

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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

January 5, 2012

## Greenbelt Has Turned a Deeper Shade of Green during 2011

by John Lippert

Greenbelt prides itself on being a sustainable community. In 2011 residents, businesses and organizations, thanks to a number of actions taken by the city government, climbed several rungs further up the sustainability ladder.

Greenbelt made the Labor Day Festival a bit greener last fall when the organizing committee made “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Replenish!” the 2011 theme and prohibited vendors from giving out polystyrene (Styrofoam) packaging. Instead some vendors surprised everyone by handing out food and drinks with utensils, plates and cups made entirely from corn, making them 100 percent compostable.

### What a Delight

Public Works also bought 20 recycling bins, pairing them with trash bins throughout the festival grounds.

GreenACES presented prizes to the “greenest” food booths, recruited and trained dozens of volunteers who instructed and encouraged proper recycling.

Recycling efforts at the Labor Day Festival benefited not only the environment but also the bottom line. Some 8,225 pounds of material were recycled, avoiding sending it to the landfill and thus saving the city hundreds of dollars.

### Wind Power

2011 was a banner year for buying wind electricity. During 2011 the City of Greenbelt and the following Greenbelt merchants and organizations signed up for 100 percent wind electricity from Clean Currents: Greenbelt Auto & Truck Repair, Greenbelt Community Church, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) administration building and the Greenbelt Service Center.

Greenbelt also continued participation in the Clean Currents Green Neighborhood Challenge, encouraging residents to sign up for clean wind electricity. Approximately 250 Greenbelt residents now buy wind electricity, bringing the city close to being able to claim EPA Green Power Community status.

GreenACES hopes to sign up another 75 residents in 2012 to claim that prestigious EPA status. For each new resident who signs up and mentions “Greener in Greenbelt,” Clean Currents will donate \$25 to be used to fund local environmental projects.

To date, the Chesapeake Education & Arts Research Society (CHEARS) has received Clean Currents Green Neighborhood Challenge donations to help fund the Three Sisters Community Gardens and the planting of fruit and nut trees.

### Solar

2011 also saw the dawn of large-scale solar power, as Greenbelt Community Solar LLC near the end of the year installed a 21.6-kilowatt solar electric system on the Greenbelt Baptist Church.

Greenbelt’s Public Works Department and GHI are loaning Kill-a-Watt meters and thermal leak detectors to help city residents locate and eliminate energy waste.

As this author looks over the past year’s accomplishments, he

See **GREENER**, page 6

## Tough Crowd Takes Plunge Into Icy Pool on New Year’s

by Jim Link

An intrepid, colorful, raucous band of 25 or so Greenbelters kicked off the new year by taking the plunge in the outdoor pool of the Aquatic Center just before noon on January 1.

Nervous but ready, Polar Plunge participants stood at the corner of the shallow end, forming two rows perpendicular to each other.

Recreation Department Staffer Mitch Kallemyn shouted out the countdown – “5, 4, 3, 2, 1!” – triggering the big splash. Fifty or so friends and family members cheered loudly as they clicked pictures of their sleek, wet heroes.

“It’s exciting,” said plunger Kelly Bury. “I don’t have to go in over my head and I’m very thankful the weather is not

arctic.”

Ken Jarva plunged “just for the fun of it,” he said, and his wife, Kathie, claimed, “I’ve always loved extreme adventure.”

Greek born Photine-Tsoukalas said she has plunged on New Year’s Day in Athens also. “Both are cold,” said the 12-year Greenbelt resident.

“I wanted to start the new year with a big splash,” said Hilda Inzeo.

### Safety First

Safety was a prime concern of the Aquatic Center staff. “We have four life guards here and EMTs (Emergency Medical Technicians) from the Greenbelt Fire Department,” explained Kallemyn.

See **POLAR PLUNGE**, page 8



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

Participants gather on New Year’s Day before taking the plunge into cold water. At least the air temperature at 50 degrees was not frigid.

## Top Stories of 2011

The News Review presents a review of major stories of the past year. They were prepared by Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell, James Giese, Sue Krofchik, Diane Oberg, Thomas X. White and Renauta York.

### Franklin Park

Empirian Village, originally known as Springhill Lake Apartments, was sold to Fieldstone Properties in October 2010 and renamed Franklin Park.

By March 17, 2011, complaints were reported to be down by 50 percent. Approximately 40 residents with criminal backgrounds were removed. Police patrols were increased and robberies were down by 80 percent, motor vehicle thefts down by 93 percent and overall crime was down by 30 percent.

On April 6 Franklin Park management hosted a “summit meeting.” Mayor Judith Davis reported code violations were down 80 percent, 85 apartment units had been renovated and a backlog of 10,000 work order requests had been completed.

As of September, crimes in Greenbelt West were down 24 percent while crimes against persons were down 68 percent. Franklin Park owners had invested \$7 million and the development was on track to complete renovations in 700 units by the end of 2011. Police Chief Craze gave a “hats off to management for slamming the door on ne’er do wells.”

### Youth Achievements

Only a minuscule fraction of Greenbelt’s youth activity merits negative coverage. Our youth’s very positive activities in 2011 included participation in Artful Afternoons, choir singing, swimming (The Greenbelt Barracudas), circus acts, double-dutch rope jumping, stargazing, stream cleanups, marching in the Labor Day Parade and the usual ball sports: base, basket and foot. Three noteworthy achievements were Greenbelt teenager Sequoia Austin’s significant contributions to Maryland University’s Lady Terps basketball team, 8-year-old Alejandra Vides-Austin’s cribbage championship victory and the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Quidditch team’s (Harry Potter) impressive performance in the national tournament in New York City.

### GHI Upgrade

Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) began the year announcing plans to upgrade all 1,600 homes in the cooperative. The goals are to increase energy efficiency, decrease utility bills and improve comfort within homes. Using a U.S. Department of Energy grant, GHI collaborated with the National Association of Home Builders Research Center to design a plan for upgrades using the best building science available.

A 2012 Pilot Project will test different upgrades for roofs, doors, windows, insulation and indoor ventilation for all homes and siding and waste water pipe replacement in frame units. In 2013 different types of heating and air conditioning systems will be tested. Three rows of block homes and two rows each of brick and frame homes, a total of 28 units, comprise the “pilot homes.” Data will be analyzed to see if savings and benefits actually do accrue. Only then will the components and scope of a community-wide upgrade, if any, be determined.

Costs for this multi-million dollar upgrade will be paid for using the currently available \$10 million in GHI replacement reserve funds (to which members pay monthly), grants, loans from lending institutions and other GHI funds.

### Sector Plan

The Prince George’s County Planning Department initiated a Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan for Greenbelt West in the spring. Four Community Workshops were held in Greenbelt to seek input from interested residents, communities, local governments and businesses.

Late in 2011 planning officials extended the planning process into 2012, scheduled a January 12 workshop on transportation and will hold other workshops with approvals occurring in late 2012 or early 2013.

### Earthquake and Hurricane

As a result of the March 25 earthquake off the coast of Japan and resulting catastrophic tsunami that damaged the Fukushima nuclear power plant, Greenbelters were concerned about the welfare of two visiting Japanese graduate students and the effects on their communities and families. Many local school children raised money to send to Japan.

Greenbelt and the rest of the East Coast was rattled on August

See **TOP STORIES**, page 6

# Letters to the Editor

## THANKS!

I want to thank the members of Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) for their expressions of gratitude in the many cards, gifts and notes I received upon my retirement as general manager. It was heart-warming to hear from you and to see so many of you at my retirement celebration December 11 and December 29 as you stopped by to welcome Eldon Ralph and wish me farewell. It has been a bittersweet month of transition for me. I shall miss the wonderful folks who have helped make my experience during the past 17 years so rewarding. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with me and for making me feel so appreciated.

I also want to express my appreciation to the mayor and councilmembers, city employees and other professionals in the community with whom I worked. You made my job easier by the professionalism and cooperation extended to me during my time at GHI.

To the staff of GHI, I am deeply grateful for your support and cooperation over the years, and for your commitment to serving members as you do.

Last but not least, I thank the board of directors and the wonderful transition team members for giving me such a memorable farewell. I am proud to have served as your general manager.

Gretchen Overdurf

## THANKS!

We appreciated the opportunity to honor Joe Natoli at the memorial gathering organized by his family.

Joe Senior was an extraordinary person doing ordinary things. A first-generation American, he worked very hard to build a successful business and support his family.

In 1964, when he moved to Greenbelt, there were few restaurants here. He grew his business to meet a real community need. The Greenbelt Carryout/Generous Joe's Deli has served several generations and is a local gathering place for young and old to eat with friends and family.

The large number attending the gathering was a tribute to both Joe Senior and the entire Natoli family. It was a community "thank you!"

David and  
Sandra Lange

## THANKS!

Many thanks to the Recreation Department, to Stephen and all the Aquatic and Fitness workers who made the Polar Plunge so much fun. It was a great success from this participant's point of view, even the weather cooperated! Our good fortune that the pool had to be kept in full swimmable status this winter and it was beautiful, so clear and sparkling clean. The friendship of Greenbelters was evident throughout the morning. Let's do it again next year!

Kathie Jarva

## Climate Change Focus Of GCAN Meeting

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will be on Wednesday, January 11 at 7 p.m. in Room 114 at the Greenbelt Community Center.

The speaker will be Juanita Constible, an Al Gore-trained presenter with the Climate Reality Project, one of a group of specially trained climate activists who educate people about how to solve the climate crisis at a grassroots level worldwide.

Constible is also the Climate Reality Project's Science and Solutions director and co-author of "Climate Change from Pole to Pole: Biology Investigations," a book for high school and college students.

The session will look at how and why the global and regional climate is changing, with discussion on how to reduce vulnerability to climate change effects.

## House Party Planned To Overturn Decision

A house party to work against the Supreme Court ruling that corporations are people is planned for Friday, January 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 56 Lakeside Drive, the home of Eugenia Kalnay.

Events are currently being planned for January 19 and 20 across the country. Items for discussion at the Greenbelt house party will be re-introducing a resolution to the Greenbelt City Council, State Senator Jamie Raskin's plan to introduce a resolution in the Annapolis legislature and several ideas toward a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision. January 21 will be the two-year anniversary of the ruling.

Anyone planning to attend should contact [ekalnay@gmail.com](mailto:ekalnay@gmail.com).

## Grin Belt



"This wok makes a perfect pretend-sled on an imaginary snowy slope."

## On Screen

### Le Carre Revisited, New Actors

Old Greenbelt Theatre's first offering of the new year, beginning Friday, January 6 is *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy*, a remake of the 1979 BBC miniseries based on John Le Carre's novel of espionage. George Smiley, formerly Alec Guinness, now Gary Oldman, comes out of retirement to methodically, implacably track down a Soviet mole who has infiltrated British intelligence. Oldman is joined by an iconic British cast including Ciaran Hinds, Colin Firth, Mark Strong, Toby Jones and John Hurt. Cloak and dagger, smoke and mirrors, loyalty and betrayal, London fog, tea, nicotine and whiskey all saturate this thrilling labyrinth.

Director: Tomas Alfredson; Writers: Bridget O'Connor and Peter Straughan. Rating: R. Running Time: 127 minutes.

— Jim Link

## WSSC's FY 2013 Budget Released

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has released its proposed Fiscal Year 2013 budget for public hearing purposes. The \$1.4 billion proposal includes a 7.5 percent increase in water and sewer rates, adding approximately \$4.85 per month to the bill of a customer using 210 gallons of water per day.

The proposed budget cites a number of improvements to WSSC's aging water and sewer system including rehabilitation of 46 miles of water mains and 55 miles of sewer mains, inspection and repair of 12 miles of pre-stressed concrete cylinder

pipe with installation of acoustic fiber optic cable to monitor pipe conditions, funding for the sewer lateral inspection program and funding to comply with a consent decree.

The budget must be submitted to the Prince George's and Montgomery County councils by March 1. Public hearing dates will be February 1 at the RMS Building, 1400 McCormick Drive in Largo, and February 2 at the Stella Werner Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue in Rockville. In case of inclement weather, either meeting will be held February 8 at WSSC Laurel headquarters, 14501 Sweitzer Lane.

## NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS



### PRELIMINARY AGENDA GDC & GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

Thursday, January 12, 2012

GHI BOARD ROOM, 7:30 PM

#### GDC Key Agenda Items:

- Lawrence Apartments Purchase Offer Update

#### GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Proposed Modification of Gardenside Exterior Door – 56H Crescent
- Proposed Installation of Fence Off Designated Yard Line – 6H Crescent
- Proposed Future Occupancy & Interior Changes – 7A&B Laurel Hill
- Yard Line Certification: 1 Court Crescent Road
- Electrical Inspections Update
- Approval \$4 million Line of Credit to Greenbelt Development Corp.
- Strategic Plan Meeting Agenda for January 22nd Board Retreat
- Proposed State of the Co-op Town Hall Meeting
- Contract for Renovation: 42M Ridge
- Letter in Support of National Development Co-op Act
- Completion of Transition Task Force
- Formation of the New Communications Committee

Regular Board meetings are open to Members  
For more information, visit our website - [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)

## OLD GREENBELT THEATRE WEEK OF JAN 6

**Tinker, Tailor, Soldier,  
Spy (R)**

### Friday

\*5, 7:30, 9:55

### Saturday

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All Seats \$5.00,

Howard Keel & Ava Gardner  
in **SHOWBOAT**  
in Technicolor

**Tinker, Tailor, Soldier,  
Spy**

\*2:30, \*5, 7:30, 9:55

### Sunday

\*2:30, \*5, 7:30

### Monday – Thursday

\*5, 7:30

\*These shows at \$6.50

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# 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; Renata York, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Denise George

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—\$40/year.

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 January 9 through 13:

Monday – Cranberry juice, beef tenders with gravy, mashed potatoes, seasoned peas, fruit cocktail.

Tuesday – Apple juice, orange chicken, rice pilaf, Oriental-blend vegetables, diced pears.

Wednesday – Orange juice, Sloppy Joe on a hamburger bun, seasoned spinach, applesauce.

Thursday – Cranberry juice, roast turkey with gravy, mashed sweet potatoes, California-blend vegetables, apricots.

Friday – Apple juice, breaded pollock with tartar sauce, black-eyed peas, seasoned carrots, pineapple/Mandarin orange pieces.

## GHI Notes

Friday, January 6, Office Closed – For Maintenance Emergency call 301-474-6011

Saturday, January 7, 2 to 4 p.m. – Winterization Workshop – Community Center

Tuesday, January 10, 8:30 a.m. – Yardline Committee Meeting – GHI Library

7:15 p.m. – Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Room

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

Wednesday, January 11, 7:30 p.m. – Architectural Review Committee Meeting – Board Room

Thursday, January 12, 7:30 p.m. – Board of Directors Meeting – Board Room

Monday, January 16, Office Closed – For Maintenance Emergency call 301-474-6011

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

## At the Library Storytimes

On Wednesdays and Thursdays a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and props.

Wednesday, January 11, 10:30 a.m.: Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years.

Thursday, January 12, 10:30 a.m.: Toddler Time, for ages 18 to 35 months, with caregiver.

Space is limited; pick up a free ticket for Storytime events at the information desk.

For more information on any of these programs or events visit the library, call 301-345-5800 or visit [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

## Upcoming Events At New Deal Café

Friday, January 6 pianist John Guernsey plays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by jazz saxophonist Buck Hill accompanied by the Not2Cool Jazz Trio with soulful sound from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, January 7 begins with the TV John Show recording from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., then Bruce Kritt playing classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. From 6:30 to 8 a 14-year-old student of John Guernsey plays jazz and blues in his place. The Jelly Roll Mortals rock the house with semi-acoustic roots music from 8 to 11 p.m.

On Sunday, January 8 there will be a mix of Slovak and Gypsy songs in the style of Eardas and Gypsy jazz with Orchester Prazevica from 5 to 8 p.m.

### Next Week

On Tuesday, January 10 finger-style guitarist Steve Hung entertains from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, January 11 Percy Show sings country, folk and Indie music from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, January 12 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays from noon to 2 p.m., with James and Martha hosting Open Microphone from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, January 13 jazz pianist John Guernsey plays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., then Stacy Brooks returns with her special brand of blues and traditional R&B from 8 to 11 p.m. Saturday, January 14 starts with classical guitar by Bruce Kritt from 4 to 6 p.m. John Guernsey follows with up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and The Drivers play jazz from 8 to 11 p.m. Sunday, January 15 the Not2Cool Jazz Trio plays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with the monthly kids' open microphone session from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. From 5 to 7 p.m. there will be an evening of live Middle Eastern music and dance with Darkuba Dawg Hafla, whose musicians play exotic instruments such as oud, darbuka and riq.

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## Café Seeks Artists For January, Later

The New Deal Café has issued a call for 3-D artists who wish to have their work shown at the Café's glass display case. Those who live in, work in or use Greenbelt as their recreational venue are invited to contact the Café about use of its glass display case (size is about 5 x 1 x 2). The case is reserved for showcasing community members' sculpture, pottery and crafts for two-month periods beginning in January.

Those interested should contact New Deal Café Arts Coordinators Kristin Stensen (301-257-2095) or Julia Wade (301-467-2843) of email [newdealcafearts@yahoo.com](mailto:newdealcafearts@yahoo.com).

## Arts Center Restroom Rescue Is Underway

by Joan Jacobs

The renovation of the Greenbelt Arts Center restrooms began Tuesday, December 27. The project will be completed by Wohlfarth Construction in about four weeks, in time for the resumption of the normal theater season.

The work will transform the two rooms from their drastically deteriorated condition into facilities which are not only attractive and convenient but, most importantly, will provide to disabled patrons and volunteers access in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Compliance means larger stalls, higher toilets, grab bars, tilted mirrors and sinks that are accessible to wheelchair users. A high-low drinking fountain will enable the theater to save at least \$550 annually, the cost of providing bottled water in the lobby.

Renovation will enable the theater to meet certain code standards such as a cutoff of its water supply to separate it from that of the rest of the building and the installation of low-flow toilets in order to reduce water usage. Proper venting of the restrooms will be added as will emergency lighting.

The cost will be about \$54,000 which has been donated over more than two years. The most recent award of \$7,000 is from the Prince George's County Community Foundation Grants Program. The committee is hopeful the additional money will allow them to also install an automatic door opener for the entrance to the theater.

Joan Jacobs is the chair of the Restroom Rescue Committee.

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club is looking forward to another active, busy year. Trips, programs, lunches and taking part in the Greenbelt 75th anniversary year are some of the plans for 2012.

On January 11 the speaker will be acupuncture therapist Ellie Isaacs. Be sure to check with your medical insurer before making an appointment to be treated – some providers will cover acupuncture and some will not.

It's that time of the year again. The Membership Committee reminds us it's time to pay dues for 2012. So pay up and enjoy being with friends and staying active.

## Free Senior Movie

On Tuesday, January 10 at 1 p.m. a free movie *How Green Was My Valley* will be shown in the senior lounge.

## City Notes

The street maintenance crew removed unwanted signs and graffiti from other signs on Ridge Road, installed new blacktop on a section of Hanover Parkway and established bollards in Greenbelt East.

Several teenagers earned community service hours by helping to pick up trash in parks and playgrounds.

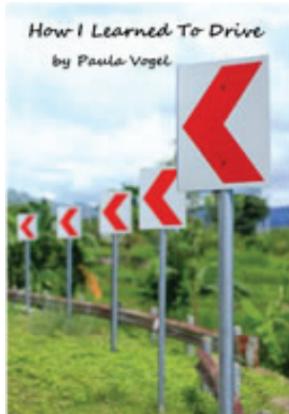
Renovation work continued at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, including the replacement of outlets in the gymnasium.

The parks crew installed an Adopt-A-Bench along the sidewalk at the Hillside underpass as well as an Adopt-A-Tree in Buddy Attick Park.

They also weeded the landscape median on Southway and Greenbelt Road and repaired landscaping on Hanover Parkway that had been damaged by a car.



Happy New Year  
From The Greenbelt Arts Center!



Coming Soon:  
*How I Learned to Drive*  
Written by Paula Vogel  
Directed by Patrick Miller

January 20, 21, 27, 28,  
February 3, 4, 10, 11 at 8:00 PM  
January 29 and February 5  
at 2:30 PM.

Ticket prices for each event:  
\$17 General Admission, \$14 Students/Seniors

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770  
email: [info@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:info@greenbeltartscenter.org)  
or BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)

### Coming Soon:

February 17 - 19, 2012 - Truth Be Told, guest production from Alight Dance Company  
March 9 - 31, 2012 - Pippin  
April 7, 2012 - Celtic Concert with The Homespun Ceilidh Band

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(!) = No pass, (!!) No pass weekend

## WEEK OF JAN. 6

### FRI. – SAT.

War Horse, PG-13  
11:55, 2:50, 5:45, 8:45  
Dragon Tattoo, R  
11:40, 3, 6:15, 9:30  
Tintin, PG, in 2D (!)  
4:35  
Tintin, PG, in 3D (!)  
11:55, 2:20, 6:45, 8:45  
Alvin & the Chipmunks, G  
11:50, 2:20, 4:25, 6:45, 8:45  
Sherlock Holmes, PG-13  
11:30, 2:05, 4:45, 7:25  
Darkest Hour, PG-13  
10:05  
The Devil Inside, R (!)  
11:25, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50  
Mission Impossible 4, PG-13  
11:55, 3:35, 7, 9:50  
We Bought A Zoo, PG  
11:30, 2:05, 4:50, 7:30, 10:05

### SUN. – THU.

War Horse, PG-13  
11:55, 3:25, 7  
Dragon Tattoo, R  
11:50, 3:10, 6:45  
Tintin, PG, in 2D (!)  
3:25  
Tintin, PG, in 3D (!)  
11:30, 1:25, 5:25, 7:30  
Alvin & the Chipmunks, G  
11:25, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20  
Sherlock Holmes, PG-13  
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Darkest Hour, PG-13  
5:25  
The Devil Inside, R (!)  
11:25, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20  
Mission Impossible 4, PG-13  
11:35, 2:25, 5:10, 8  
We Bought A Zoo, PG  
11:40, 2:20, 5:15, 7:45

# The Bus

Seniors and Customers with Disabilities

RIDE FREE

# Obituaries

## Joseph G. O'Brien

On Monday, December 26, 2011, long time Greenbelt resident Joseph "Jerry" O'Brien Sr., died at Charlotte Hall Veteran's Home in southern Maryland.



Mr. O'Brien was born in 1923 in Belmont, Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps at the outbreak of World War II and served overseas with a unit that transported wounded soldiers to base hospitals. While on leave stateside, he met his future wife Catherine at a USO dance in Washington, D.C. He proposed the next day and they were married when he returned from overseas in 1946.

After the war Mr. O'Brien went to work for the U.S. Postal Service and tried his hand at several small businesses before finally becoming an insurance agent with the Shryock Insurance Agency.

In the early fifties the couple moved to Greenbelt, the first year government housing became available for sale through the new housing cooperative. They raised their three children and were active in St. Hugh's Catholic Church and School for many years.

Mr. O'Brien was also very active in the Greenbelt American Legion, where he held the offices of sergeant-at-arms, vice commander and chaplain.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Catherine, his children Joseph G. O'Brien, Jr., John M. O'Brien and Mary Lucy Winker; son-in-law Warren Winker; six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Hugh's Catholic Church on Wednesday, January 11 at 10 a.m.

## Allen Law

Allen (Khai-Fatt) Law, 70, died on Friday, December 23, 2011. He was a manager at Greenbelt Co-op.

Born June 15, 1941, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, he was the seventh among nine brothers and sisters.

After completing his education, Mr. Law volunteered in the Malaysian Air Force Unit where he assisted in the confrontation between Indonesia and Malaysia. Eventually he went into the construction business with his brother.

In 1978 he immigrated to the United States with his family to pursue the American dream. He was resourceful and dedicated to creating the most opportunities for his family, especially his sons. He worked as a manager at Southland Corporation and Greenbelt Co-op and quickly adapted to his adopted home.

He was the patriarch of his family. His humble and down-to-earth nature appealed to many of his friends and co-workers. Although he would come across as serious at first, one would quickly realize he was full of humor and had a way of affectionately teasing the people he loved.

His son Donald predeceased him in July 2011.

He is survived by his wife Grace, his son Daniel and his wife Lisa and his grandson, Darren Law, his first American-born grandson, his godson Wai Peng Foo, a sister, two brothers and many relatives and friends.

A funeral service was held at Collins Funeral Home, Silver Spring on Tuesday, December 27. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery.



Our sympathy to Barbara Young on the death of her brother, pioneer Greenbelter Robert T. Bonham of Riderwood Village, who died on December 18, 2011.

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 (Franklin Park). To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at [newsreview@greenbelt.com](mailto:newsreview@greenbelt.com) or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

— Kathleen McFarland

## Book Club Begins At Mowatt Church

On Tuesday, January 10 at 7 p.m., the new Mowatt book club will meet to discuss "The God Cookie" by Geoffrey Wood at the church. Refreshments will be served.

For more information call Betty Kolbe at 301-577-4673 or email [Betty@GreenbeltUMC.org](mailto:Betty@GreenbeltUMC.org).

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church is at 40 Ridge Road.

## Wildlife Center Program For Preschoolers

A program for children ages 3 and 4, Awesome Possum, will be offered on Thursday, January 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. at the Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center. What makes opossums awesome? Do they really hang upside down in trees by their tails? And have pouches like kangaroos? Come explore the world of the opossum in this fun hands-on program for preschoolers.

The Visitor Center is located on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 197.

## Robert T. Bonham

Greenbelt Pioneer Robert T. Bonham died on December 18, 2011, at his home in Riderwood Village.

A memorial service will be held at the Montgomery Station Catering Room on Sunday, January 8 at 2 p.m. Riderwood is located at 3120 Gracefield Road, Silver Spring (off Cherry Hill Road).

## School System Has Budget Forum

The Prince George's County Public Schools will hold a public Community Budget Forum on Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Laurel High School. Updates are available at [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org).

## Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
[www.greenbeltucc.org](http://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..."*

## BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. James Lawton - Pastor  
301-474-7573  
6301 Greenbelt Road  
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740  
[berwynpresbyterian.net](http://berwynpresbyterian.net)

Worship : Sundays at 11:00 am -- Child Care Available  
Sunday School : Sundays at 9:30 am  
Office Hours : M-F 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

*"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"*

## 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](http://www.mishkantorah.org)*  
*Conservative and Reconstructionist*



## Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

*Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community*

**Sunday, January 8, 2012, 10 a.m.**

"Life Is a Riddle: A Question Box Sermon" by Rev. Diane Teichert with  
Worship Associate John Sebastian

The minister will respond to the congregation's questions.

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

**40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt**  
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
[www.greenbeltumc.org](http://www.greenbeltumc.org) 301-474-9410  
**Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor**

**Worship Service 10am**

## 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**

Concerning the prejudice of race: it is an illusion, a superstition pure and simple! For God created us all of one race. In the sight of God there is no difference between the various races. Why should man invent such a prejudice? (Abdu'l-Baha)

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community  
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918  
[Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com](mailto:Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com) [www.bahai.us](http://www.bahai.us)

**Greenbelt Baptist Church**

**101 Greenhill Road**  
**Greenbelt, MD 20770 - (301) 474-4212**  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**Welcome!**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9:45 am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Prayer Meeting/Bible Study</b>

**ALL are Welcome!**

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

## 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](mailto:rector@stgeo.org) | [www.stgeo.org](http://www.stgeo.org)

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

**6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111**  
[www.myholycross.org](http://www.myholycross.org) email [myholycross@verizon.net](mailto:myholycross@verizon.net)

Worship 8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:30 a.m.

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Sunday Evening Worship, 6 p.m.  
Quiet Communion Service  
Come as you are!

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church is a traditional Bible-believing, Christ-centered congregation! Join Us!**  
**Join us on Facebook at Holy Cross Lutheran Greenbelt**

**Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS**

Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building

**ALL ARE WELCOME.**

### NAMI Support Group Meets

The New Carrollton Area Support Group of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will meet on Monday, January 16 from 10 a.m. to noon. The meeting will take place at the Hanco building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road in New Carrollton.

All are welcome at this supportive work group which prepares a mailing and performs other volunteer tasks while sharing their mental health experiences and finding solutions.

For details call Dominique Thomas 301-385-1689.

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) was the first library system in Maryland to provide Amazon Kindle compatible eBooks to patrons, as part of the OverDrive WIN initiative – a series of enhancements that sup-

### Library Now Loans OverDrive eBooks

port the library's virtual branch website.

By visiting <http://www.pgcmls.info> and clicking the Online Library link at the top of the page, library patrons can download audio books and eBooks. The newly implemented

enhancements will allow most OverDrive eBooks to be read on Kindle readers or by using free apps on the iPhone, iPad, Android and other mobile devices.

PGCMLS currently has over 6,800 eBook compatible titles in its collection.



# City Information

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING January 9, 2012 - 8:00 p.m. Municipal Building

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Presentations

- Service Awards

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

#### Minutes of Council Meetings

#### Administrative Reports

#### Council Reports

#### Committee Reports

- Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Report #11-4 (Recognition Group Application for Greenstems, Inc.)
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Trees, Report #11-4 (Substitution of CMA for Rock Sale in Deicing of Roads, Use of Pickup Trucks)

### LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 17 "Solid Waste" of the Greenbelt City Code for the Purpose of Adding Specific Penalties for Dumping and to Increase Penalties for General Violations -2nd Reading, Adoption
- A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase – Police Vehicle 1st Reading

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Sustainable Land Care Policy
- Federal Legislation
  - Community Access Preservation Act (HR 1746)
  - PACE Assessment Protection Act of 2011 (HR 2599)
  - Ten Million Solar Roofs Act of 2011 (S 1108)
  - Responsible Electronics Recycling Act (S 1270/HR 2284)
  - Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2011 (HR 1780)
- Appointment of Council Members to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Policy Boards and Committees
- \* - Reappointments to Advisory Groups

### 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](mailto:cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov) to reach the City Clerk.



### AN ARTFUL AFTERNOON

Sunday, January 8 from 1-4pm  
Greenbelt Community Center  
Greenbelt's 75th Anniversary  
Celebration Begins!

For information about activities throughout the year, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/75](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/75)

- 1pm-3pm: Make a wrist cuff with Celestine Ranney-Howes.
- 2:45pm: Dedication of "Faces of Greenbelt"
- 3pm: 75th Anniversary Celebration opening remarks by Mayor Davis
- 3:10pm: Bel Cantanti Opera presents Mozart's one-act musical parody Der Schauspieldirektor (The Impresario)
- 1pm-4pm: Artists' studio open house; visit the art gallery

### GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER

550-A Crescent Road (behind Police Station)  
**COME OUT AND VISIT ALL THE ADORABLE PETS.**

Bob is a young fellow whose owner could no longer take care of him. He is very handsome and sweet. The shelter has many adorable cats and kittens waiting to go home with you. Please come out to see them!

The shelter is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment. INFO: 301.474.6124. Donations welcome any time! We especially need kitty litter! Follow us on Facebook!



### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Employee Relations Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park & Recreation Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Committee and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee  
For information call 301-474-8000.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON THE CITY OF GREENBELT ETHICS COMMISSION

Volunteers are being sought to fill three (3) positions on the newly established Greenbelt Ethics Commission.  
I. In accordance with the Greenbelt City Code, Chapter 2 Administration, Article IV "Public Ethics", the Ethics Commission shall consist of three (3) regular members, appointed by the Council. The Commission shall be assisted in carrying out its responsibilities by legal counsel.

II. The Commission shall be the advisory body responsible for interpreting this Article and advising persons subject to it as to its application.

III. The Commission shall be responsible for hearing and deciding, on advice of legal counsel, any complaint filed regarding an alleged violation of this Article by any person.

Please refer to Ordinance No. 1318 passed by the City Council on September 26, 2011 for details of the Ethics Ordinance. The ordinance is available on the City website, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), and in the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.

To apply please send a letter of interest and resume to: Cindy Murray, City Clerk, City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 – or email [cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov).

### MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 9-13

Monday, January 9 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING** at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

Wednesday, January 11 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION** – Capital Projects/McDonald Field Lights at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Thursday, January 12 at 7:00pm, **M-NCPPC COMMUNITY MEETING** - Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan at Greenbelt Middle School, 8950 Edmonston Road.

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

### Christmas Tree Collection

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. The Public Works Department will pick up trees at the locations listed below and process them through the wood chipper. The chips will be used as mulch around trees and flower beds. Please bring trees to any of the following areas up until February 10, 2012.

- GHI:** Ridge Road, 73 Court (opposite playground)  
Plateau Place and Ridge Road (corner on playground side)  
Research Road and Hillside Road (corner)  
Ridge Road, 44 Court (Area near playground)  
Eastway and Crescent Road (corner)  
Ridge Road, 21 Court (across from Green Ridge House)  
Crescent Road and Ridge Road (playground at junction)  
Parkway (corner across from 58 Court Crescent Road)  
Parkway (corner across from Community Church)  
Southway, 7 Court (playground at Little League field)  
Ridge Road, 11 Court and 13 Court (area between courts)

#### Boxwood:

Ivy Lane and Lastner Lane (playground)

#### Lakewood:

Greenhill Road and Crescent Road (by Baptist Church)

#### Charlestowne Village and Charlestowne North:

Property adjacent to Attic Park

#### University Square:

In front of swimming pool

#### Lakeside North:

Near Swimming pool

#### Springhill Lake:

Community Building

#### Greenbriar:

Greenbriar (between 708 and 7710, Hanover Pkwy)  
Greenbriar (between 7728 and 7730, Hanover Parkway)  
Greenbriar (between 7826 and 7828, Hanover Parkway)  
Greenbriar (between 8003 and 8009, Mandan Road)

#### Glen Oaks:

Glen Oaks (between buildings 7903 and 7905, Mandan Rd)  
Glen Oaks (between buildings 7509 and 7511, Mandan Rd)

#### Hunting Ridge:

Hunting Ridge (between 6936 and 6978, Hanover Parkway)

#### Windsor Green:

Windsor Green (court entrances, picked up by Windsor Green staff)

#### Greenbrook Village and Estates:

Southeast corner of Ora Glen Dr. and Matthew Drive  
Southeast corner of Hanover Parkway and Greenbrook Dr.  
In front of barricade at Mandan Road and Mathew Street

#### Greenwood Village:

Opposite 8175 Mandan Terrace  
Opposite 7646 Mandan Road  
Opposite 7648 Mandan Road

#### Greenspring and Greenspring II

Southwest corner of Megan Lane and Craddock Road  
Park area between 7926 and 8006 Greenbury Drive  
Corner of Spring Manor Drive and Springshire Way  
Open area between 6519 and 6515 Springcrest Drive

#### Belle Point

Corner of Vanity Fair Drive and Prince James Way  
Open area between 7800 and 7801 Vanity Fair Drive  
Open area beside 7962 Vanity Fair Drive

#### Greenbelt Village

Open area between 6729 & 6715 Village Park Drive  
Open area across from 6632 Lake Park Drive  
Open area across from 6510 & 6512 Lake Park Drive

### TUTORING AT SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER

**For students in grades 1-12!**

6101 Cherrywood Lane, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Saturday mornings, from 10:00 – 12:00, beginning Saturday, January 7, 2012

To sign up or for additional information, call Judy Hering, 301-345-6660, or email: [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov)

## GREENER continued from page 1



PHOTO BY EVA FALLON

**Clean Currents check for \$300 goes to GreenACES designee, Chesapeake Education and Arts Research Society. From left to right Councilmember Emmett Jordan, who was visiting the meeting; Lore Rosenthal (foreground); GreenACES member Matt Dirksen; Kristin Schulz, Clean Currents residential coordinator; GreenACES members Michael Hartman and John Lippert; Jane Young; Greenbelt Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles; and GreenACES member Jamie Phillips.**

notices all of wind and solar energy purchasers named above start with "Greenbelt" in their names. But "Greenbelt" does not need to be in your name to buy Clean Currents wind electricity or

to install a solar energy system on your roof or property. We can all go green.

But 2011 seems to have been a critical turning point, with both wind and solar electricity becom-

ing cost-competitive options.

*John Lippert is the chair of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES).*

## Greenbelt Baptist Goes Solar, Saves Money

by Marat Moore

Greenbelt's first solar energy system on a non-residential building is up and producing electricity at Greenbelt Baptist Church, 101 Greenhill Road. The solar modules, installed in late December, are visible on the flat roof of the church's classroom building next to the sanctuary.

This project was initiated by Greenbelt Community Solar LLC (GCS-LLC), a group of local residents who purchased the solar system and paid for its installation. The church entered an agreement with GCS-LLC

to purchase solar electricity at a cost consistently below what they would pay the local utility and likely will save thousands of dollars in electricity costs over the life of the agreement. Solar electricity is both produced and consumed at the host site.

The American-made solar array includes 90 modules and generates up to 21.6 kilowatts of power – about 38 percent of the church's annual electricity needs. The solar modules are fitted with state-of-the-art micro-inverters (one per solar panel), which immediately convert DC to AC power on the solar panel – a more efficient way to transmit

power down to the AC panel that brings electricity to the building.

Pepco provides a "bi-directional net meter" so excess solar electricity on sunny days flows back into the power grid to power nearby homes.

Astrum Solar, a Maryland company, installed the solar array, which is expected to last 30 years. GCS-LLC hopes to mount a second solar energy project in Greenbelt and may recruit additional members in the near future.

For more information and to see photos of the installation visit [www.greenbeltcommunitysolar.com](http://www.greenbeltcommunitysolar.com).

**An Astrum Solar employee mounts a solar module on the roof of Greenbelt Baptist Church during installation of a solar energy system that began on December 19. The 21.6kw solar photovoltaic array is complete with turnover to Pepco expected this month. The solar modules are owned by Greenbelt Community Solar, LLC, a group of Greenbelters working to make solar energy a reality in the city.**

**Below, solar panels sit atop the Greenbelt Baptist Church.**



PHOTO BY FRANK GERVASI



## TOP STORIES cont. from page 1

25 by a magnitude 5.8 earthquake that was felt throughout the East Coast. Buildings were not known to be damaged nor were there any injuries in Greenbelt. Residents experienced loud rumbling, noticed trees and the ground heaving. Some initially thought these were due to an explosion or utility work. People responded by evacuating schools and businesses, resulting in massive traffic jams as employees headed for home. Schools and offices were closed the next day for inspection.

A week later on September 1, Hurricane Irene swept up the east coast. Although Greenbelt escaped the worst of the wind and flooding damage which faced residents in the northeast, residents here suffered power outages due to a damaged power substation in Beltsville. Schools and businesses were closed for two days. Residents of 46 Court Ridge and 20 Court Hillside were left in the dark for over a week while Pepco and GHI repaired meters and roofs that were damaged by fallen trees.

### Middle School Task Force

In 2011, the new Greenbelt Middle School was finally under construction. The Greenbelt Middle School task force spent the year seeking community input and deliberating uses for the school in ways that would best serve the Franklin Park community and all of Greenbelt. Competing community groups lobbied the city, task force and Board of Education to either use the building for an expanded Turning Point Academy or as a comprehensive community center.

In July, the Middle School Task Force recommended turning the building into a community center, at a cost of \$15 million. Although the county had authorized \$6 million for renovating the historic building, the city would still need \$9 million more in funding. At council's request, an alternative plan brought renovation costs under \$1 million. In August council wrote to Superintendent Hite with questions regarding renovations and relocating the school bus lot. On October 3 council learned from a resident that the school system would likely decide to retain the vacant building. However, in response to council's resulting October letter expressing dismay over the decision and clarification for how to proceed, Hite responded on October 24 that the Board of Education has not decided how the historic section of the building will be used. In addition, Hite clarified that the Board of Education has the right to retain vacant buildings until their use can be determined, leases would be subject to board negotiation and approval and the county would be offered the surplus property first. Hite wrote the board is awaiting completion of the Transportation Task Force county plan before determining what to do about the school bus lot.

### Storm Water Management

Work on the first phase of a project to improve the water quality in Greenbelt Lake neared completion at year's end. A 2003 study identified the stream at Greenhill and Hillside Roads as the highest priority project to reduce the amount of sediment flowing into Greenbelt Lake. At the time of testing, this area was also the largest source of contaminants such as nitrogen and fecal coliform.

The first phase of this project involved grading the stream banks, installing step pools to slow stormwater to reduce erosion and removal of a failing culvert. In spring the project is to be completed by planting seeds in organic compost placed in the streambed to filter stormwater from Hillside Road and the area surrounding Greenbelt Elementary School.

### Anti-smoking Lawsuit

After unsuccessfully seeking remedy by other means, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) member David Schuman sued the cooperative and his next door neighbor, seeking a ban on smoking both inside and on the patio of the neighbor's unit and for \$600,000 in damages because of alleged infiltration of dangerous second-hand tobacco smoke into Schuman's townhouse unit. At an August 10 community meeting conducted by Schuman, consultant and expert witness James L. Repace spoke of the hazardous effects of second-hand smoke, the inability to prevent air and smoke from one attached residential unit entering another or from entering from outside, while residents raised questions and Schuman explained his reasons for suing. On November 3, the seventh day in a trial at which many witnesses testified, Prince George's County Circuit Court Judge Albert Northrop found in favor of GHI on all counts of the lawsuit. With the consent of the next-door neighbor, Northrop issued a permanent injunction against smoking in the neighboring unit but declined to forbid outdoor smoking on the neighbor's patio and on all other counts found for the neighbor.

### Youth Center Celebrates 50th

On September 3, exactly 50 years after the doors of the Greenbelt Youth Center first opened, the anniversary was celebrated by the dedication of a "Wall of Honor" of persons who made a significant contribution to the programs of the center and the Recreation Department. Initial recognition was given on the wall to 22 persons with more names expected to be added in the future. Included were three former recreation directors, Ritchie Stevenson, Darald Lofgren and Hank Irving, other department employees, athletic coaches and players.

See **TOP STORIES**, page 8

# Greenbelt



Supermarket Pharmacy

## Farm Fresh Produce

Nutritious Ripe or Green Bananas <b>48¢</b> lb.	Fresh Crisp Cut & Peeled Baby Carrots 1 lb. bag <b>99¢</b>	Sweet Ripe Imported Cherries <b>\$2<sup>98</sup></b> lb.
Red Ripe Grape Tomatoes pint <b>\$2<sup>00</sup></b>	Florida Jumbo Grapefruit each <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>	Nutritious Broccoli Crowns <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> lb.
Fresh Crunchy Pears Red/Bosc/D'Anjou <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> lb.	Fresh Sweet Onions <b>99¢</b> lb.	California Navel Oranges 8 lb. bag <b>\$5<sup>88</sup></b>

## Fresh Quality Meats

Fresh Value Pack Chicken Thighs or Drumsticks <b>88¢</b> lb.	Fresh Value Pack Porterhouse or T-Bone Steaks <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	Fresh Lean Boneless Whole Pork Loins 9-10 average <b>\$2<sup>49</sup></b> lb.	Fresh Lean Beef Boneless Bottom Round Roast <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> lb.
Fresh Value Pack Boneless Country Style Spare Ribs <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	Kunzler Boneless Ham Steaks 8 oz. <b>\$2<sup>29</sup></b>	Hatfields Meat Franks 1 lb. package <b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>	Oscar Mayer Original Lunchables Assorted 4.2-4.5 oz. <b>\$1<sup>00</sup></b>

## Dairy

## Deli

## Frozen

La Yogurt Assorted Yogurt 5-6 oz. <b>40¢</b>	Shurfine Cream Cheese Original/Light 8 oz. <b>\$1<sup>50</sup></b>	Hatfield Honey Cured Deli Ham <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	Swanson Hungry Man Dinners Assorted 13-16 oz. <b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>	Shurfine Assorted Vegetables Regular/Blends 16 oz. <b>\$1<sup>25</sup></b>
Minute Maid Orange Juice Assorted 64 oz. <b>\$2<sup>88</sup></b>	Kraft American Cheese Singles 16 oz. <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b>	Deli Gourmet Peppered Turkey Breast <b>\$7<sup>49</sup></b> lb.	Green's Ice Cream Assorted 1.5 qt. <b>\$3<sup>00</sup></b>	Ellio's Large Pizza Assorted 14-19.5 oz. <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b>

## Health & Beauty

## Seafood

## Natural & Gourmet

## Bakery

Nature Made Vitamins & Nutritional Supplements Assorted 30-300 ct. <b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>	Fresh Catch Tilapia Fillets <b>\$5<sup>99</sup></b> lb.	David's Kosher Salt 7.5 oz. shaker <b>89¢</b>	Fresh Store Baked Golden Knot Rolls 6 pk. <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b>
Colgate Premium Toothpaste Assorted 4-6 oz. <b>\$3<sup>00</sup></b>	Sea Best Frozen Salmon Fillets 1.25 <b>\$8<sup>99</sup></b>	Kind Nutrition Bars Assorted 1.4 oz. <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b>	Fresh Store Baked Country Style White Bread loaf <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b>



## Grocery Bargains

Hunt's Spaghetti Sauces Assorted 24 oz. <b>88¢</b>	Mueller's Assorted Pasta Select Varieties 12 oz. <b>88¢</b>	Shurfine Chunk Light Tuna 5 oz. <b>85¢</b>	Hunt's Tomato Sauce 15 oz. <b>69¢</b>	Thomas' English Muffins Original/Whole Grain Honey Wheat 6 pk. <b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>
Purex Liquid Laundry Detergent Assorted 60-72 oz. <b>\$2<sup>98</sup></b>	Progressive Classic Soups Select Varieties 18-19 oz. <b>3/\$4<sup>00</sup></b>	Kellogg's Special K Cereal Assorted 11-19 oz. <b>\$2<sup>50</sup></b>	Ken's Salad Dressings Assorted 9 oz. <b>\$1<sup>25</sup></b>	Kellogg's Pop Tarts Assorted 8 pk. <b>\$1<sup>67</sup></b>

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Woodchuck Assorted Ciders 6 pk. bottles <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b>

<b>Beer &amp; Wine</b>
Jacob's Creek Wines 750 ML. <b>\$7<sup>69</sup></b>
Magic Hat Beers 6 pk.-12 oz. bottles <b>\$7<sup>99</sup></b>

Natural Light Beer 12 pk.-12 oz. cans <b>\$7<sup>49</sup></b>
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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](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf). Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Attempted Robbery

December 23, 8:56 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Drive. A man assaulted another person and tried to take their property. The robber is described as a black male, 6'2" to 6'3" tall, wearing a dark colored coat and hat.

### Drug Arrest

December 24, 2:02 p.m., 7700 block Hanover Parkway. Two Greenbelt juveniles were petitioned for possession of marijuana. They were released to their respective guardians pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

### DWI/DUI

December 22, 12:51 a.m., Greenbelt Road at Capitol Drive. A 24-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with multiple alcohol-related offenses after a traffic stop. He was released on citations pending trial.

### Burglary

December 25, 06:49 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Terrace. A 24-year-old Silver Spring man was arrested and charged with burglary, trespassing on private property and possession of marijuana after breaking into a home to sleep on a couch. He was transferred to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

December 26, 2:44 p.m., 6000 block Cherrywood Court. Electronics were taken.

December 27, 11:49 a.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. Electronics were taken.

December 27, 7:35 p.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace. Electronics and jewelry were taken.

### Vandalism

December 26, 7:03 p.m., 8100 block Craddock Road. A rock was thrown through a window.

December 27, 11:08 a.m., 6200 block Breezewood Court. A window was broken.

December 28, 3:44 p.m., 56 Court Ridge Road. Graffiti was found on a bench.

### Vehicle Crime

One stolen vehicle was recovered on December 27 in the 6700 block Kenilworth Avenue., a green 2002 Toyota Camry reported stolen by the D.C. Metropolitan Police. No arrests were made.

Two thefts from autos were recorded: 7800 block Mandan Road (tag expiration sticker) and 7200 block Hanover Parkway (GPS unit). An attempted theft from auto was reported in the 9100 block Edmonston Road.

One act of vandalism occurred in the 9200 block Springhill Lane (tires were flattened).

## POLAR PLUNGE continued from page 1



There was a mad dash to get out of the cold water.

Great ideas sometimes have humble origins. The outdoor pool has a new white coat on its bottom, which entails keeping it full and clean even in winter. "So, since we have a clean, filled pool, why not have a Polar Plunge?" asked Kallemyr rhetorically.

Will there be a Polar Plunge on January 1, 2013? "Possibly," Mitch said.

"I'm glad it wasn't a pool of ice," said AnneMarie Bryson, 14. Her friend Patty Commins, 14, added, "It's great to get a fresh start."

Patty's twin, Mary, said, "It's good to break out of our comfort zone. We actually swam two laps. We jumped in twice."

Their cousin Annina Commins, 13, said what many plungers were probably thinking - "I wanted an extraordinary start for what I hope is an extraordinary year."



PHOTOS BY HELEN SYDAVAR

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

## TOP STORIES cont. from page 6

### Education

For the third year in a row in six critical categories Maryland public schools topped the list of state education systems evaluated by Education Week, coming in first in childhood education, college readiness policies and workforce policies.

On February 9 State Superintendent Nancy Grasmick and AP officials visited Eleanor Roosevelt High School to honor its African American students who led the nation in College Board Advanced Placement examinations. The students excelled in four academic areas - biology, chemistry, English language and composition and English literature and composition.

### Pepco

A meeting between city officials and Pepco officials, cancelled when the lights went out, was held in September. Council probed issues concerning summer outages and heard about the utility's reliability enhancement plan, including new "smart meters." Pepco representatives complained of downed trees, broken limbs and squirrels blowing out transformers but promised new, larger poles, wire replacements and new feeder lines. Residents at the meeting complained of outage problems and costly repairs following power surges.

### Audubon Osprey Talk by Greg Kearns

Join members of the Prince George's Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the College Park Aviation Museum to hear a lecture on ospreys by naturalist Greg Kearns. Ospreys are the often-seen "fish hawks" of local rivers.

Kearns' photo and video program will cover osprey biology on the Patuxent River, the provision of nesting platforms, efforts to increase their number and the banding program. Kearns has been a Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission park naturalist for more than 27 years at Patuxent River Park in Croom.

For details contact Maureen Blades at 301-262-5148 or [mblades@comcast.net](mailto:mblades@comcast.net).

So much fun that they are taking the plunge again during the Polar Plunge. From left, Patty Commins, Anne Marie Bryson, Mary Commins and Annina Commins.

### Greenbelt Post 136

American Legion Post 136 will host an open house on **Monday, January 16 from noon to 3 p.m.** at Greenbelt Post 136, 6900 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Representatives will be available to answer questions about your Veteran Benefits. The history of The American Legion will be shown on DVD and brochures will be available with more information about benefits. The open house is free and open to the public. Post 136 is trying to educate the American public about what The American Legion does for the Veterans, Community and Children. The Open House is for members to come and receive their continuous year pins and encourage other Veterans to join the American Legion to gain more memberships and help more people become involved in the community.

**AMERICA NEEDS THEM TO JOIN NOW!**



Greenbelt Post 136 is located at 6900, Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. For more information e-mail [katlink136@comcast.net](mailto:katlink136@comcast.net).

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# The Young and Talented Are Featured

by Rick Ransom

Doug Tull and I had the joy of coordinating this year's Talent Show on the Labor Day Festival Stage on September 3. We both appreciated the acts that auditioned and were honored to present them. A three-piece group Cushioned Fall led off the program with spirited renditions of three popular songs: "Song 2," "The Middle" and "Everlong." They performed last year and it was interesting to see how far they had progressed since then. They were much more polished and at ease and clearly had worked together in practice. Their performance was highlighted by the singing and guitar playing of Abram Shaw. Colby Francoeur on bass was doing his best Jack Bruce imitation while Ian Harper provided steady and confident drumming.

Singer Kristen Beauchamp took the stage to present a program that was certainly ambitious. She has participated in the Miss Greenbelt Pageant for several years and this training showed in her fresh and appealing outfit and her wonderful stage presence. She was accompanied by music from her CD, and technical coordination with Ken Voigt and Kathy Fominaya of the stage crew took a few minutes. Kristen remained calm and patient and was ready to go when the music came up. She sang three very difficult pieces for a rookie or for any soloist for that matter: "Fidelity," "Jar of Hearts" and "Firework." "Jar of Hearts" is a particularly hard number because its phrasing in the verses is loose at best, and the chords and music don't provide a strong foundation until the chorus, which is well into the piece. She has a clear and enjoyable voice; with experience and practice she will become more of a vocal force.

Another returning band, Plaid Zebra took the stage next to grab the attention of the audience with blistering renditions of "Paranoid," "Couldn't Stand the Weather," Enter Sandman" and "Sharp-Dressed Man." Jan Knutson once again wowed the crowd with his command of guitar. His singing was improved this year with much more eye contact. He was accompanied again by the solid and dependable Trevor Mingo on bass and the forever-young-at-heart Doug Tull (yes, my co-presenter) on drums. Doug noted that they only had two practices to put it all together as Jan and Trevor are hard-pressed to find time for regular practices. One can only wonder how good these two young guys could be with regular playing time and wider experiences. Doug, who plays regularly with professional groups around the area, "had a ball."

After Plaid Zebra departed, a last-minute addition to the program appeared in the form of Shervonne Brown. She was brave enough to go onstage totally unaccompanied to sing Beyonce's "Listen." Because she came to me so late, I told her that if she could think of a song to sing a cappella, she could perform while the last act was setting up. It was not the most hospitable of conditions but it was the best I could do in the circumstances and time allowed. I encouraged her and coached her minimally but the confident

performance was all hers. We look for good things from her going forward.

The final act (sounds, and was, dramatic) brought us a group of young guys in their twenties as opposed to the teens we had thus far. The band was Five-Mile Stretch and Dan Sublett, lead guitar/vocal; Geoffrey Colleton, rhythm guitar; Neil Maley, bass; and Weston Ottern, drums brought just hard, head-banging songs to liven up the day, including "S.W.A.T." and "Pushing Pedestrians," as well as four others. They were a congenial and tight-knit group whose demeanor and attitude more than made up for the fact that their music was not everyone's cup of tea. They had clearly rehearsed many times and played together with ease. It was good stuff! They are looking for gigs so keep your ears open for them.

Two other performers auditioned but were unable to perform due to conflicts with family

events. Young guitarist Isaiah Lemons plays mean and creative R&B and rock leads to back-grounds provided on CDs. I was able to get Isaiah on stage at our Good Guys performance at the Greenbelt American Legion on Labor Day Monday during our first break. He was great and the crowd was very appreciative. And adult performer Sarah O'Brien was going to enthrall us with pieces played on native flutes. I was looking forward to her performance very much after hearing her audition. It would have been something to enjoy for sure. We encourage both to keep us in mind for next year.

Thanks to all of the participants, not just for their performances but for their cooperative attitudes and their lively spirits. It was a joy to work with them, truly. They will go far in their musical careers if they can maintain such easygoing and positive outlooks.

## Saturday Bird Walk Offered in Bowie

The Prince George's Audubon Society will host a free bird walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area on Saturday, January 7. Participants will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemon Bridge Road, just north of Bowie State University, to seek migrating and resident woodland and field birds and waterfowl. There is a good possibility of sighting raptor flyovers at this Patuxent River forested floodplain.

Beginners and experts are welcome. Waterproof footwear and binoculars are recommended.

Call 410-765-6482 for more information.

## Specialty School Programs Showcase

A presentation on county schools' specialty programs, charter schools and career and technical education programs will be offered as a showcase on Tuesday, January 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Charles Herbert Flowers High School, 10001 Ardwick Ardmore Road in Springdale.

Lottery information and applications for the 2012-2013 school year will be available, career and technical education program applications will be on hand and program representatives will be on-site to answer questions.

Admission is free. The inclement weather make-up date will be Tuesday, January 24.

visit us online at  
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

# Temporary Solutions for Dental Emergencies



Dr. David McCarl, Dr. Clayton McCarl, Dr. Monica Mattson, Dr. Jay McCarl  
McCarl Dental Group

It is important to have routine dental hygiene care and a dental exam at least every six months. It is also valuable to select a dentist who provides same day emergency dental treatment. When a dental emergency is causing pain or prevents you from going out in public, your dentist should ask, "How soon can you get to our dental office?"

Pain, swelling, broken teeth and a lost crown are the most common dental emergencies. Sometimes dental emergencies happen when you are traveling or when you just can't get to a dental office. Here are some short term remedies you can try if you are not able to see your dentist immediately.

**Tips for a Lost Crown, Veneer or Permanent Bridge** – If your crown, veneer or bridge has come loose, the primary short term goal is: **Do NOT swallow or lose it!**

If there is any risk of swallowing or losing your crown, veneer or bridge, keep it out of your mouth, store it in a safe place and make an appointment as soon as possible!

**Hint:** a clear sandwich bag or medicine vial is much safer than wrapping it in a tissue or paper towel – tissues, napkins and paper towels are often accidentally thrown away or simply disappear.

- Sometimes a patient can re-seat a crown and have it "snap" into place.

- Another temporary solution is to use Vaseline or an FDA approved denture adhesive as a temporary glue. **DO NOT use super glue or any other type of permanent glue to hold your crown, veneer or permanent bridge into place!**

**Emergency Care for a Broken Tooth** - Does cold air or water cause pain? If so, you should schedule a visit with your dentist as soon as possible. Do not chew with that tooth. If your sensitivity is caused by a cracked tooth, chewing hard objects can make the crack expand. Early treatment can prevent further damage.

### What To Do When a Permanent Tooth Is Knocked Out

Gently pick up the tooth by the chewing surface being careful to not touch the root of the tooth. If dirty, gently rinse the tooth in water or milk. Do not use soap and do not scrub the tooth or wrap it in a tissue. Try to reposition the tooth in its socket immediately - do not use excessive force. The sooner the tooth is replaced the greater the likelihood it will survive. If you cannot get the tooth back into its socket, keep it moist either by carrying the tooth in cool milk or in your mouth

– do not swallow the tooth!

See your dentist as soon as possible and ideally within 30 minutes.

You may also apply a cold compress or even a popsicle to the mouth and gums to decrease pain and bleeding.

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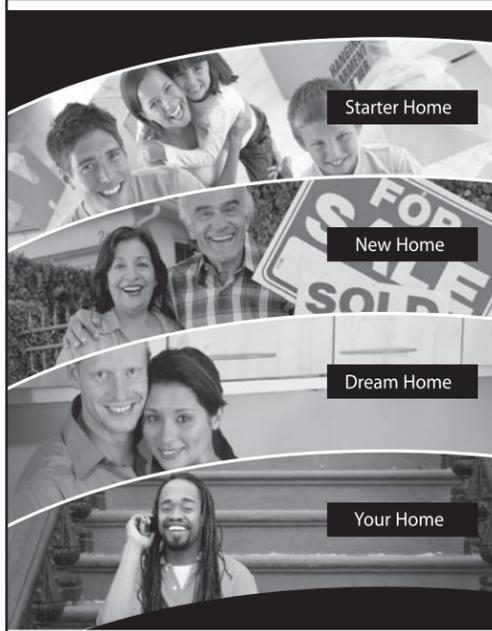
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### College Park Youth Choir and Vocetti

The College Park Youth Choir and Vocetti will present its winter community concert on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to this free event with a reception to follow. The concert will be held at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road in College Park. Parking passes are available. For details call 301-927-3013 or visit info@cpae.org.

### CPAE Presents The Chromatics

On Friday, January 13 song and science mingle as The Chromatics, a professional a capella group featuring NASA scientists, perform in a College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE) program. Part of the CPAE series, it will be held at Old Parish House 4711 Knox Road in College Park. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m.

For more information call 301-927-3013 or visit the website at info@cpae.org. Parking passes are available.

### County Auditions For Senior Idols

Auditions for the next Prince George's County Senior Idol competitions for those 60 and over will be held on Tuesday, January 10 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, 7120 Contee Road, Laurel and on Wednesday, January 11 from 9 a.m. to noon. Auditions will take place at the Prince George's Ballroom, 2411 Pinebrook Avenue, Landover.

Winners will receive a \$100 Visa gift card, represent Prince George's County and advance to the Maryland Senior Idol Program (hosted by the Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission on April 4 at the Bowie Performing Arts Center.

To register for an audition call 301-446-3400. Auditions will be scheduled every 15 minutes. Contestants must adhere to a list of developed guidelines.

### NAMI Examines County Courts

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) will hold its January workshop on Thursday, January 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway, New Carrollton. This month's topic will be "Prince George's County Mental Health Court" presented by Judge Patrice Lewis and the Mental Health Court Team.

The presenters will explain how the court works within the Prince George's County correctional system. Benefits and services for the mentally ill inmates and their families also will be presented. The latest information on this new program for mentally ill inmates and their families will be offered at the meeting, which is free and open to the public.

### Photo Exhibit Opens At Publick Playhouse

The art gallery at the Publick Playhouse in Cheverly will display a photography exhibit by Charles Sessoms from Monday, January 9 through Friday, March 2.

Sessoms uses photography and digital media to create art expressing tidbits about life with a focus on ordinary people and ordinary circumstances. Although many subjects end as traditional photographs, others are rendered rich digital collages. Admission to the exhibit is free.

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## Greenbelters Delight in Biltmore Trip

by Kathleen McFarland

Forty-three excited travelers started off from the Greenbelt Library parking lot, early on a cloudy October morning, on the fourth of the "Mary and Barry" bus trips. This time we were going to Asheville, N.C., to tour the famous Biltmore estate, the city of Asheville and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Among us there were some new faces and many that were familiar.

Once underway, we were pleased to learn Barry had acquired a new supply of jokes and that his stock of water, snacks and M&M's was full. Stops were frequent and lunch at what's become our favorite place, Cracker Barrel, was homey and filling. We were a week or so too early for peak autumn color but the rolling tree-covered hills were still lovely to look at and the ride through the countryside was smooth.

Dinner was waiting at Fatz's restaurant in Morganton, N.C., where the service and food were outstanding. We arrived at our hotel, the Mountain Inn in Hendersonville, after a long and curving ride up into the mountains. Our rooms were ready and we were ready, too, for a good night's sleep.

### The Biltmore

After breakfast at the hotel we boarded the bus for an early start to the Biltmore. For many years I'd heard about this famous place yet I was still surprised and astonished at its size and opulence.

The estate was built by George Vanderbilt, grandson of shipping and railroad tycoon Cornelius Vanderbilt. Surrounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains, it is the largest privately owned home in America. The drive through heavily forested areas up to the house (more like a palace) was three miles long.

Two famous architects collaborated with Vanderbilt in the design and construction of the home and grounds: Richard Morris Hunt and landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. Six years in construction, the home was opened on Christmas Eve 1895 and lived in by the family while entertaining many famous guests until 1930, when the estate was opened to the public.

The mansion has 250 rooms, including 33 family and guest bedrooms, 25 bathrooms and 43 fireplaces. As we toured the lavishly furnished rooms on the first floor, including a chess set given by Napoleon and paintings by famous artists like Renoir, Whistler and John Singer Sargent, the hardest job for my little group of six or seven women was keeping track of one another in the crowd of tourists.

On the second floor, after seeing the family rooms, we took a break for lunch at the "Stables" restaurant connected to the house. Opting for lunch meant we missed the shuttle bus to the Gardens, however – a disappointment to some of us. There was still much to see, however, in the time we had left.

Some of us took the little elevator to the basement rooms which housed servants' quarters, kitchens, laundries and even an indoor swimming pool and bowling alley. Others wandered through gift shops of all kinds and then outdoors into the ter-



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN MCFARLAND

Travelers from Greenbelt arrive at the Biltmore.

aces closest to the mansion.

Boarding the bus again, we were taken to a beautiful little shopping center called Antler Hill Village, still part of the estate. All buildings are in the same Loire Valley style as the mansion. We toured the special Tiffany exhibit at one of the shops, then enjoyed wine-tasting at the winery.

There is also an operating farm on the estate which we did not have time to visit, as our bus was waiting to take us to our next stop, Claxton Farms. Some of us vowed to come again to the Biltmore; the full experience would certainly require two or three days.

### Claxton Farms

To get to this unique place, our bus traversed little country roads, up and down and around curves seemingly impossible to navigate. Finally we stopped at a real farm, with miniature ponies and llamas munching together in a pasture, wildflowers growing beside the road, a pond out back and the beautiful mountains seeming to rise just beyond the pasture.

There was a big dining hall and bandstand, with barbeque and serving tables set up outside. We filled our plates with chicken, roast beef and potato salad and home-style desserts like banana pudding and sat at tables in the hall while a five-piece bluegrass band entertained us.

Two other busloads of tourists, already there when we arrived, seemed in a hurry to leave, to get to their lodgings before dark. Eventually we realized that was a good idea too. Boarding the bus in a light drizzle, we got out of the small curvy roads and onto the highway just as rain and darkness fell.

The drive back to our hotel was a long one. We were glad that our driver, Bill, a resident of this area, was familiar with the mountain roads.

### City of Asheville

Early the next morning we picked up our tour guide for the next day's adventures at the Asheville Visitors Center. His name was George and the agent for Diamond Tours told us he had selected George especially to be our guide. We found out that as a longtime resident of the area he was indeed a font of knowledge of the history, architecture, scandals and even ghosts, of each place we visited.

The first stop was the magnificent Basilica of Saint Lawrence,

a church designed and built, partially with his own funds, by the famous Spanish architect Rafael Guastavino. Coming to Asheville in the 1890s to work on the Biltmore, he fell in love with the city. He is buried in the church.

As the bus drove around the city, George pointed out places of interest, such as the Thomas Wolfe museum. (The city described in Wolfe's novel "Look Homeward, Angel" is really Asheville – "Altamont" in the novel.)

We drove by the Biltmore office building designed by I.M. Pei, across from a park with fountains and beautiful but incongruous sculptures of pigs and chickens. George explained that this part of the city had once been an important market for livestock – thus the tribute to the pigs.

Before letting us loose for lunch on our own, he guided the bus driver to a large indoor farmer's market filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, cheeses and crafts of every kind. There we sampled and purchased dried okra slices and beet chips, to be eaten as snacks.

Later my little group lunched on pumpkin soup and organic food at a charming upstairs lunchroom, the "Early Girl" restaurant. The name came from a variety of tomato, our waitress said, one of a bevy of young women dressed in colorful skirts and unusual combinations reminding us of the 1960s. After a bit of window-shopping in this up-to-date city teeming with college students and tourists, we again boarded the bus.

We drove through the River Arts district of Asheville, with George pointing out old tanning factories and tobacco barns along the French Broad River. We saw the "12 Bones" barbeque place where President Obama recently ate and then passed through neighborhoods of stately homes and into the Grove Arcade, including the hotel where F. Scott Fitzgerald had stayed while in Asheville. (His wife Zelda died later, years after her husband's death, in a fire at the Asheville nursing home where she had lived for many years.)

### Blue Ridge Parkway

Leaving Asheville, we traveled the famous Blue Ridge Parkway and visited the park center, where we saw a movie about the building of the park. Just as with the Great Smoky Mountains National Park we had toured last year,



PHOTO BY BOB BAKER

Above, Mary Ann Baker and Kate Whelan pose with one of the lions guarding the Biltmore entrance.

Below, Solange Hess, Barbara Osborne, Yoshiko Waeldner in front of the Basilica in Asheville.



PHOTO BY MARY ANN BAKER

CCC workers had constructed most of the roads and stonework for the overlooks.

Not far away by bus, we stopped at the North Carolina Folk Art Center, a beautiful building tucked into a mountainside. Here we found lovely crafts and quilts. We wanted to get a group photo while there was still light and while we were all together in one place, so we re-boarded the bus for a hair-raising (to me) but beautiful trip to the top of Mount Mitchell, at over 6,000 feet the highest peak in the eastern U.S.

Suddenly the weather turned gray and threatening but you would never know it by our smiles in the photo. In Asheville we said good-bye to guide George, but only after hearing more ghost stories and gossip from his store of knowledge as we rode down the mountain.

Dinner that night was at the High Vista Country Club in Mills River, N.C., another place reached by high curving roads but well worth the drive. The view and the food both were excellent.

### Coming Home

For our return trip home the next day we took a different route. We drove through Ten-

nessee on a skyway (Route 26), a beautiful scenic drive. There were walls of rock on one side and a view of valleys below on the other, with mist rising from the rivers that looked like a layer of snow. The mountains were a tapestry of green and gold with an occasional splash of scarlet and orange.

We stopped at a visitor center near Erwin, Tenn., which we voted the prettiest and friendliest of all the stops we'd made. Here we saw our only wild animals on this trip – not bears or coyotes – but a flock of wild turkeys scurrying about.

We had a late lunch at Cracker Barrel, opting to skip dinner in order to get home earlier. On the bus, Barry let us know that he and Mary had learned about another trip that sounded interesting: to Quebec and the island of Coudres. That would be a longer trip, next August.

Since then, a second, shorter trip has found interest, to Boston in May. Barry has information now on both trips and is taking reservations. He emphasizes the trips are "not for seniors only" but open to all. Interested parties can receive a flyer by calling Barry at 301-474-4713.