxent.org.

More Community Events see pages 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 12



The Next Three Days, PG-13 11:10, 2 Tangled, PG (!) - 3D, (No fees) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:10 Faster, R (!) 11:30, 2, 4:30, 7:10 Burlesque, PG-13 (!) 11:15, 2, 4:40, 7:30 Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows, PG-13 (!) 12:15, 3:30, 7 Love and Other Drugs, R 11:25, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30 Unstoppable, PG-13 11:45, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

Greenbelt Nursery School

Kindergarten Info Night

Monday, Dec. 13 @ 7-9 pm

Room 202 in the Greenbelt Community Center

Panel of area kindergarten representatives

Free and open to the public

For info, call GNS at 301 474 5570

December 4, 8 to 11 a.m. Children 12 and younger - Free, All others - \$7/person

For more information call 301-474-8964



Registration for the 2010/2011 Basketball Season continues in December 2010** at the following locations:

Greenbelt Youth Center, 99 Centerway Friday, December 3, 6 to 7:30 pm Monday, December 6, 7 to 8:30 pm Thursday, December 9, 6:30 to 8:30 pm Saturday, December 11, 11 am to 1 pm

Springhill Lake Rec Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane Friday, December 10, 7 pm to 8:30 pm Saturday, December 11, 11 am to 1 pm



Meet Santa, Laughter & Merriment

Greenbelt Lions Club in conjunction

At the American Legion Post 136, 6900 Greenbelt Rd, Greenbelt, MD



Pancakes • Syrup • Sausages

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 **Additional December registration dates to follow.

For more information, please call 301-794-0100 (press 7) or visit us at www.greenbeltbgc.com

Greenbelt Arts Center

Last Chance This Week to see...

Chapter Two by Neil Simon, directed by Sheilah Crossley-Cox

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 3 & 4 at 8:00 PM

\$15 General/\$12 Students/Seniors

Upcoming

December 9 - 12: Lions and Penguins and Bears (Oh, My!) December 14 - 15: Auditions: Reefer Madness December 17: Homespun Ceilidh Band

December 18: The Chromatics

Call 301.441.8770 for more information

MON. – THU. Megamind, PG 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20 For Colored Girls R 1, 4 The Next Three Days, PG-13 7:20 Tangled, PG (!) - 3D, (No fees) 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20 Faster, R (!) 12:15, 2:30, 4:50, 7:20 Burlesque, PG-13 (!) 12:15, 3:30, 7 Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows, PG-13 (!) 1, 4:25, 7:45 Love and Other Drugs, R 1, 4:25, 7:45 Unstoppable, PG-13 1, 3:10, 5:25, 7:45

Obituaries

Martha L. Robison

Surrounded by her family, Martha Lee Robison, 88, of Greenbelt died on Sunday, November

28, 2010, at the Christus Santa Rosa Hospital Westover Hills, San Antonio, Texas.

Born on March 19, 1922, at Keyser, W.Va., she was a daughter of the late Luther C. and Marie T. Rotruck.

Mrs. Robison's compassion, understanding and hope were endless. She had unconditional love, patience and nurturing for children that came into her life. She loved to go shopping and take road trips whether it was to see the leaves turning or to visit faraway places.

Mrs. Robison was preceded in death by her husband, Chester G. "Bud" Robison on June 20, 1984; a brother, Lindon C. "Lucky" Rotruck and a sister, Mary V. Rotruck.

Surviving are one son, Dana G. Robison and wife Kay of Lothian, Md.; a daughter Yolande Brown and husband Tom of Laurel, Md.; two grandchildren, Christa Sheridan and Hunter Robison and a great-grandson, Tommy Sheridan.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home, Keyser Chapel, on Friday, December 3 from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Funeral services will be conducted at the Keyser Church of the Brethren on Saturday, December 4 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Dwight Ramsey officiating. Friends may also call at the church one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Asbury Cemetery, Moorefield, W.Va.

Condolences and personal reflections to the family may be left after Mrs. Robison's obituary at www.smithfuneralhomes.net.

The family sincerely thanks the staff of Christus Santa Rosa Hospital, Westover Hills, San Antonio, TX and Home Instead Senior Care in San Antonio, Susan Mahoney, Mrs. Robison's caregiver in Maryland and the many medical doctors and family and friends who helped the family during this difficult time.

Artist Reception At New Deal Café

On Sunday, December 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. there will be an artists' reception for the artists now displaying at the New Deal Café, whose works are on display until January 3.

Saturday Morning **Audubon Bird Walk**

On Saturday, December 4 the Prince George's Audubon

Society will hold a free bird walk at the Fran Uhler Natural

Area to look for migrating and resident woodland and field birds, waterfowl and raptor flyovers at this forested floodplain of the Patuxent River. There is also an option to bird the nearby Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis (WB&A) Trail.

Participants will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemons Bridge Road at its intersection with Rt. 197 just north of Bowie State University

The walk is for beginners and experts. Waterproof footwear and binoculars are suggested.

For more information call 410-765-6482.



Condolences to Tom Dwyer and all the family and friends of longtime Greenbelter Shirley Dwyer (Tom's wife), who died November 20, 2010.

We were sorry to learn of the death of former Boxwood resident Miriam Dredger of Edgewater, Md., on November 15, 2010, and extend sympathy to her family and friends.

Greenbelters were saddened to hear of the death of Martha Robison of Research Road.

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 West. To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892. - Kathleen McFarland



Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, began on the evening of December 1 with the lighting of the first candle.



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

December 5, 10 a.m. "Happy Holidays from Around the World" Holiday choir service with Rev. Diane Teichert and Carol Carter Walker, worship associate



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



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410 **Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor**

Worship Service 10:00am

Family Movie Night, Sat. Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m. Family-friendly movie. FREE. Get into the spirit of the season. Bring your own snacks or buy some from us.

St. George's Episcopal Church Join us around a table where all are welcome! Services Sundays

- 8 a.m. simple, quiet service (no music)
- 10 a.m. main service

(music includes a mixture of acoustic guitar, piano and organ music)

- Wednesdays
- 7 p.m. service with healing prayers (no music)
- 7010 Glenn Dale Road (Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road) 301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org



Hope Fellowship

. living life togethe

Now meeting at Greenbelt Elementary School, 66 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



"O people! Consort with the followers of all religions in a spirit of friendliness and fellowship."

In the front room are paintings with the theme of Love by Carolyn Bourne and 3-dimensional works by her 3-year-old son Mason. In the back room is the latest installment of stick art by Paul Downs entitled "Fire Inside Alive."

All are welcome to come meet the artists.

> Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M. **Municipal Building**



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

> Congregation Mishkan Torah

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM. Educational programs for children K–12 and for adults. Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children. Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program. Opportunity for leadership development. Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors. Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities. Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



COUNCIL continued from page 1

highways.

Also on the list: full funding of the educational program, Bridge to Excellence; exploring the possibility of funding the city rather than the county to run TheBus; increasing penalties for red light camera violations (assess points, loss of license); addressing inequities in tax assessments of apartments; funding for dredging Greenbelt Lake (estimated at \$1 million); requiring an art component in new developments and funding for schools to clean snow from sidewalks.

In the end, Davis agreed to structure the presentation to skim over municipal funding, since the delegations already know it is of interest to the city, leaving the details to the accompanying written narrative. Funding for WMATA would be included in the transit service issue (increased funding, more weekend service, reprioritizing state funding toward mass transit instead of highways), which would be moved from page 2 to page 1.

Re-establishment of a county landlord-tenant commission would also be moved up in priority to page 1.

Synagogue Launches Music Showcase

Mishkan Torah Synagogue has begun a Young Performers Concert Series to showcase a number of its young adult members who have become serious musicians and are or hope to become professional musicians. The first concert will be on Saturday, December 11 at 7:30 p.m. with Ben Greenfield. Light refreshments will follow the concert.

Greenfield is the son of Mishkan Torah Cantor Phil Greenfield. His mother is a professional concert flutist and singer who performs under her maiden name of Carolyn Sonnen. Ben Greenfield graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, with a degree in musical performance where he took part in operatic productions and gave solo recitals. Afterward he has studied voice at the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. He performed the role of Tamino in a fully-staged production of "The Magic Flute" by the Opera Company of Southern Marvland before sold-out audiences. He has also followed his father's career lead by being a cantor during High Holy Day Services in a synagogue in Ohio where he has been a part-time cantor for the last six years. The theme behind the selection of music for this concert will be "Music with a Jewish Connection." In classical and popular music, there are many famous or familiar works that have some sort of Jewish connection – they are adapted from Jewish liturgy or the lyrics have a Jewish theme though the music is not normally recognized as being Judaic. The composer may have been Jewish or the subject about Jews or Judaism, something about which not many people are aware. There will be at least three formal concerts this year that are fundraisers for Mishkan Torah. There is a fee. For more information call 301-474-4223, visit www.mishkantorahsynagogue.org/ypcs or see the ad on page 2.

Mildred Muhammad to Speak at Library

Greenbelt's newly reopened branch library will host a "Meet the Author" program on Tuesday, December 7 at 7 p.m. Mildred Muhammad will discuss her book "Scared Silent."

The former wife of convicted "D.C. Sniper" John Muhammad, she tells about the domestic violence she suffered and the tragic events that occurred after their divorce. These events led up to the October 2002 sniper killings in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Having kidnapped their three children and living with them on the run for 18 months, John Muhammad asked for permanent custody of them and threatened to kill her. Mildred had to live under cover for eight months in a women's shelter.

In "Scared Silent," Mildred tells of these events to show how domestic violence hurts entire families, including children. She hopes what she reveals will give new insight into this national social ill.



Greenbelt Lady Angels banner awarded to the head coach Herbert Allen (second from left) for their back-to-back International Championship basketball wins presented in Montreal on July 13. Shown here displaying the award are Springhill Lake Recreation Coordinator Brian Butler, Allen, team member Shakira McDonald, Mayor Judith Davis and Springhill Lake Recreation Center leader Sade Frve.



MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 6-10

Monday, December 6th at 8pm, COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/ NASA/GSFC (stakeholder), at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Tuesday, December 7th at 7pm, GREENBELT ARTS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING, at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. Info: Nicole DeWald, staff liaison, at ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2057.

Wednesday, December 8th at 7pm, LEGISLATIVE **DINNER.**

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.

GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER CLOSING.

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is closed for replacement of major mechanical equipment. We anticipate that the Fitness Wing will re-open on Saturday, December 11th at 8:00am and the Indoor Pool on Saturday, December 18th at 8:00am. Please know that should circumstances beyond our control develop we may need to extend the closure. Notifications will be made via e-mail, a message will be left on the GAFC main number, and a notice will be put on the City's website.

All current memberships to the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center will be extended by one month because of this closure. We regret the inconvenience this may cause you and thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions, please contact our staff at (301) 397-2204. A list of other facilities in the area will be posted on Greenbelt City Link at www.greenbeltmd.gov/aquatic_fitness_center



2010 Gobble Wobble

On Thanksgiving Morning, the Greenbelt Recreation Department hosted the fifth annual Gobble Wobble. The morning was cold and wet, but that did not deter a record number of runners and walkers from participating in the event. The 2010 Gobble Wobble had 180 registrants, doubling the total from just two years ago. With spectators and the small children accompanying the many families participating, there were over 200 individuals at this year's Gobble Wobble.

In what has quickly become a tradition, Sergeant Chuck Dyson from the Sergeant's Program led a warm-up activity in the Youth Center parking lot prior to the start of the race/ walk. With the firing of a starting pistol and the official Gobble Wobble turkey mascot leading the way, runners followed a 3 mile course down the path beside the Braden Field tennis courts and twice around the Buddy Attick Park lake path before crossing the finish line. Walkers were treated to a scenic 1.5 mile lap around the lake path.

All youth participants received a medal upon completion of the race/walk. Medals were awarded to the top 3 male and female finishers. The top finishers and their unofficial finishing times are listed below.



L to R: Elaine Bond, Lloyd Rawley, Turkey (Michael Maxwell), Elliott Hamilton, Brian Faherty, Megan Reberg. 1st Place Male: Brian Faherty (16:38) 1st Place Female: Megan Reberg (25:20) 2nd Place Male: Lloyd Rawley (20:12) 2nd Place Female: Derin Kay (25:24) 3rd Place Male: Elliott Hamilton (21:04) 3rd Place Female: Elaine Bond (25:55)



Download the Winter 2011 Greenbelt **Recreation Activity Guide at** www.greenbeltmd.gov/ recreation_brochure.pdf

Thanks and congratulations to all that participated and completed the Gobble Wobble. The Greenbelt Recreation Department would also like to thank the sponsors of this year's Gobble Wobble: Greenbelt CO-OP and Sergeant Chuck Dyson with the Sergeant's Program.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. Vacancies exist on: Arts Advisory Board, Board of Appeals, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, and Park & Recreation Advisory Board For information call 301-474-8000.

For City News, Information, and events, visit Greenbelt CityLink at www.greenbeltmd.gov Find us at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt

Museum Has Open House for Holidays

On Friday, December 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. the Greenbelt Museum will hold a Holiday Open House at 10-B Crescent Road. All are invited to stop by after the city's tree lighting for free tours, sparkling lights and sweet treats.

Relive winter memories while taking in the vintage holiday decorations. Last year over 80 visitors



while learning about Greenbelt's holiday traditions. The museum gift shop will also be open with books, videos, holiday cards and toys.

JACKSON continued from page 1

really do."

After graduating from Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, she attended Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., where she received a degree in elementary education in May 2009. When she landed her job at Turning Point, she reached out to her beloved first grade teacher, Mr. Lynch of John Carroll Elementary School in Landover. "He was the best teacher I've ever had," she says. "He inspired me to want to teach first grade."

Much to her surprise and delight, Mr. Lynch remembered her. "I couldn't believe it. I saved his email," she says. She's always loved school and can't seem to get enough of it. In addition to teaching 24 first graders every day, she's currently in graduate school at Bowie State working toward certification as a reading specialist.

Care First

Jackson's philosophy of education is simple. "Care for them first; teach them second. I treat them as if they were mine," she says. "I think they can tell that I genuinely care."

The philosophy appears to bear fruit. "I can put any type of student in her class and they will succeed," reports Principal Jones. He says she modifies her instruction for each student and "goes beyond the call of duty. All children can learn with her." Jackson says her classroom of 14 boys and 10 girls is "a real bundle of personalities." Some are quiet, some love attention, some are withdrawn. "And I have a lot of active, rambunctious children. Anything can happen in a day."

Jackson learned last year that it's important to set expectations early in the school year. Some teachers advised her not to even crack a smile until December. "I love to smile and laugh but when it comes time to do what I asked you to, that's exactly what I expect."

And if they don't comply? "Knowing that the consequences come immediately." She snaps her fingers.

Too young to have a string of success stories behind her, Jackson clearly has a future full of them. She talks about one boy who "really gave me a run for my money." He caused a lot of trouble in her class last year but he was "smart, very smart" and she could reason with him. She told him that she could give him good attention or bad attention; it was his choice. "It's easy just to yell or take away recess or write a student off as a behavior problem. But it takes work to really get to know them and understand what makes them tick and find a way to navigate through that."

By the end of the year, the boy had completely turned around. This year, he comes back to her first grade class and helps the younger children with their subtraction.

Jackson doesn't think people realize how hard it is to be a

WILSON continued from page 1

she was "meant to be a teacher." It hasn't always been easy. "My first year of teaching I think I went home and cried just about every night," she remembers. She had to learn that a teacher's role is "to influence and to serve as a model, not to save every child." Her advice to new teachers is "to take care of yourself or you're no good to the students You have to understand what you can control and what you can't control."

Responsibility, Fun

Wilson-Flippin appears to have things well under control in her fourth year at Turning Point. She provides her students with "a very structured routine" and supposes they think she's a strict disciplinarian. "I am very, very adamant about them understanding responsibility. It makes all the difference."

She encourages parents to instill responsibility in their children, too. "Sometimes we think supporting our child is making allowances or excuses for them because we just don't want to see them fail," she says, but the truth is that only hurts when they get out into the real world. She calls parents her "partners in education" and values their involvement. "It keeps me on my toes," she says "and holds me accountable. When we each do our part, we can see the results at the end."

Wilson-Flippin also leaves room in her classes for fun and games. "We have lots of singing and chanting and rapping and beating on desks and dancing and acting. Because my background is in the performing arts, I really bring that into the classroom. I love it."

Her students have just finished

a reading series on nature's fury and natural disasters, which tied in well with current events and social studies. Along one wall are sheets of bright yellow paper bearing vocabulary words like earthquake, devastation, upheaval and undulating.

Another wall is covered with photographs of the students' families, part of a lesson on family trees. Lining the front wall are pictures of historic figures like Rosa Parks, Jesse Jackson and Langston Hughes. "I'm taking a class on multicultural education so I'm more aware than ever of the importance of children being able to see where they fit in."

She's not just taking a class. Turning Point Principal Dr. Kenneth Jones describes her as "a lifelong learner." In May she will receive her masters in administration from Trinity College. "I want to model for the kids that you never get too old to learn," she says.

In her spare time, Wilson-Flippin holds two part-time tutoring jobs, teaches dance, volunteers with the alumni group of her sorority (she's currently choreographing a debutante ball) and oh, yeah – she's also married to a Baptist pastor so she has a few weekend responsibilities. "I'm really dedicated to serving people," she says.

Someday maybe she'll go to law school. She applied years ago and then chose Teach for America instead. But now the legal field has more meaning for her. "I can use the background and experience that I have and go into educational law or policy and try to make a difference on a bigger scale . . . I guess you could say I'm passionate."

Upcoming Events At New Deal Café

On Thursday, December 2 from noon to 2 p.m. pianist Amy C. Kraft plays mid-day melodies. The weekly open microphone session for music, poetry, prose and storytelling is from 7 to 9 p.m. The Spanish Conversation Group meets from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. every Thursday.

New Deal Piano Man John Guernsey taps out lively jazz and blue notes on Friday, December 3, as he does every Friday and Saturday. The Two-Piece Suit duo plays jazz, blues and more from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, December 4 starts with the TV John Variety Show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. featuring two songwriters and their bands – GroundScore and the Nice Tries with Joe Harris. Classical guitarist Bruce Kritt plays from 4 to 6 p.m. The Cousin John Band plays blues from 8 to 11 p.m. with high energy guitar, vocal harmonies and infectious grooves.

On Sunday, December 5 from 10:30 a.m. to noon is the Sign Language Brunch Discussion Group meeting. Jim Stimson plays Renaissance lute from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be an artists' reception for artists Paul Downs and mother-son team Carolyn and Mason Bourne from 7 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. is Don Walters' Americana Music Series with acoustic roots and a guest artist. Wednesday, December 8 Brian Huber plays pop rock of the 60s from 7 to 9 p.m. The Unruly Blues Band plays from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday, December 10. Saturday, December 11 features belly dancing by the Starlight Shimmy from 8 to 11 p.m. Sunday, December 12 Jack Couldn't Make It offers a night of old time folk music from 5 to 8 p.m.

For more information call 301-474-5642 or visit www.newdealcafe.com.

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teacher. Just staying on top of things is a huge challenge – managing students, coping with paperwork, reaching out to parents, the lack of resources.

But in the end she says, "This is not a job you do for yourself. You do it for the kids and it has to be excellent because they deserve that." Mr. Lynch must be proud.

Video Game Music Concert at UM

The University of Maryland's Gamer Symphony Orchestra (GSO), the country's premiere collegiate ensemble dedicated to playing video game music, will present a concert on Saturday, December 11 at 2 p.m. in the Dekelboum Concert Hall at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The group's fifth annual fall concert features selections from such video games as Final

Fantasy X, Mega Man, Donkey Kong Country and others.

The student-run GSO works to establish video game music as a serious art form and to use that music as a way to bring new and younger audiences to orchestral performances.

The performance is free, family-friendly and open to the public. It will last about 90 minutes.

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Thursday, December 2, 2010

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

hursday, December 2, 2010		GREENBEL	T NEWS REVIEW	1	Page
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Fresh Value Pack \$ Southern Style Pork Spare Ribs	99 Ib. Fresh 93% Super Lean Ground Beef	\$ <u>269</u> Ib.	Fresh Grad Whole Frying Chicker	Ib.	Fresh Value Pack \$349 Boneless Beef Bottom Round Swiss Steaks
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Shurfine Cream Cheese Assorted 8 oz. brick	Pillsbury Grand Biscuits Assorted 10-16 oz.	Tomokod		Shurfine Classic Vegetables Selected Varieties 1	6 oz. Swanson Hungry Man Dinners Assorted 14-17 oz.
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Gold Medal \$ 149 Flour All Purpose/ Unbleached 5 lb.	Hunt's \$100 Pasta Sauces Assorted 26 oz.		Bargains Sea 999¢ JNA 5 oz.	Del Monte Canned Vegetables Assorted 11-15 oz.	Ken's \$125 Salad Dressings Assorted 8 oz.
All 2X Liquid \$399 Laundry Detergent 32-50 oz.	Kellogg's Original Cereal Crispix or Rice Krispies 12 oz.		3/\$ 500 19 oz.	Duncan Hines \$ Cake Mixes Assorted 18 oz.	Shurfine Spaghetti or Macaroni Assorted 12-16 oz.
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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 19, 8:30 p.m., Eastway at Ridge Road, a man was approached by five to six young men, who assaulted him and took his property. The suspects are described as black males, 17 to 20 years old, wearing black hooded sweatshirts.

November 22, 1:45 p.m., 100 block Westway, a man was approached by three men, who assaulted him and took his property. The suspects are described as black males, 5'8" to 6'1" tall, wearing black track suits.

Drug Arrests

November 20, 9:31 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, a nonresident youth was petitioned for possession of drug paraphernalia and trespassing on private property. The youth was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

November 24, 1:48 a.m., 7600 block Hanover Parkway, a resident man was arrested and charged with possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released on citation pending trial.

Vandalism

November 17, 6:46 p.m., 6600 block Lake Park Drive, a screen on a residence was cut.

November 19, 2:24 p.m., 200 block Lakeside Drive, a window was broken.

November 22, 2:51 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive, a rock was thrown through a window.

November 22, 3:47 p.m., Roosevelt Center, graffiti was found on the Mother and Child statue.

November 23, 11:15 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, a glass door was broken. **Burglaries**

November 17, 10:45 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, an attempted burglary was reported.

November 22, 3:31 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road, a TV, jewelry and two game systems were among the items reported taken.

Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were reported stolen: a black 2005 Chevrolet Suburban with Maryland tags from the 9000 block Edmonston Road, a black 1998 Honda Civic with Maryland tags from the 6900 block Hanover Parkway and a red 2001 Ford F250 with New Jersey tags from the 7200 block Hanover Drive. A red 1999 Mitsubishi Eclipse with Maryland tags, reported stolen to the Prince George's County Police, was recovered in the 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive. No arrests were made.

Attempted Rape **Near Metro Station**

On Saturday, November 21 at 6:43 p.m., Greenbelt police officers responded to a call from Cherrywood Lane at Greenbelt Metro Drive about an attempted rape.

A woman advised officers that she was attacked by a black male who tried to remove her clothing. She fought off the attacker, who fled.

The assailant is described as a black male, 5'10," who was last seen wearing a black jacket and blue jeans.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Unit at 240-542-2133. No further information is available at this time.

Arrest Is Announced In Burglary/Assault

A name and arrest have been announced by police in the November 21 Mandan Terrace assault and burglary that hospitalized the home owner, as reported in last week's Police Blotter.

Greenbelt police have identified the suspect in the burglary and assault, charging Dwayne Alford Sylver, Jr., 19, of Washington, D.C., with first degree burglary, second degree assault, indecent exposure and fourth degree burglary. Charging documents in the case have been turned over to the county sheriff's office for service.

Register for Police Watch Training

Greenbelt police will provide a Neighborhood Watch training session at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 15 at Greenbelt Lake Village Manor House for those who are part of or wish to join a Neighborhood Watch group. A certificate is issued to those who complete the training session.

The deadline for registering is Monday, December 13. To register, call 240-542-2116 or email klawson@greenbeltmd.gov with the registrant's name as it should appear on the certificate and the participant's Greenbelt community (Hunting Ridge, GHI, Greensprings II, etc.). The class will be held at 6640 Lake Park Drive in Greenbelt Lake Village.

Patuxent Holds First **Bird Count for Kids**

The Patuxent Research Refuge will hold its first bird count for kids on Sunday, December 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. rain or shine. It is modeled on the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count. Deadline for registration is December 9. Children ages 8 to 14 may sign up to participate. At least one parent or guardian must attend.

Activities will include binocular-birding boot camp, 90-minute birding sessions in small teams led by experienced birders on the various trails of the Refuge, brown-bag lunch and a "Tally Rally" tabulation session.

Participants who have binoculars and a field guide are asked to bring them and a brown-bag lunch. Dress should be appropriate to the weather, wear comfortable shoes or boots.

The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located off Powder Mill Road. To register or for more information call 301-497-5887. Special needs may be accommodated if notified in advance.

Advocates Sought For Foster Youth

The Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Prince George's County is seeking volunteers to train as advocates for children living in foster care. Volunteers spend about 10 hours a month getting to know the children and working with teachers, social workers and other adults protecting the child to help ensure the child's needs are met and a safe, permanent home is found.

For more information visit www.speakforthechildren.org or call 301-209-0491.

Publick Playhouse Has Free Senior Movie

On Tuesday, December 7 at 11 a.m. the Publick Playhouse will show the movie "Four Christmases" free for seniors.

An upscale, unhappily married couple finds their exotic vacation plans knocked out by fog, then are forced into a four-family frenzy as they try to satisfy everyone on the holiday. As they count the hours until their escape, they find long-repressed adolescent wounds reopened and re-evaluate their future together in this raucous comedy. This film has a run time of 88 minutes. Advance registration is required by calling 301-277-1710.

UM Hosts Annual All-day Pow-wow

1 in 3 Voters Respond To City's Questionnaire

Assistant Greenbelt City Manager David Moran submitted a report on October 8 to the Greenbelt City Council summarizing responses made to an election questionnaire for voters and others to complete at the November 2009 city election. Below is a condensation of that report. The complete report is at the city offices. A total of 32% of the people who voted completed 770 questionnaires, representing a response rate drop of 7%.

City Services

A key purpose of the questionnaire is for respondents to rate city services. The survey used a numerical scale for this purpose. All city services scored well, with many very highly rated.

In order to achieve a score of 4.00, three-fourths of respondents would have had to rate a service "good" or "excellent." In order of scoring, the top six rated services were Pre-School Classes (4.62), Horticulture/Planting (4.49), Senior Programs (4.45), Fireworks Display (4.45), Camp Programs (4.44) and Aquatics Programs (4.44).

The six lowest rated services were Springhill Lake Recreation Center (3.39), Dog Park (3.64), Parking Enforcement (3.67), Street Lighting (3.74), Traffic Control (3.88) and Animal Control (3.88).

Eighty-three (83%) percent of those who had contact with the Police Department since 2007 indicated that the police employee was polite and courteous.

The score for dispatcher responsiveness increased by 5% to 4.00 over the previous survey. Ninety-four percent of respondents who had contact with Community Development departmental employees noted the employee was polite and courteous; 84% said they were assisted satisfactorily.

Taxes

Under City Services and Taxes, residents were asked to rate the value of city services and programs for their tax dollars. The overall average score was 4.06 out of 5.00, similar to the 4.04 score in 2007. A majority of respondents said they would support a tax increase to maintain current services and programs (421 or 55%) and/or to provide fair compensation to employees (413, or 54%). Only 29% (224), however, said they would support a tax hike to increase city services and programs.

Schools

The election survey asked a number of education-related ques-

tions, with 214 residents reporting they had school-age children. Once these respondents were broken down by school, the number of responses for each school listed ranged from a high of 67 for Eleanor Roosevelt High School to a low of four for Turning Point Academy. St. Hugh's School was highest rated at 4.29, while Greenbelt Middle School received 1.92. The Prince George's School system overall received a 2.53.

Other Survey Questions

Seven hundred, or 91%, of respondents said they routinely recycle. When asked why they don't recycle, a number of respondents said they lived in apartments and recycling was unavailable or inconvenient.

Only 25% of those responding said they had watched programming on Greenbelt Municipal Access channels. It should be noted that 39% of survey respondents said they are not able to access these channels.

In response to a question about how residents prefer to receive information about city programs and services, the top preference was the News Review, followed by the city newsletter and the city website.

In response to questions about which methods provided useful information about City Elections, the top three answers were News Review ads (56%), the city newsletter (55%) and sample ballots (31%).

When asked if they had visited www.greenbeltmd.gov, 447 (58%) of those responding marked yes.

Commuting Patterns

Of survey respondents selfidentified as currently working, 23% (123) work in Greenbelt, 28% (148) work in Prince George's County and 25% (132) work in Washington, D.C. Of those who responded to the commuting patterns question, 76% (388) drive, 13% (64) use Metrorail and 5% (27) cycle or walk to work.



Thefts from vehicles were reported in the following areas: 8000 block Mandan Road (Md. tags); 6100 block Breezewood

Court (briefcase, passports, jewelry); 7600 block Mandan Road (Md. tags); and 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace (two incidents -- GPS units). Two incidents of vandalism were reported in the 5900 block Cherrywood Lane (damaged car windows).

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.

On Saturday, December 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., the University of Maryland Office of Multi-ethnic Student Education will host the 6th annual Native American Pow-wow. This free event, at the Riggs Alumni Center, will feature drumming, dancing, food and craft vendors and door prizes. Free parking is available in Lot #1. For more information call Dottie Chicquelo at 301-405-5618 or email chicodh@ umd.edu.

NARFE 1122 Holds Luncheon Meeting

NARFE Chapter 1122 of Northern Prince George's County will hold its annual holiday luncheon meeting on Wednesday, December 8 at noon at Sir Walter Raleigh Inn at 6323 Greenbelt Road in Berwyn Heights. To register and pre-pay call Warren Wilcox at 301-345-7437.



Announcement to GHI Members

The 2010 Leaf Bag Give-Away Program is winding down. Limited supply is still available at the GHI offices.

Bags will now be given on a first-come-first-serve basis (while supply lasts) to members who have not yet pickedup their allotment as well as to those who find they need additional bags to complete their fall yard work.

2010 LEAF BAG PROGRAM ENDS DECEMBER 30.

Analysis How Reliable Is the City's Questionnaire?

by James Giese

Back in the 60s, early in my career as Greenbelt City Manager, I initiated the election questionnaire, offering voters the opportunity to rate the various city services and provide complaints or other comments. While some city staff members may have had some concerns about receiving a bad report card, the results were generally positive and supportive of city services.

It also became clear that many residents liked the idea of this semi-annual evaluation opportunity. The city council also took interest in the program and began to propose new questions, some having policy implications, a subject area staff had originally avoided.

A few residents, however, criticized the survey, primarily for not being a statistically valid random sample of the city's population. They were, of course, correct. The survey may not reflect the views of the vast majority of residents who, for whatever reason, do not vote in city elections. Nor may it reflect accurately the views of all those who voted, because most do not take the time or trouble to complete it. (This year only one out of three voters did so.)

Another Survey?

The questionnaire reflects only the views of Greenbelt residents who took the time and made the effort to vote and then took the extra time and made the effort to complete the questionnaire. It would be interesting to do another questionnaire of a statistically valid random sample of the city's population to determine what differences in opinion there may be.

I believe, however (though not validated), that the survey reflects the views of those who have the greatest interest in Greenbelt's city government, who most actively participate in city affairs, who are most apt to influence city policy and who, in normal circumstances, decide who shall govern the city.

However, this statement is true only as of the date of the election. As the 2008 and 2010 national elections have demonstrated, voter opinion can change significantly in a relatively short period of time.

Glaring Example

One statistic, that of residency, sticks out glaringly to demonstrate how different are the questionnaire respondents from Greenbelt's population as a whole. Only seven percent of questionnaire respondents live in apartments, unlike the approximately 54 percent of Greenbelt residents who do.

Historically, apartment residents take little interest in local government and tend not to vote in local elections. Those voting at Springhill Lake Elementary School came from rental apartments (Empirian Village, now Franklin Park). Those apartments constitute about 30 percent of the city's housing units, 18 percent of the city's registered voters, 10 percent of those who voted in the 2009 city election and only three percent of those completing questionnaires.

In 1969 normal voting patterns changed in the city and Springhill Lake residents turned out en masse to vote. They were angry that the main access road (now Cherrywood Lane) was poorly paved and filled with potholes. They blamed the city. Even though the road was privately owned, results of that election sent a Springhill Lake resident (Joel Katz) to city council, defeated two incumbents and elevated Francis White from last place, in 1967, to first place and the office of mayor.

Age Variance

Another example of how questionnaire respondents differ from the city's population is the issue of age. Of the respondents, 39 percent were between the ages of 45 and 60 and 37 percent were over 60. In 2000, census data shows that 17 percent of Greenbelt's population were between ages 45 to 60 and only 9.5 percent were 60 and older.

The significant difference between the demographics of questionnaire respondents and the census data raises considerable doubt as to the usefulness of information concerning work locations, methods of commute, percent recycling and sources of information.

Nor can we be assured that all Greenbelt residents are as happy with city services as are questionnaire respondents. However, because other indicators of how residents might regard city services are also generally positive, respondents may be representative of the community on these matters as well.

Raise Taxes?

Responses on raising taxes should be of particular interest to city councilmembers. The majority of the respondents would support a tax increase to sustain existing city services or to provide "fair compensation" (undefined) to city employees. With local governments experiencing continuing loss of normal revenues in this current recession, tax increases may be important in balancing the budget.

Council and staff need to be wary, however. Apartment residents or another currently non-vocal group could turn out once more en masse to change election results. A charismatic and vocal citizen could initiate a new movement to change the course of city government as I have seen happen elsewhere.

While raising taxes has never been much of an issue in city elections, Greenbelt voters joined with other county voters to impose tax limits on the county government and, later, to oppose removing those limitations.

When it comes to the will of the electorate, nothing should be taken for granted.



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NEED PERSON to haul couch to sidewalk for bulk pickup. 301-313-9029

MERCHANDISE

LOVE BOOKS? Visit the Greenbelt Writers Group table in the Community Room at the Festival of Lights Fair, December 4 & 5 in the Community Center.

NOTICES

COLETTE ZANIN JEWELRY ("the earring lady") now on Facebook and at Holy Cross Lutheran Church Craft Show, Dec. 4.

REAL ESTATE – RENTAL

GREENBELT/LANHAM – Renting near NASA, in-law apartment, 3 BR, 1 bath, kitchen, recreation room, minimum rent: \$200's/month /ROOM++ (consider higher offers) OR rent entire apartment. 301-552-3354

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HOUSECLEANING – Weekly, biweekly, monthly. Free estimates and also provide references. Debbie, 301-459-5239.

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YARD SALES

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RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$8.10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$12.15). Deadline 10 p.m. Tuesday.

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ELVES HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Santa will be visiting Springhill Lake Clubhouse located in Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station. Children will receive a small treat from Santa. Parents are welcome to bring their own cameras to take a picture

Sunday, Dec. 5, 7:00-9:00 PM

New Deal Cafe All are invited to the New Deal Cafe in Roosevelt Center for artists Paul Downs and Carolyn and Mason Thor Bourne, Church

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday 12/18, 10:00am to 12:00pm Greenbriar Terrace Room. FREE. Greenbriar's children of all ages are

Saturday, December 11, 1:30pm – 3:30pm Greenbelt Youth Center Ages 6-12, \$5/Child; pre-registration required. Children will bake holiday cookies and make a holiday craft. Instructor: Gaye Houchens

ule. All children will receive a free pic-

ture with Santa. All are welcome to bring

video and cameras to relive the moment.

NORTH POLE CALLING

Tuesday, December 14 – Thursday, December 16 6:00pm-7:30pm Ages pre-school through second grade -FREE

Santa and his helpers will make a special call to your home to check whether your kids are being naughty or nice. Complete the informational flier available online and throughout the City facilities.

CAMP SNOWFLAKE

December 27- December 31, 9am-3:30pm Greenbelt Youth Center Residents: \$125 Non-Residents: \$150

BC(7-9am):\$15 AC (3:30-6pm):\$25 A fun, safe, and affordable Winter Camp for children out of school during the Winter Break. Children will go on field trips and have special guests visit. For ages 5-12. Registration required.

and capture the moment. Co-Sponsored by Camp Fire USA and the Greenbelt Recreation Department

LATE NIGHT AT THE **YOUTH CENTER**

Friday, December 17, 6:00-10:30pm Greenbelt Youth Center Residents: \$20 Non-Residents: \$25

A program designed to be a SUPER VALUE that provides your child (age 6-12) with a structured and supervised evening with their friends while parents have the evening to themselves! Program will include dinner, ice cream treat, recreational swim time, a movie and more! Pre-registration is required.



whose art work will be on display. This is a free event. Sponsored by Friends of New Deal Cafe Arts (FONDCA).

welcome to have breaktast with Santa. Information: 301.441.1096 Hosted by: Greenbriar

Holiday Hours for Recreation Centers YC/SHLRC GCC GAFC 6am-5pm 9am-4pm 12/2412pm-5pm 12pm-4pm 12/25 Closed 12pm-4pm 12/31 9am-4pm 6am-5pm 12pm-5pm 1/01 12pm-4pm 12pm-4pm 12pm-4pm

GCC: Greenbelt Community Center GAFC: Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center YC: Youth Center SHLRC: Springhill Lake Recreation Center

2011 WINTER RECREATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

The Greenbelt Recreation Department's Winter Activity Guide is now available at www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation. Take a gander at the fantastic programs, services and facilities we have to offer!