

# GREENBELT News Review

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2013

## County Chief Marc Bashoor Briefs Council on Fire Coverage Plans

by Thomas X. White

In response to a December 2012 media report on the possible removal of the county-employed, paid career firefighters from the Branchville Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. (BVFD&RS), the City of Greenbelt and neighboring municipalities sent letters of concern to County Executive Rushern Baker. They were worried about the possible reduction of day-time coverage for West Greenbelt (Franklin Park and Beltway Plaza) and North College Park (News Review, January 10).

At the February 11 meeting of Greenbelt City Council, Prince George's County Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor provided a briefing on the County Fire Department's redeployment plan, providing assurance to the councilmembers that the proposed redeployment

would not jeopardize fire and rescue service for Greenbelt.

Bashoor used an overlay map to show graphically that nine fire companies can get to Greenbelt within the expected National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard of seven minutes.

The map provided by Bashoor shows an outline of City of Greenbelt boundaries and the nine stations having Greenbelt in their call-for-service area. While the Branchville station may not be able to be first responder for West Greenbelt, the other eight stations, in turn, would be able to assume that first responder role.

### First Responder

It appears likely that the Berwyn Heights station could be that first responder if the Branchville station lacked fire or rescue service during daytime hours. The next likely responder would be

the Greenbelt station located in old Greenbelt on Crescent Road.

Two other stations within the seven-minute range include the downtown College Park station and the West Lanham Hills station, which has first call coverage for parts of East Greenbelt. According to the map staffing legend, all four of those back-up stations for Branchville will continue to have career firefighters and fire equipment capabilities during daytime hours.

Three additional stations lie within the seven-minute range, with just one of them (Riverdale Park, on Rt. 410 between Kenilworth Ave. and the B-W Parkway) currently having career firefighters on duty during the day. Two others are all-volunteer stations, one further east on Rt.

See **FIRE DEPT.**, page 7

## Council Supports Extending Hydraulic Fracking Moratorium

by Barbara Hopkins

Some 40 people filled the Greenbelt City Council chambers on the night of Monday, February 25 to seek council's support for two bills that have been introduced in the state legislature to extend the moratorium on hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") for shale gas in Maryland. Later in the meeting, council considered several other state bills for support or opposition.

### Fracking

Jennifer Robinson acted as spokesperson for the contingent of residents, many of whom were wearing red stickers printed with "No Studies, No Fracking." She said the audience included members of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) and a group concerned with the local watershed, among others. They were present to ask council to send a letter to the Maryland District 22 delegation requesting a moratorium on fracking for natural gas until the environmental impact of the procedure and the toxic chemicals used in it are thoroughly studied.

The two bills, House Bill 1274 and Senate Bill 0601, are collectively known as the Maryland Hydraulic Fracturing Moratorium and Right to Know Act of 2013 and were sponsored by Senator Paul Pinsky and Delegate Anne Healey. If the bills pass, the state will be forbidden to issue drilling permits for fracking of natural gas until studies are completed.

The completion of 14 impact studies outlined in the Governor's Executive Order of 2011 would be required before the bill could be subject to a repeal vote. Governor O'Malley's executive order created a moratorium pending studies but once his term ends this order could be lost.

Robinson asked council to suspend their rules and act on the issue that evening so that grass roots support could be shown as the bills move through the legislative process. Hearings on the legislation had been scheduled for February 26 and March 8. Councilmember Rodney Roberts made a motion, which was passed unanimously, to accommodate the group's request.

### Legislation Considered

As council reached its agenda item on state legislation, the fracking moratorium bills were discussed first. Mayor Judith Davis said the National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Steering Committee had recently discussed this issue and that the discussion was heated and the vote narrow, with representatives from western states wanting to move ahead with the fracking process.

She anticipated a similar experience in the state legislature, she said, with western Maryland counties also wanting to begin fracking for natural gas in the state as a means to improve their economies.

Lore Rosenthal, another mora-

torium group member, addressing council, said they are sensitive to the needs of people in western Maryland and were supporting

See **FRACKING**, page 8

### What Goes On

**Thursday, February 28**  
7 p.m., Board of Elections Meeting, Municipal Building Library  
**Sunday, March 3**  
1 to 4 p.m., Artful Afternoon, Community Center  
**Monday, March 4**  
8 p.m., Council Worksession on Briefing of Rights/Provision of Firearms to Police Retirees, Municipal Building, Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov)  
**Tuesday, March 5**  
7 p.m., Arts Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center  
**Wednesday, March 6**  
7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Homes Inc., Meeting to Discuss Attorney's opinion on Task Force Recommendations concerning smoke-free buildings in GHI, Administration Building  
**Thursday, March 7**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession with Greenbelt East, Greenbriar

## Black History Month

February, Black History Month, celebrates the achievements of African Americans and recognizes their role in U.S. history. For the month of February, the News Review will run articles about the contributions and reflections of Greenbelt residents of African descent. News Review reporter Altoria Bell Ross is coordinating the series.

## Black Aesthetics Is Focus Of Erskine-Meusa's Work

by Altoria Bell Ross

Over the doorway of Denise Erskine-Meusa's kitchen hangs a sign that reads, "Colored Only." The Franklin Park resident says it is a reminder of where black people have been. Although the Jim Crow laws that enforced a segregated America are dead, Erskine-Meusa says racism is still very much alive.

Before moving to Greenbelt in 2008, Erskine-Meusa, a former fashion model, attended Brooklyn College on full scholarship and graduated with a bachelor's degree in mass communications. With her credentials, Erskine-Meusa would get interviews for writing jobs but she said once she arrived and the interviewer determined she was neither Italian, as Denise sometimes denotes, or Scottish, which Erskine may conjure, she was told she was overqualified.

"Racism is a system of oppression that took 400 to 500 years to build," said the native of Guyana. "It hasn't changed even though we have a black president. It is not going away in four to five years."



Imani and Denise Erskine-Meusa

While in New York, Erskine-Meusa earned a master's degree in mass communication and film making at The New School for Social Research. She grew weary of media stereotypes of black males as drug dealers and gangsters and black women as mamies, welfare mothers or jezebels, so she established the Black Aesthetics Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit youth development, creative arts and film production company. The Institute seeks to counter these negative images and to make a difference in how

See **PROFILE**, page 6

## Imani Meusa Is Studying Contributions of Blacks

by Altoria Bell Ross

Twelve-year-old Imani Meusa thinks Black History Month is important "because people forget the basics of where we come from." At Greenbelt Middle School where she is a 7th grader, Meusa says students are there to learn.

Meusa believes that Black History Month is an opportunity to absorb new information.

"I think it's a month for people to celebrate leaders and do skits and plays about black history. We can do projects and essays."

For National History Day, which is not an actual day but an event devoted to honoring history, Meusa said she is studying how Martin Luther King, Jr.'s death affected other people.

In addition to history, Meusa is learning how to overcome shyness and speak in public in her debate enrichment class. Currently she is debating the virtues of students using cell phones in the classroom. Meusa said such use could boost productivity. Instead of waiting to use computers, students could simply access their phones.

In English class Meusa enjoys studying the similarities and differences in Charles Dickens' Great Expectations and the Diary of Anne Frank that her class is reading.

Besides watching Rihanna, Mars Bruno and Miguel music videos, Meusa keeps a diary and hopes to one day be a veterinarian.

## Letters to the Editor

### Ghanaian View Nets More Information

It was gratifying that Christine Gyemfi informed readers [in last week's front page article] about the 2007 apology made by the Ghanaian Chiefs for their role in the slave trade; however, several points in her article need to be clarified.

According to Dr. S.E. Anderson (The Black Holocaust for Beginners), close to 50 million Africans were pressed into slavery and more than half were lost during the middle passage. John Hope Franklin indicates that as many as 14 million Africans actually survived enslavement in his book From Slavery to Freedom. The deaths of Africans captured, forced to undertake long marches, held in holding pens for over six months or more waiting to be transported and the misery of the middle passage crossings are equivalent to the 25 million-plus Russians who died in World War II.

President Clinton, I believe, apologized to Africans, in Africa, for the involvement of the United States in the slave trade. There has never been an apology by any American President for the role of the United States in the slave trade or for enslavement of Africans in America.

The Civil War between the industrial North and the agricultural South, as are all wars, was about economic control. While the North won and the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments passed, African Americans are still fighting against the institutionalized racism still prevalent in the United States.

Given the many contributions made by African Americans, such as Mary Kies, the first woman in America to be given a patent in 1809 for weaving straw with silk; or Dr. Daniel Hale Williams,

who performed the first open heart surgery in 1893; or John Love, who invented the portable pencil sharpener in 1897; or Garrett A. Morgan, who invented the automated traffic signal in 1923; or Lewis Latimer, who invented the filament for the light bulb, thus saving Edison's project; or Frederick McKinley Jones, who invented the portable air conditioner and later the refrigerated truck in 1935; this society should have gained an appreciation of and respect for the creativity of Black Americans. But the above information is not in any history book in this country.

Dr. Lois Rosado

### More Memories Of the Domchicks

In last week's obituary on Harold Domchick an important part was left out – his marriage in 1941 to his lifelong sweetheart, Della.

They were married and inseparable for 69 years, until her death in 2011 after a long illness. At the funeral service for Harold, his son-in-law told a touching story of how Harold (most people called him "Butch") had always made it a habit, when out somewhere without Della, to take half of his sandwich or dessert home to her. He continued this practice even after his mind had begun to fail and Della was gone.

After he retired from the U.S. Army Field Band, Butch played saxophone in my husband Henry's weekend band, the Rheinlanders, for many years. That's how I got to know Butch and Della. Henry was always proud to have a professional musician of Butch's caliber in the band; he said it gave them "a touch of class." Butch and Della were a class act all the way around.

Kathleen McFarland

### Star Party Planned At City Observatory

On Saturday, March 2 the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will sponsor a star party at the City of Greenbelt Observatory at Northway Field. In addition to the observatory telescope, several members will set up their personal telescopes and binoculars for the enjoyment of all.

Observing will begin as soon as it is dark enough, probably around 7 p.m., although telescopes may be set up earlier. In addition to the planet Jupiter, with its four Galilean moons, objects to be observed include several nice star clusters and nebulae. The great nebula in Orion is a spectacular example and is an important star-forming region.

The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy. Attendees are asked to park in the ball field lot, not up on the hill unless bringing a telescope. All are welcome. There is no admission charge.

### ERHS Joins Tribute To Women's Voices

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Women's Choir will join the University of Maryland Women's Chorus, the university's a capella Femmes de Chanson and the Holton-Arms School Women's Chorus in the 9th Annual Celebration of Women's Voices. This free performance of music for treble voices will be held on Saturday, March 2 at 8 p.m. in the University of Maryland Memorial Chapel to mark the beginning of Women's History Month.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [claricesmithcenter.umd.edu](http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu) or call 301-405-2787.

### Grin Belt



"We might need to cut your allowance if your cousin Sequester is coming this Friday."

### On Screen

#### Quartet to Play at Old Greenbelt

In his directorial debut, Dustin Hoffman assembles a passel of Englands' acting legends – Tom Courtenay, Maggie Smith, Billy Connolly, Pauline Collins and Dublin-born Michael Gambon – to perform the Act 3 quartet of Verdi's "Rigoletto" at their retirement home's annual gala benefit concert. Can they save Beecham House? Can they forgive past indiscretions?

Can Eros re-blossom? Quartet comes to the Old Greenbelt Theatre on Friday, March 1.

Rating: PG 13, Running time, 1 hour, 38 minutes.

– Jim Link

## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### CIRCULATION

Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 301-474-1526

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Marat Moore, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Altoria Bell Ross

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—\$45/year.

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



### SMOKE FREE BUILDINGS TASK FORCE

Agenda: Discuss the attorney's opinion on task force recommendations concerning smoke-free buildings in GHI.

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

7:30 p.m.

GHI Administration Building, Board Room



### PROBLEM WITH VERIZON.NET EMAILS CONTINUES

GHI has once again been blacklisted by Verizon email service. GHI can receive, but cannot send emails to Verizon.net email customers, including replying to emails sent to GHI.

Staff is working to resolve this issue. In the meantime, if you need to contact anyone on staff, please give us a call at 301-474-4161.

### OLD GREENBELT THEATRE WEEK OF MARCH 1

Quartet (PG-13)

#### FRIDAY

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

#### SATURDAY

Classic Film Series

Today at Noon

All Seats \$5.00

Humphrey Bogart &

The Dead End Kids in

"Crime School" (1938)

Quartet

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

#### SUNDAY

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

#### MONDAY – THURSDAY

\*5:30, 7:30

\*These shows at \$6.50

Tuesday is Bargain Day.

All Seats Only \$5.00.

Now accepting Visa, Discover and MasterCard for ticket sales and concessions.

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745

129 Centerway

[www.pandgtheatres.com](http://www.pandgtheatres.com)

# Community Events

## GHI Notes

Friday, March 1, Office Closed. For Emergency Maintenance Service call 301-474-6011.

Wednesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., Smoke Free Building Task Force Meeting – Board Room

Thursday, March 7, 7 p.m., Executive Session of the Board Meeting – Board Room

Saturday, March 9, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase Orientation – Board Room

Monday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Marketing Committee Meeting – Board Room

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

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

## At the Library

### Children's Programs

Saturday, March 2, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss! Librarians and local guests will read Dr. Seuss books aloud in the library children's area as part of the Read Across America program.

### Storytimes

On Wednesdays and Thursdays a librarian reads age-appropriate stories to children and parents using imagination and props. Pick up a free ticket from the information desk before the session.

Wednesday, March 6, 10:30 a.m., Drop-in Storytime for ages 3 to 5 years.

Thursday, March 7, 10:30 a.m., Toddler Time for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver.

### Women's History

From March 1 to March 30, library patrons of all ages can learn about notable women, solve a crossword puzzle and receive a prize. An individual and family friendly activity, puzzles suitable for all ages are available at the information desk.

For more information visit the Greenbelt Library, call 301-345-5800 or visit the library system website at [pgcmls.info](http://pgcmls.info) for a number of library services, to review accounts or renew materials. For automated phone renewal call 301-333-3111.

## Lions, Doctors Hold Blood Drive

The Greenbelt Lions Club and Doctors Community Hospital will sponsor a Red Cross blood donation drive on Thursday, March 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the hospital at 8100 Good Luck Road, Lanham.

Blood donors must be at least 17 years old and meet minimum weight requirements. Bring a donor card, driver's license or two other forms of identification. Appointments are encouraged but not required. For more information on donating or to make an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

## Greenbelt Park Seeks To Curb Invasives

To help protect Greenbelt Park from harmful invasive plants on Saturday, March 2 at 11 a.m. a hands-on nature preservation activity will be held at the Sweetgum Picnic Area. This is a chance to learn about native and nonnative plants. This invasive containment program is held the first Saturday of every month, rain or shine.

Participants should wear appropriate clothing, work gloves and tick repellent and bring lunch or a snack.

The Greenbelt Park entrance is between Kenilworth Avenue and the Baltimore- Washington Parkway at 6565 Greenbelt Road. For more information call the park at 301-344-3944 or visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/gree/>.

## Still Creek Watershed Cleanup Is Saturday

On Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to noon there will be a Still Creek Watershed Cleanup at Greenbelt Park led by the Friends of Still Creek. Meet at the intersection of Good Luck Road and Auburn Avenue to walk to the cleanup area. Participants should bring boots, gloves and water.

For more information call 301-344-3944, visit [www.nps.gov/gree/](http://www.nps.gov/gree/) or call Friends of Still Creek at 301-345-6515.

## Windtalker Randy Motz At New Deal Next Wed.

On Wednesday, March 6 from 7 to 9 p.m., "Windtalker" Randy Motz will make another appearance at the New Deal Café. Motz will play compositions from his CDs including recently released "Canyon Whispers" and some jazz, blues and classic rock that get the feet tapping.

A unique, haunting style of contemporary Native American music that blends flute and Native American percussion, Motz's music has a backdrop of iconic photos of cultural landmarks and landscapes of the Southwest, the Appalachian Mountains and Alaskan vistas. Or one could say Windtalker's music provides a soundtrack for the photos. The show takes the audience on a soothing, sometimes playful and entertaining journey through the grandeur of the country's varied landscapes.

Audiences have described the show as mesmerizing, breathtaking, moving, hauntingly beautiful and profound, a performance that is a treat to see and hear. Samples are available at YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekoDsGFAVpw&feature=plep>.

**The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival General Meeting and Elections** will be held at the Community Center on Tuesday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m.

## Local Toastmasters Club Meets March 6

The Greenbelt Toastmasters club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6 in the Greenbelt Community Church. The club meets in the smaller education building located behind the church.

Toastmasters offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership. Members learn to lose their fear of public speaking, become better listeners and build skills for success.

Visitors are welcome at the meetings, which are held every two weeks.

For details visit [www.meetup.com/Greenbelt-Toastmasters](http://www.meetup.com/Greenbelt-Toastmasters). For information on Toastmasters International, go to [www.toastmasters.org](http://www.toastmasters.org).

**The Bus**  
Seniors and Customers with Disabilities **RIDE FREE**

**The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival**  
Committee is looking for volunteers. Interested in volunteering?  
Contact us at [greenbeltlaborday@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltlaborday@gmail.com) or call 301-675-0585.

**Greenbelt Baseball DRAFT DAY**  
**Saturday, March 2, 2013**  
10 a.m., First Year Players Draft (McDonald Field)  
(Bad Weather Date Saturday, March 9, 2013 same time and location)

**\*Major League Players Only\***  
(Registration will also be available before the draft)

For more information please contact:  
Commissioner Jim Inzeo at 301-832-6631 or at [greenbeltbaseball@aol.com](mailto:greenbeltbaseball@aol.com)

## Foundation Holds Grant Writing Class

On Thursday, March 14 the Greenbelt Community Foundation will offer a grant writing workshop at the Community Center facilitated by Emmett Jordan at 7:30 p.m. He will cover the basics of applying for a grant including how to find funding sources, decipher the grant application, and set up a budget for the project as well as general tips for success.

In addition to being a Greenbelt councilmember, Jordan has extensive experience implementing major gift programs including corporate and foundation campaigns, workplace giving campaigns and capital campaigns.

The workshop is free and open to the public.



**ACADEMY STADIUM THEATRE**  
6198 GREENBELT ROAD  
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA  
301-220-1155  
[www.academy8theaters.com](http://www.academy8theaters.com)  
Most features are \$5.00  
all day on Tuesdays. Add \$2 for 3D.

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

**WEEK OF MARCH 1**

**FRI. – SAT. – TUE.**  
Jack the Giant Slayer, in 2D, R (!)  
11, 1:35, 6:45  
Jack the Giant Slayer, in 3D, R (!)  
4:10, 9:20  
21 and Over, R (!)  
11:30, 2:05, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40  
The Last Exorcism II, PG-13 (!)  
11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30, 9:50  
Snitch, PG-13 (!)  
11:15, 1:40, 4:15, 7:25, 9:50  
Dark Skies, PG-13 (!)  
11:20, 1:55, 4:25, 7:10, 9:35  
Escape from Planet Earth in 2D, PG  
11:45, 4:35, 7  
Escape from Planet Earth in 3D, PG  
2:15  
Good Day to Die Hard, R  
11:30, 2:05, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40  
Django, R  
9:15  
Identity Thief, R  
11:10, 1:50, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40

**SUN. - MON. - WED. - THU.**  
The Last Exorcism, II, R (!)  
11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7:30  
21 and Over, R (!)  
11:30, 2:05, 4:30, 7:20  
Jack the Giant Slayer, in 2D, R (!)  
11, 1:35, 6:45  
Jack the Giant Slayer, in 3D, R (!)  
4:10  
Snitch, PG-13 (!)  
11:15, 1:40, 4:15, 7:25  
Dark Skies, PG-13 (!)  
11:20, 1:55, 4:25, 7:10  
Escape from Planet Earth in 2D, PG  
11:45, 4:35, 7  
Escape from Planet Earth in 3D, PG  
2:15  
Good Day to Die Hard, R  
11:30, 2:05, 4:30, 7:20  
Identity Thief, R  
11:10, 1:50, 4:20, 7:05

More Community Events are on pages 2, 4, 6 and 8.

**Greenbelt Soccer Alliance Spring Registration Open!**

- Leagues for 1st – 12<sup>th</sup> grades
- Small-sided soccer up to 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Team and field size increase with age
- 50% playing time guaranteed
- Players and coaches insured through MSYSA
- All games in same location
- Professional clinic, custom T-shirt and Ice Cream Juggling Challenge included
- \$50 Greenbelt Residents, \$60 non-Residents
  - Discounts for coaches and FARM students

[greenbeltsoccer.org](http://greenbeltsoccer.org)  
MSYSA affiliated

**Greenbelt Arts Center OPENING THIS WEEK**

**Superior Donuts**  
by Tracy Letts

**SUPERIOR DONUTS**  
March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 8:00pm  
March 3 and 10 at 2pm

Ticket prices:  
\$17 General Admission • \$14 Students/Seniors/Military

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

**Coming Soon to the Greenbelt Arts Center:**  
March 4 & 5 – A Moon for the Misbegotten Auditions  
March 23 – Celtic Concert

Greenbelt Arts Center  
123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

# New Klezmer Quintet Will Play At Mishkan Torah on March 9

by Jim Link

Saturday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. Mishkan Torah Synagogue will celebrate paying off the mortgage for the building roof with a one-night Klezmer concert performance by the New Klezmer Quintet. The group also played in 2007 at a concert to help raise funds for the roof replacement.

Klezmer is traditional Jewish music of Eastern European origin. The concert will include a mix of traditional Klezmer, Israeli ballads and "Jewgrass." "Jewgrass," is the band's unique signature genre, blending the two traditions of Klezmer and bluegrass to create a unique sound. There will be commentary and explanations during the performance to reach listeners who may not be familiar with Klezmer.

The quintet has ties to Greenbelt and Mishkan Torah – founding member and drummer Brian Choper is the son of longtime residents and Mishkan Torah members Jordan and Eva Choper. Violinist Alan Oresky is the son of deceased synagogue members Seymour and Estelle Oresky and brother Saul Oresky will display his violin talents in the performance. The New Klezmer Quintet has earned accolades and played for the 2009 Barack Obama inauguration, as well as for Governor Martin O'Malley, Nancy Pelosi and the president of Russia Dmitry Medvedev. They have played at the Kennedy Center and Strathmore Hall and been featured on National Public Radio.

There is a fee (see ad on page 7); tickets may be ordered by mail in advance, at the website [www.MishkanTorah.org](http://www.MishkanTorah.org) or purchased at the door, if still available.

Mishkan Torah Synagogue is at 10 Ridge Road.



The New Klezmer Quintet, from left to right, Alan Oresky, violin; Laurie Riggins, vocalist; Ephraim Woolfolk, bass; Lou Burham, keyboard; Fred Jacobowitz, clarinet; and Manager Brian Choper, drums.

## Sierra Club Talks Balloon Disposal

Balloons, festive birthday party staples, can suffocate or starve wildlife long after the party's over. Balloon slivers can clog the digestive tract of curious animals and their latex may not biodegrade for years. Foil helium balloons often burst in open air, scattering near and far and do not biodegrade at all.

The Marine Conservation Society estimates the number of balloons along shorelines has tripled in the past decade. Proper balloon disposal is done by deflating, cutting into small pieces and sealing tightly and putting in a bag before discarding. Consider eco-friendly celebratory gestures instead, such as blowing soap bubbles or planting trees and flowers.

– Sierra Club

## NAMI Offers Family Mental Health Course

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Prince George's County Chapter will hold a free "Family to Family Education" course for 12 weeks beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 7.

This course is designed for family members and caregivers of individuals with a mental illness, including bipolar disorder, panic disorder, schizoaffective disorder, borderline personality disorder, major depression, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorder and co-occurring brain disorder with addictive disorder.

The course covers facts about diagnosis and dealing with critical periods during each illness, biology of the brain, new research, medication review, problem solving, empathy workshop, communication skills, self-care, rehabilitative services available, advocacy and fighting stigma.

The class will meet on Thursdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at a location to be announced. Call Dorie at 301-490-0609 to register.

## Lecture Examines Community Gardens

On Friday, March 8 from noon to 1 p.m. the U.S. Botanic Garden will host a talk on community gardens and their history by Laura Lawson, professor and chair on the Department of Landscape Architecture, Rutgers University.

For more than a century, people have come together to establish community gardens as a way to "do something" amid multiple social, economic and environmental crises. While past periods of community gardening activity tended to be opportunistic and temporary efforts, today's programs are increasingly framed as permanent resources to serve individuals and communities. A brief summary of findings from a recent survey of more than 450 community gardening organizations suggests key concerns and opportunities to address the sustainability of community gardens into the future.

This free lecture will be in the Conservatory classroom. Pre-registration is required. Visit [www.usbg.gov](http://www.usbg.gov) to register.

**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 at 10 a.m.  
 Rev. Diane Teichert

See our website: [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

**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 10 a.m.

O ye that dwell on earth!  
 The religion of God is for love and unity; make it not the cause of enmity or dissension.  
 (Baha'u'llah)

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)

**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)

**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE 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 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

**BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
 Rev. Mary Pullen - Pastor  
 301-474-7573  
 6301 Greenbelt Road  
 Berwyn Heights, MD 20740

Worship : Sun 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Child Care Available)  
 Sunday School : Sun 9:30 am - 10:30 am  
 Office Hours : Mon, Thu, Fri 9:00 am - 1:00 pm  
 Tue, Wed 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm

*"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"*

**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.  
 Clara Young, Interim Pastor

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

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

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School, Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
 Informal Evening Worship 6 p.m.  
 Midweek Lenten Services, Wednesday 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.  
 Easter Sunday, March 31, 9:30 & 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.

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.

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

Worship Service  
 11:00am  
 All Welcome

Series: Christianity and...  
 Environmentalism  
 Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
 7:30pm

March 3<sup>rd</sup> "Protecting the Weak"  
 March 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Guest Speaker (Eric Redmond)  
 March 17<sup>th</sup>  
 "Perseverance: How Not to Grow Weary in Doing Good"

**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



Condolences to pioneer Greenbelter Elizabeth Pels Nash on the death of her brother, Philip Pels, 68, on February 25, 2013. His funeral Mass will be at St. Hugh of Grenoble church at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 2 with visiting at Gasch's funeral home on Friday, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.

**Congratulations to:**

– Leon Geter, DM, School of Professional Studies, chair of Justice Studies, Criminal Justice at Berkeley College, who has been honored by the college with its 2012 Faculty of the Year Award demonstrated commitment to students and excellence in on-site instruction. Dr. Geter is shown receiving the award from Dean Judith Kornberg.



– former residents, mother and daughter team Jaime Austin and her daughter Kamran Austin McIntosh, whose first book of poetry, "Bittersweet: My Love/Hate Relationship with Love" has been published. Mom Jaime is the poet; daughter Kamran the illustrator, with the book available for purchase at Amazon. Kamran, now 13, attended Greenbelt Elementary School for several years, showing her love of art there. Mother and grandmother of the pair, Margaret Austin, lives on Ridge Road. Bittersweet's focus is on hope, regardless of the ending for the love that is the theme of the book.



– Ryan Nguyen, marketing senior at St. Vincent College in Latrobe, Pa., who was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2012 semester.

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@verizon.net or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

**ERHS Orchestra Concert on March 6**

The Orchestra Festival Concert at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in the auditorium will be held on Wednesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. Playing at the concert will be the Chamber Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Concert Orchestra directed by Dr. David Yarbrough. The school's music program draws students from northern Prince George's County.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School is at 7601 Hanover Parkway. This free event is open to the public. For more information call 301-661-9699.

**Asian Viewing Stone Exhibit Opens**

The U.S. National Arboretum is offering a new exhibit, "Honoring Asian Viewing Stone Traditions," now through March 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. These artistic stones, naturally formed by erosive forces of wind and water, are displayed with great reverence according to aesthetic standards developed in China and Japan over many centuries. On Sunday, March 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. there will be a free, informal tour of the exhibit.

**Botanic Garden Gives Parent, Baby Tour**

The U.S. Botanic Garden will hold a free parent and child program on Thursday, March 7 from 10 to 11 a.m. led by Lee Coykendall. Those with babies in snugglies, looking for ways to get out of the house and learn are welcome to join in a 45-minute guided tour of the Conservatory. Note: Due to narrow paths and the nature of this program, strollers or siblings cannot be supported. Registration required at www.usbg.gov.

**Free Lunchtime Bach Downtown**

The Washington Bach Consort will hold a concert in its Noon-time Cantata Series on Tuesday, March 5 from 12:10 to 1 p.m. at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street, NW, near Metro Center. The performance will include the cantata "Herr, gehe nicht ins Gericht (BWV 105) and an organ piece, "Prelude and Fugue in A Minor (BWV 543). This free series of 50-minute concerts is presented on the first Tuesday of each month

**Holy Cross Thrift Store**

Every Thursday  
10am – 4pm

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

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

# City Information

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**  
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:  
Advisory Planning Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability & Youth Advisory Committee  
**For information call 301-474-8000.**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

In accordance with Section 10-508(a)(8) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a Closed Session of the City Council will be held on Monday, March 4, 2013, immediately following the conclusion of the 8:00 p.m. Council Work Session. The meeting will be held in the Council Room of the Municipal Building.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss potential litigation related to derelict properties.

Cindy Murray CMC  
City Clerk

## BIG DADDY MEMORIAL BASH

BENEFITING THE GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER  
BUY TICKETS AT THE ANIMAL SHELTER, 550-A CRESCENT ROAD, ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 4-7PM OR ON SATURDAYS FROM 9-NOON.  
**MARCH 2ND from 8:00 PM-MIDNIGHT**  
**AT THE GREENBELT FIRE HOUSE**  
ALL YOU CAN DRINK DRAFT MILLER LITE AND ALL YOU CAN EAT 3 BROTHERS PIZZA.  
\$20.00 IN ADVANCE OR \$25 AT DOOR  
THE 2ND ANNUAL BIG DADDY BASH

**GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER**  
550-A Crescent Road (behind Police Station)

Give us a call 301-474-6124

Come out and visit all of the available pets!  
The shelter is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment.  
See all our pets on Facebook!

**MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 4-8**

Monday, March 4 at 8:00 pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION**  
RE: Briefing on Law Enforcement Officers Bill of Rights/ Provision of Firearms to Police Retirees at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov

Monday, March 4 immediately following Council Meeting, **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Potential Litigation Related to Derelict Properties at Municipal Building Library

Tuesday, March 5 at 6:00pm, **LEGISLATIVE DINNER** at Annapolis.

Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road,

Thursday, March 7 at 7:30pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION** –with Greenbelt East Advisory Committee at the Greenbriar.

Thursday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m **BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING**, at the Municipal Building Library, 25 Crescent Road.

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

GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS **44** TALENTED TEENAGERS  
IN THE GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL 2013

**THE JOY GODS RETURN**

A new 1934 musical inside a post-9/11 romance.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER CHERRY

Saturday, March 2 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm	Greenbelt Community Center
Saturday, March 9 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm	15 Crescent Road
All Tickets: \$5	Call 301-397-2208

**Artful Afternoon, March 3**  
**Community Center 15 Crescent Rd.**  
Create your own mythical nature mask (1-3pm) inspired by the upcoming Winter Youth Musical The Joy Gods Return. Instructor: Holly Vandersommers. Great project for the whole family! Open to all ages. Free; materials are provided. Also: Artists in Residence studio open house, 1-4pm, plus art and local history exhibits.

Enter to win two tickets to a Greenbelt Arts Center show of your choice. Entries must be received online at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts or in-person by 2:30pm on March 3. Winner will be announced at 3:00pm on March 3.

## Black History Month

# City Elementary Schools Explore Black Culture

by Jessica Suss

Schools throughout Greenbelt are searching for new ways to incorporate Black History Month into everyday classes.

Springhill Lake Elementary School teacher Paulette Chung hopes the school's annual Black History Month showcase will teach students about African-American culture by allowing them to experience it firsthand. Students presented a program on February 22 featuring singing, dancing and poetry (see separate story).

"A cultural celebration is a truly educational experience," said Chung. Each grade learned about a specific piece of African-American culture in class and created an informative timeline in order to prepare for the showcase, according to Chung. For example, first-graders learned about African-American art.

The school also held two assemblies featuring prominent speakers from the community, including University of Mary-

land wrestling coach Kerry McCoy, said Chung.

Greenbelt Elementary School presented a "Blacks in Wax Museum" on February 28 in which students dressed up as famous African-Americans, according to guidance counselor Donna Behe.

"[The students] researched their person and related important facts about them as they presented themselves in the museum," Behe wrote in an email.

The Negro National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing," played on the morning announcements each day in February at Magnolia Elementary School, according to secretary Yvonne Fairchild. A Black History Month fact was also read every day, said Fairchild.

Turning Point Academy postponed Black History Month activities and will hold a program combining Black History Month and Women's History Month on March 25.

## Black History Month

# Springhill Lake's Black History Month Program

by Altoria Bell Ross

Fourth-graders at Springhill Lake Elementary School were saying it – loud – that they were black and they were proud at the Black History Month program on Friday evening. The young pupils channeled James Brown while singing, dancing, swaying and marching to his tune "Say It Loud." They held up signs with the names of famous black politicians, artists, civil rights leaders and African kings and queens. The neophyte performers played to a full house of proud moms, dads, aunties and uncles who kept cameras trained on them as they presented "Moving Forward: A Musical Tribute to Black History."

Twinkling to Rihanna's "Diamonds in the Sky," first-graders wore placards with diamonds drawn on them representing of course, Rihanna, Mahlia Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Andre 3000, Aretha Franklin, Louis Armstrong and Will Smith. The students read brief biographies about the honorees.

The chorus composed of the fourth and fifth grades sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Negro National Anthem, and a stirring rendition of "Free at Last" while images of Malcolm X, President John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. with his family and

his mug shots from jail flashed behind them on the gym's wall. Second and fifth graders performed an interpretative dance to the gospel song "I Won't Go Back."

Guests outside of the school community also participated in the show. Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars turned flips, cartwheels and other acrobatic feats as they jumped rope. The crowd responded with impressed "oohs" and "ahs." A group of college students from the University of Maryland called STEPP, Students Toward Education Progress and Philanthropy, stomped out rhythmic sounds with and without music. The four students, dressed in black t-shirts, denim shorts, tights, and black boots strung up to the mid-calf represented a full team of 17 young ladies.

In memory of Don Cornelius, teachers, students and staff joyfully danced down the Soul Train line as Principal Natasha Jenkins thanked the audience for coming. As the crowd filed out, President Barack Obama could be heard giving his 2009 inaugural address while Sam Cooke's song "It's a Long Time Coming" played in the background. The leaders of the future, determined to move forward, celebrated the occasion with cookies and punch.

## Upcoming Events At New Deal Café

On Thursday, February 28 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays midday melodies from noon to 2 p.m. with an open microphone session with the Songwriters Association of Washington from 7 to 9 p.m.

Friday, March 1 pianist John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; then Ren Rick headlines with classic rock from 8 to 11 p.m.

The Saturday, March 2 schedule begins with the TV John Show from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bruce Krittr plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m.; then John Guernsey plays up-tempo jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by the Jelly Roll Mortals playing semi-acoustic roots rock from 8 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, March 3 is the weekly sign language brunch discussion from 10:30 a.m. to noon. In the evening Harp 46 entertains with classical and world-music instrumentation from 5 to 8 p.m.

### Next Week

Tuesday, March 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. is this month's New Old Jamboree with Ruthie & the Wranglers, featuring special guests Ty Braddock and Scott Holland.

Wednesday, March 6 Randy "Windtalker" Motz plays beautiful Native American-style flute music from 7 to 9 p.m.

On Thursday, March 7 pianist Amy C. Kraft plays midday melodies from noon to 2 p.m. There will be an open microphone session with Paige Powell.

Friday, March 8 pianist John Guernsey plays classical and jazz piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; then from 8 to 11 p.m. the Bumper Jacksons headline with a hot jazz, ragtime and pre-war country repertoire.

On Saturday, March 9 Bruce Krittr plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m.; then John Guernsey performs up-tempo jazz piano. Djesben headlines with music from around the globe from 8 to 11 p.m.

Sunday, March 10 is the weekly sign language brunch discussion from 10:30 a.m. to noon, followed by Jan Knutson on jazz guitar from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. In the evening, the Kim Reynolds Quartet plays straight-ahead jazz from 6 to 9 p.m. and the café hosts an art reception for the current exhibit, along with a meet-n-greet with the artists from 7 to 9 p.m.

## Genealogical Society To Meet Next Wed.

On Wednesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. the Prince George's County Genealogical Society will meet in the New Carrollton Municipal Building, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway.

Following the brief business meeting, speaker Tom Shawker will talk about research at the Library of Congress.

For more information, visit [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs) or call 301-262-2063.

The Genealogical Society meets on the first Wednesday of each month from September through June, except for January. The April 3 meeting will feature Patty Shawker, who will focus on researching Civil War ancestors.

## PROFILE continued from page 1

blacks are seen and how blacks see themselves. As a part of the program, she took youth to Broadway plays and concerts and brought in guest speakers who spoke about creating films and gaining jobs in the media industry.

"There are not enough of us telling our own stories," she said.

### Black Aesthetics

When Erskine-Meusa moved to Washington in 2003, she brought Black Aesthetics with her. As she managed events at the Washington Convention Center during the day, Erskine-Meusa worked with area youth to produce the documentary, "Why? The Breakdown of Anacostia." She also took classes at Howard University.

"I didn't learn anything about black history or culture growing up and only knew what was presented on television, film and in school textbooks. While at Howard I learned who I was. The experience enhanced my life and self-esteem but what about students who don't have that experience?"

To answer that question, Erskine-Meusa added another component to the Black Aesthetics repertoire, workshops "to help build esteem that the students came from something rich and beautiful."

Erskine-Meusa said the workshops help young adults navigate through life's many challenges and inspire them to be successful in their personal, educational and professional endeavors. The

workshops include how to transition from high school to college, how to sustain academic success in college, the importance of historically black colleges and universities and of rejecting racial stereotypes in the media.

"I have a desire to give back to my community."

### Speech Teacher

In addition to working as a technical writer for a software development company in Columbia, Erskine-Meusa teaches speech communications at Prince George's Community College and is pursuing her doctoral degree at Morgan State University in educational leadership.

Although her primary focus has been on developing film, Erskine-Meusa said her greatest production has been having children with her husband of nearly 20 years, Shawn, Sr., who is a gourmet chef. They have three children: Shawn Jr., a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School; cancer survivor Tumaini, which means "God has been merciful to me," a junior at Roosevelt; and Imani, which means "faith", a 7th grader at Greenbelt Middle School (see related article on front page).

Erskine-Meusa said it is important to invest in youth. "We need to remind our young people who they are and where they come from," she said, "so they will know where they are going and who they have yet to become." She said Black History Month and Black Aesthetics does just that.

## City Notes

Refuse/Recycling/Sustainability crews collected 29.83 tons of refuse and 14.77 tons of co-mingled recyclable material, cleaned up at the Hanover Drive recycling center where tires and a drain pipe were dumped and returned three Giant shopping carts that had been dumped.

Horticulture staff continued making a replacement list for plants and sick or damaged trees that had been removed in previous years.

## Patuxent Refuge Holds Birthday Bash Mar. 9

The Patuxent Research Refuge will celebrate the 110th anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System with a fun-filled family event on Saturday, March 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Activities will include live animal shows by Watkins Nature Center at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. There will also be children's nature crafts and other activities, guided tram tours and hikes and live music from AP and the Banty Roosters. Programs are free and food will be available for purchase from the Crane Café sponsored by Friends of Patuxent.

The National Wildlife Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 197, just south of Laurel. For special needs accommodations, call 301-497-5763.

For additional information, visit [patuxent.fws.gov](http://patuxent.fws.gov).

## Patuxent Offers Reading Clues Class

On Sunday, March 3 from 2 to 3:30 p.m., a program called "Whose Clues?" for children ages 8 to 10 will be held at the North Tract of the Patuxent Research Refuge. This interactive program will challenge junior nature detectives to solve the mystery of who's been roaming the refuge by reading tracks, traces and scat clues.

All programs are free, although donations to the Friends of Patuxent are appreciated. Advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887; special needs can be accommodated with advance notice. The North Tract is located on Rt. 198 between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Rt. 32 in south Laurel.

For more information visit the website at [patuxent.fws.gov](http://patuxent.fws.gov).

## UMD Wind Ensemble Joins Air Force Band

The University of Maryland Wind Ensemble will join the U.S. Air Force Band in a free performance on Monday, March 4 at 8 p.m. in the DeKelbourn Concert Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

Each band will independently present a short program, featuring the works of Paul Creston, Gordon Jacob, Percy Grainger and John Philip Sousa, followed by a joint performance. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 7:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [claricesmithcenter.umd.edu](http://claricesmithcenter.umd.edu) or call 301-405-2787.

# FIRE DEPT. continued from page 1

410 and another station closer to Rt. 202 in Landover. The farthest station from Greenbelt is the one north of Greenbelt in Beltsville, near Rhode Island Ave. and Powder Mill Road.

The combined equipment available at the nine stations includes eight ambulances, eight fire engines, five ladder trucks, one advance life-support (paramedic unit) and one heavy rescue squad. Bashoor described the nine stations as having call responsibilities for Greenbelt. He indicated county fire service would start with the first responsibility station and proceed through to number two, three, etc. until requirements for the call are met in terms of equipment and capability.

### Baker's Response

In a January 24 letter responding to College Park, Berwyn Heights and Greenbelt concerns, County Executive Rushern Baker assured the cities, "The criteria being used is based on the (NFPA) standards concerning deployment, population density, response times and call volume." He noted the Prince George's County Fire Department also utilizes data outlined in the Public Safety Master Plan produced by the Maryland-National Capital

Park and Planning Commission.

The county executive also advised: "In the coming months the Fire Department will be increasing the career staff work force which will allow for some strategic increase of station-level staffing at 'strategic' locations throughout the county."

His words were echoed by Bashoor when he was briefing council, with a caveat that hiring, selection and the training required to get new career personnel on board will take some time. He also told council there will be additional phases of the Fire Department's reorganization but that no additional reductions in staffing are contemplated.

### Council Response

The mayor and councilmembers expressed appreciation to Bashoor for taking time to brief them. They noted that volunteer companies have provided enormous, valuable service to Greenbelt residents over the years but that in recent years their ability to recruit more young people to volunteer service has dwindled.

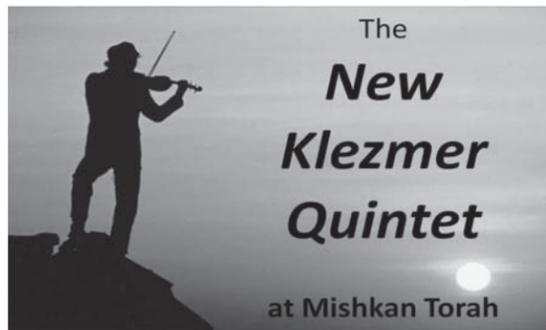
Davis said Greenbelt's company is having a difficult time training and retaining volunteers. Other councilmembers noted there have been cultural or societal changes when relying on

family members. Following fathers and grandfathers in manning the fire station on a volunteer basis is no longer a viable model.

Bashoor agreed. He noted that the County Fire Department has a heavy overtime load for career staffing that he believes cannot continue, even though volunteer companies are helping to alleviate that overtime burden. He also is well aware, he said, that volunteer companies are incorporated entities owning approximately 75 percent of the fire apparatus and about 70 percent of existing fire stations.

For the long term, redeployment will need to rationalize locations of county fire stations, he said. He is well aware that the origins of many Prince George's County volunteer companies are community-based. In his view that explains why so many stations are close to each other.

In a growing county, he pointed out, it is difficult to justify three fire stations within a quarter mile of each other. Noting the growth in the southern and eastern parts of the county and the expected fire service needs for developments like Konterra north of Greenbelt, he said there has to be a more rational basis for locating new stations.



## "Fiddling Under the Roof"

March 9, 2013 at 7:30 pm

Paid RSVP by March 8, 2013:

Adults \$25  
Teens/Preteens \$15

At the Door:

Adults \$28  
Teens/Preteens \$15

I/We would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ adult tickets @ \$25/ticket. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ teen/preteen tickets @ \$15/ticket. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to make a donation — in multiples of \$18 (chai). \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All donors will be listed in the Program if donation is received by March 5<sup>th</sup>. It is the ideal way to be included in this wonderful event - whether or not you can attend!

Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Names for Reservation and/or the Program)

Make check payable to Mishkan Torah and send it with this reservation to the office. (Mishkan Torah, 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt MD, 20770)

For more information and online RSVP, [www.mishkantorah.org/klezmer](http://www.mishkantorah.org/klezmer)

Read your newspaper online at [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

These are just a few of the great buys you will find at Co-op this week!

Prices Effective: MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	4	5	6	7	8	9
10						

121 CENTERWAY—ROOSEVELT CENTER GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Visit us online at [www.greenbelt.coop](http://www.greenbelt.coop)

### SUPERMARKET

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

### PHARMACY

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



Fresh Quality Meat	Farm Fresh Produce	Dairy	Frozen	Seafood
Fresh Value Pack Center Cut Bone-In Pork Chops <b>\$2.49</b> lb.	Fresh Crisp Cut & Peeled Baby Carrots 1 lb. <b>99¢</b>	Yoplait Assorted Yogurt Select Varieties 4-6 oz. <b>50¢</b>	Celeste Pizza Assorted 4-5.9 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Sea Best Haddock Fillets <b>\$3.99</b> lb.
Fresh Value Pack 80% Lean Ground Beef <b>\$2.79</b> lb.	Fresh Nutritious Broccoli Crowns <b>\$1.69</b> lb.	Breakstone's Sour Cream 8 oz. <b>99¢</b>	Banquet Original Dinners Assorted 5-10.5 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Wholey Frozen Whiting Fillets Indiv. Wrapped 2 lbs. <b>\$5.99</b>
Frozen Turkey Breasts <b>\$1.29</b> lb.	Fresh Crisp Washington State Apples Fuji/Gala/Delicious/Granny Smith <b>\$1.49</b> lb.	Cabot Assorted Cheese Chunks 8 oz. <b>\$2.50</b>	Shurfine Classic Ice Cream Assorted 64 oz. <b>\$2.50</b>	41-50 Size Med. Cooked Shrimp 1 lb. <b>\$5.99</b>
Grocery Bargains		Daylight Savings Time  March 10, 2013	Grocery Bargains	
Hunt's Assorted Pasta Sauces 24 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Mueller's Assorted Pasta 12 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>		Hunt's Tomatoes Whole/Crushed/Diced 28 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Campbell's Assorted Canned Gravy 10-10.5 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>
Progresso Vegetable Classic Soups Select Var. 18-19oz. <b>\$1.50</b>	Hunt's Snack Pack Puddings & Gelatins Asst. 4 pk. <b>\$1.00</b>	Post Assorted Honey Bunches of Oats Cereals 13-15 oz. <b>\$2.50</b>	Tide Liquid Laundry Detergent 100 oz. <b>\$12.99</b>	
Deli	Bakery	Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Beer & Wine
Deli Gourmet Roasted Chicken Breast <b>\$6.99</b> lb.	Fresh Store Baked Kaiser Rolls 6 pack <b>\$1.75</b>	Wasa Assorted Crisp & Light Crispbreads 4-7 oz. <b>\$1.79</b>	Nature's Bounty Vitamins & Supplements Asst. sizes <b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>	Busch Beer 6 pk.-12 oz. cans <b>\$4.29</b>
Deli Gourmet Lower Salt Lacey Swiss Cheese <b>\$6.99</b> lb.	Fresh Store Baked Vienna Bread loaf <b>\$1.79</b>	Dikinson's Lemon Curd 10 oz. <b>\$2.99</b>	Dial Body Wash Assorted 16-18 oz. <b>\$3.99</b>	Los Haroldos Wines 750 ML. <b>\$7.99</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.

### Arrests

February 14, 11:54 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Court. A 26-year-old nonresident man was arrested and charged with fourth degree burglary, trespassing on posted property, resisting arrest and failure to obey a lawful order. He was transferred to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

February 16, 8:02 p.m., Beltway Plaza area. An 18-year-old nonresident man was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and was released on citation pending trial. A Greenbelt youth with him was charged on a juvenile citation for underage possession of tobacco and underage possession of alcohol. He was released to a guardian pending action by the Department of Juvenile Services.

February 19, 1:06 a.m., Springhill Lane at Market Lane. A 20-year-old nonresident man was arrested and charged with possession of a concealed deadly weapon. He was transferred to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

### Disorderly Conduct

February 18, 12:35 p.m., Beltway Plaza. A 60-year old nonresident man was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. He was released on citation pending trial.

### Burglary

February 15, 12:36 p.m., 9100

block Springhill Lane. Electronics were taken.

February 16, 2:45 a.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace. Electronics were taken.

February 17, 8:13 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. An attempted burglary occurred.

### Vehicle Crime

Two vehicles were stolen: A gray 2012 Toyota Tacoma with Md. tags, taken from the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace, and a green 2004 Acura TL with Md. tags, taken from Mandan Road at Hanover Parkway.

One vehicle, a 1990 Honda Accord stolen from the Beltway Plaza parking lot, was recovered by Montgomery County police. One arrest was made.

Six reports of thefts from autos were received: 6200 block Breezewood Court (GPS unit and XM radio), 7400 block Greenway Center Drive (luggage bag and clothing), 6500 block Capitol Drive, two incidents (wheels, catalytic converter), 7800 block Walker Drive (GPS unit), 6200 block Springhill Drive (bag).

Vandalism was reported in four locations: Hanover Parkway at Village Park Drive (an unknown person threw an unknown object at a moving vehicle, causing damage), 7700 block Hanover Parkway (vehicle was scratched), 9100 block Edmonston Road (windows were broken on several vehicles), 6500 block Capitol Drive (windows were broken on two vehicles).

*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.*

## Events Being Planned by P & J Coalition

The monthly meeting of the Peace and Justice Coalition will be held on Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Greenbelt Community Center to plan events.

The agenda will also include a discussion of results of the February's "War Dance" Reel and Meal program on children in war-torn Uganda and planning for a late March bus/caravan tour to contrast human/community needs with Pentagon spending. There will also be a discussion of plans for Greenbelt Peace Month in June.

Over \$100 was raised from those attending "War Dance" at the New Deal. Those funds will assist a former child soldier in the film, now at college in Pennsylvania and a musical arts center near the camp shown in the film. In response to the video of war victims in Sierra Leone, nearly two car loads of clothing and shoes were donated for vulnerable Sierra Leoneans, to be shipped by Abdul and Fatima Turay who presented the video.

A Baltimore-Washington bus tour is planned for March 23.

Its theme is "Prosperity Not Austerity." It is sponsored by a Maryland network to "Fund Our Communities, Not the Pentagon." The network includes the Peace and Justice Coalition, which will organize a rally in Hyattsville that will include testimony of funding needs of community college students, low-income families, workers and other affected groups. Stops will include Prince George's Community College and the county Department of Social Services, 6505 Belcrest Road, where it is scheduled to arrive at 12:20 p.m. The caravan tour will conclude in Washington, D.C. with a rally at the U.S. Capitol.

Peace Month plans for June include a nature writing program for children and one for adults. Ideas are still being sought. In the past Peace Month has featured donation and repair of bicycles for shipment abroad, a peace quilt and peace-related readings by members of the writers' group.

All are invited. For information call Donna Hoffmeister at 301-441-9377 or email Lucy Duff at [justpeacepg@earthlink.net](mailto:justpeacepg@earthlink.net).

## FRACKING continued from page 1

bills for a moratorium pending studies rather than another bill (HB 337) that would ban fracking altogether. The City of College Park has supported the ban legislation but the group Robinson spoke for "has a lot of faith in American ingenuity" as its written presentation said, and hopes technology eventually will provide a safe means for obtaining natural gas.

Among the problems with fracking outlined by the group are the large amounts of water required in the process; the escape of methane gas into the atmosphere, where it can contribute to climate change; and damage to the infrastructure created by the heavy equipment used in the fracking process.

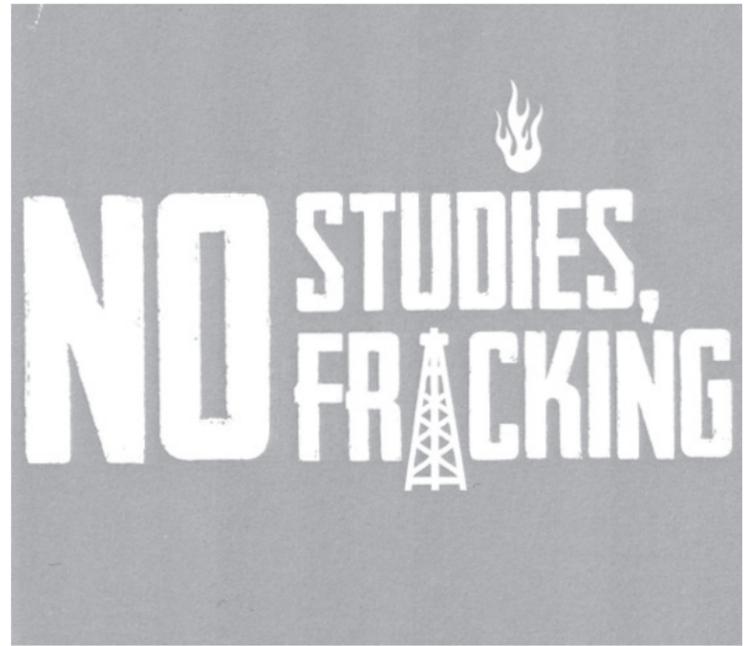
There is big concern as well over the disposal of wastewater contaminated by toxic chemicals. Some of the chemicals are known carcinogens while others are unrevealed and called "trade secrets" by energy companies.

Greenbelt resident Chris Shuman addressed council to encourage them to ensure the maximum interaction with surrounding states that are well ahead of Maryland in considering hydraulic fracturing of natural gas. He has relatives in Pennsylvania who are benefiting from this process. He also wanted to make sure we are not preventing economic development that is reducing energy costs. He specifically wanted to preserve horizontal drilling and received assurance on this issue from Davis.

### Negative Experiences

Misha Kingsley gave her own eyewitness account of her visits to places in the Pocono Mountains where the water in the Delaware River had been clear enough to see fish and her feet when she stood with water shoulder high. Last August on her first visit since fracking began, she said, she refused to go into the water due to its murky nature and a sheen on the surface. She saw no fish.

The town she visited, she said, has experienced a decline in tourism. She said she will not go back. She does not want to see this happen in Maryland, she added.



Supporters distributed the above signage at the meeting.

Council agreed to support the bills to extend the moratorium on natural gas fracking and to support the right for the public to know what's involved and to send Greenbelt's state legislators a letter to this effect.

### Other Legislation

Council unanimously agreed to oppose legislation to limit the ability of municipalities to create different tax rates for different classes of real property. The Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee also opposes this legislation. Councilmembers discussed the fact that apartment buildings are already charged various fees above their property taxes, but Council member Emmett Jordan noted that nothing would require Greenbelt to use different tax rates now permitted.

Delegate Alfred Carr had introduced legislation last year that would permit local governments to acquire streetlights through a condemnation process. Council voted to support this legislation, noting that it is enabling legislation that council could choose to use or not to use.

A bill to require notice to local police departments before the State Department of Juvenile Services opens a group home within the jurisdiction also re-

ceived council's unanimous support. Councilmember Edward Putens promptly spoke in favor of supporting this legislation, saying that lack of such notice has caused many problems in his community.

### PSC Reform Bills

HB 741 would change the notification period from 30 calendar days to 22 business days when electric utilities intend a rate change and council voted unanimously to support it.

HB 825 would require streaming of live video and audio of Public Service Commission (PSC) proceedings. It also garnered council's unanimous support.

HB 1129 would make consumers and non-profit groups eligible for reimbursement for expenses incurred during PSC proceedings. Reimbursement would require demonstration of financial hardship and a significant contribution to the proceeding.

Councilmember Leta Mach noted, however, that language in the bill seems to indicate reimbursement expenses would eventually be passed along to the consumer. With council unclear on the issue, Councilmember Jordan moved to take no position on the bill. After a second, the motion passed although Putens and Roberts voted against it.

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**A Review**

# Audience Enjoys New Play at Arts Center

by **Jim Link**

“Superior Donuts,” the current play at the Greenbelt Arts Center, serves up edgy racial and political commentary, crackling dialogue laced with punchy one-liners and precise, imaginative choreography. Plus, the “wonderful and experienced cast” (according to director Erica Drezek’s program notes) has great chemistry. The result is a very satisfying evening of theater entertainment.

In the winter of 2009 in a dying donut shop on Chicago’s north side, owner Arthur Przybyszewski – the superb Michael Galizia – is emotionally paralyzed; he spins his wheels, catering to a motley cross section of Russian, Polish and Irish Americans cops and criminals.

But Franco Wicks – the terrific Clayton Pelham, Jr. – is a game changer. Hiring this young, imaginative, ambitious black street kid unfreezes Arthur and forces him to reassess his life.

Despite initial racial friction, their dependence on each other and their mutual affection deepen. They both change but at great cost, emotional and otherwise. Loan sharks, poetry, violence, the Great American novel and the political turmoil of the ’60s all play a part in that change.

A sample of their constant, savvy dialogue: Franco: “Are you racist?”

Arthur: “I hired you, didn’t I?”

Franco: “Scoot over, Lincoln – make room on the penny!”

Everyone in the production clicks. Larry La Rose is excellent as the laughing loan shark, full of fake bonhomie and real menace. His steely enforcer Kyle McGruther is a great fight choreographer, assisted by Pelham in staging a convincing barroom brawl.

Ann Lowe-Barrett is a gritty bag lady who frequents AA meetings.

Franco: “How many days have you been sober?”

Lady: “Oh, just today.”

George Tamerlani is the wonderfully obtuse Russian trying to buy the donut shop to “upgrade” it to a porn parlor. Christopher Dinwiddie and Michelle Trout are good cops, real mensches – he as mentor to Franco, she as love interest to Arthur. And Jim Adams effectively uses his fists and his indecipherable guttural accent to do the right thing.

The opening night audience of 30 laughed loud and often at this very superior production. You will too – it’s at the Greenbelt Arts Center through March 16, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. are on March 3 and 10.



**Max Tarasov (George Tamerlani), Randy Olsteen (Michelle Trout), James Bailey (Christopher Martin Dinwiddie) and Arthur Przybyszewski (Michael Galizia) celebrate Franco Wicks’ (Clayton Pelham, Jr.) return to the donut shop.**



**Arthur Przybyszewski (Michael Galizia) and Franco Wicks (Clayton Pelham, Jr.) discuss Black poets and “the great American novel.”**

PHOTOS BY ELIOT MALUMUTH

## Mid-Week Bird Walk Planned at Artemesia

The Prince George’s Audubon Society will host a free guided bird walk at Lake Artemesia on Thursday, March 7 starting at 3 p.m. The Luther Goldman Birding Trail loops around the 38-acre lake and along Indian Creek. Meet at the parking lot at Berwyn Road and Balew Avenue in Berwyn Heights. Beginners to experts are welcome. Binoculars are suggested. Call 301-459-3375 for more information.

## Join a Morning Bird Walk at Uhler Area

The Prince George’s Audubon Society will host a free morning bird walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area on Saturday, March 2. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the end of Lemon Bridge Road, just north of Bowie State University, to see migrant and resident woodland and field birds, waterfowl and possibly raptor flyovers in this Patuxent River forested floodplain. Beginners to experts are welcome. Waterproof footwear and binoculars are suggested. Call 410-765-6482 for more information.

## Celtic Dancers Give Free Performance

On Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m. the College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE) will present a free program by the Culkin School Celtic Dancers at the Old Parish House at 4711 Knox Road in College Park. Parents and children are welcome.

For more details, email info@cpae.org or call 301-927-3013.

## Dr. Seuss Birthday Celebration Planned

The College Park Arts Exchange and the College Park Community Library are celebrating Dr. Seuss’ birthday at the library on Saturday, March 2 from 12 to 2 p.m. This free program will feature the reading aloud of Dr. Seuss classics as well as Seussical arts activities. Children’s author Theodor Seuss Geisel was born on March 2, 1904. The library is located at 9704 Rhode Island Avenue, College Park.

For more information email colparklib@gmail.com.

## See Romeo & Juliet In Open Rehearsal

The Baltimore Shakespeare Factory uses “original practices” to bring Shakespeare to life as it would have been performed originally. They will give an open rehearsal of Romeo and Juliet on Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Old Parish House at 4711 Knox Road, College Park. Sponsored by the College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE), this free event is for adults and older children although “pay as you can” donations will be sought.

For information, email info@cpae.org or call 301-927-3013.

**GIVE BLOOD  
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see page 10 for details

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Methodist Church, 15225 Old Columbia Pike,  
Burtonsville

Wednesday, March 6, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.,  
Washington Adventist Hospital, 7600 Carroll Avenue,  
Takoma Park

Wednesday, March 6, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
AES Electrical 13335 Mid-Atlantic Boulevard,  
Laurel

Thursday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.,  
Doctors Community Hospital /Greenbelt Lions Club, 8100  
Good Luck Road,  
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Friday, March 8, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
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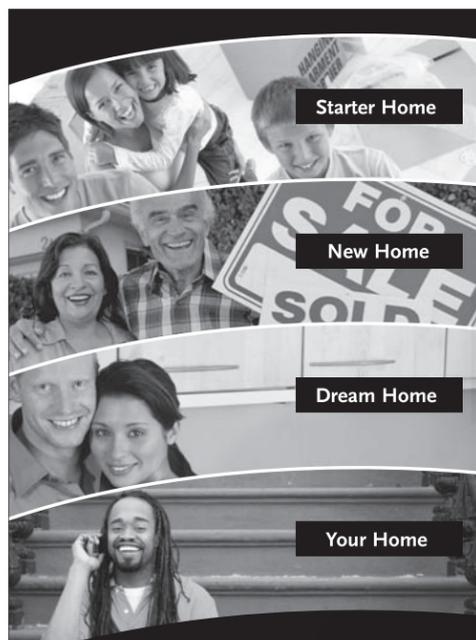
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# Buying, Using Home Fire Extinguishers Saves Lives

by Kenneth Silberman

Fires need three things – heat, fuel and oxygen. Take away any one of these three things and the fire will go out. This is where home fire extinguishers come into play.

### PASS

In an emergency it may be hard to remember what to do. How to use a fire extinguisher is easy to remember by using the acronym PASS: pull, aim, squeeze and sweep.

Pull the pin, which is the safety. This allows the extinguisher to discharge. Aim at the base of the fire. Aiming at the flames makes the extinguishing agent fly right through the fire, doing no good. Squeeze the top handle. Depressing it releases the pressurized fire-fighting agent. Sweep from side to side, from the front to the back of the fire, until the fire is completely out.

Begin by using the extinguisher from eight to 12 feet away. Then slowly move forward. Once the fire is out, make sure that it does not re-ignite.

Only use a fire extinguisher to try to put out small fires. The user must have an exit or means of escape at her back. If the fire is already spreading, the building must be evacuated immediately. If possible, close doors and windows to help slow the spread of smoke and fire. If uncomfortable in the situation, get out and let the fire department handle it.

The best type of fire extinguisher to get for the home is a dry chemical one called an ABC, for the fire types. They are red, pressurized with nitrogen and put out fire by coating the fuel with a yellow powder. The powder separates the fuel from oxygen in the air and leaves a sticky residue. Nobody should try to fight a fire unless they have adequate, appropriate equipment.

Fire extinguishers have expiration dates – beware of obsolete equipment and watch for expiration dates and mandatory testing requirements. Most important is making sure the fire extinguisher gauge stays “in the green” for safety’s sake.

### Types of Fires

Class A fires burn wood, paper, cloth, trash, plastics and solids that are not metals. The number preceding the A multiplied by 1.25 gives the equivalent extinguishing capability in gallons of water. Class B fires burn flammable liquids and gasses. The number preceding the B indicates the size of fire in square feet that an ordinary user should be able to extinguish. Class C fires involve electrical sources. There is no number preceding the letter C because it only indicates that the extinguishing agent will not conduct electricity. An extinguisher will never have a rating of just C. Never use water on an electrical fire because this can cause electrocution.

*Kenneth Silberman is the Greenbelt Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Coordinator.*



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## Ingrid Turner, Chief Craze Meet with Greenbelters

by Kathleen McFarland

As I entered Atlanta Bread Company a little before 9 a.m. on February 22, I was warmly greeted by our District 4 County Councilmember Ingrid Turner and several staff members. Greenbelt Police Chief Jim Craze invited me to get a free cup of coffee and take a seat at a table. Several Greenbelters were already there.

I had been asked to "cover" the event for the News Review and didn't know what to expect, but the "chat'n chew" turned out to be an informal, neighborly gathering, pleasant and informative.

As the nearby tables filled with others, including "Kap" Kapustin of Beltway Plaza and several of the business owners there, Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis and Councilmember Leta Mach, Turner started the meeting. Copies of District 4's annual report of accomplishments were available, but she said the real purpose of the gathering was to hear what programs residents wanted and to talk about what she could accomplish in the next two years of her term.

Turner said the county is greatly concerned about the recent fires and shootings and is seeking ways to bolster public safety. One help immediately available, she said, is that any county resident can call their fire department to receive a free smoke alarm.

She then asked Craze to address the issue. In caring and common-sense language, he talked about what the police and the public can do to stop the "killing of innocents." He praised two TV segments recently shown on "Nova" – "Guns in America" and "Mind of a Killer."

He said that a common thread in many of the killings is "disturbed young men." He feels that mechanisms are already in place for controlling the purchase of guns, such as banning automatic weapons and cartridges and universal registration of firearms, but that what is lacking is the mental health aspect. As vice president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Craze said he will be in Congress this week to participate in discussions about these problems.

### County Budget

Turner then talked about the county budget for 2014, due March 15 to the council and to be finalized by June 1. Some of the items included are funds for a regional medical center in the county, funds to upgrade Laurel Hospital and the Bowie clinic and funds to restore and possibly increase funding for transportation.

On February 26 there was a briefing on the budget at Prince George's Community College. There is still time for public input on the budget items, she said. Two more opportunities will be offered.

On February 28 there will be a meeting at the Sports and Learning Center to decide on the location of the regional medical center. Four sites have been proposed, one the old Landover Mall site, the others near Metro stops (none in Greenbelt).

Mach asked if one could re-

spond online to that question; Turner said she would find out.

Before opening the discussion for questions, Turner, an attorney, talked about a booklet she had brought with her, "Five Wishes," a planning tool to help people decide who should make health decisions for them if they were unable to do so, and other sorts of end-of-life decisions. She said she had worked on topics like this when she served in the Navy.

She mentioned that the booklet even covered issues of comfort, such as whether a person would like to have a favorite blanket with them or someone to hold their hand. Bill Orleans then got the biggest laugh of the morning when he prefaced a question about tax abatements with the remark, "If I ever get sick, I want Ingrid to hold my hand."

### Red Tape

Kap Kapustin asked a question: How could his Beltway Plaza companies get help with the voluminous red tape required when applying for permits or licenses for their businesses? Turner responded by saying she will set up a meeting for him with the appropriate county council staff member. (I made a note that Kap, who said his jurisdiction extends from Chef's Secret to Wendy's, said he learned about this meeting with Ingrid Turner from the Greenbelt News Review.)

John Henry Jones wanted to talk about a volunteer program he participates in, reading to elementary school pupils, which is so helpful in educating young people. Turner agreed about the value of the program, and indeed, would soon be leaving herself, she said, to read at Greenbelt Elementary School. She added that nonprofit agencies and private companies provide the books and that teachers recommend the books to be read, such as poetry by Langston Hughes to 6th graders, as recommended by Greenbelt teacher Beth Novick.

Lyn Doyle asked, "What is the county doing about this gun mess?" Turner replied that the police are doing their best to get guns off the streets, but the most important way the county can help is through its efforts to improve the economy, so there will not be senseless shootings over a pair of shoes. Doyle announced that an anti-gun rally would be held that coming Friday in Annapolis.

### FBI Building

A question was asked about "how close" the City of Greenbelt is to bringing the new FBI building here. Turner replied that the county officials and businesses are all for it and that Senator Mikulski and Representatives Steny Hoyer and Donna Edwards are working on it; Greenbelt is "on top now," she said, but "it is a long process." There are "issues" at the Federal level, and other jurisdictions are now interested.

Turner then left to keep her 10 a.m. appointment at Greenbelt Elementary School to read a book on Louis Armstrong to the students. But Chief Craze offered to "stick around" to talk to any individuals who might have a comment or question for him.



The 2013 Greenbelt Youth Musical will open this weekend on Saturday, March 2 at 2 and 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center. Featuring 44 teenage actors, the show is *The Joy Gods Return*, about a young 9/11 widow who brings joy back to New York City when she impersonates a goddess on a morning news show.



The Times Square Quartet (clockwise from lower left: Megan Winner, Lorraine Major, Isobel Springer and Jacqueline Zecher) sing *Whatever Happened To the Gods of Joy*.



The Joy Gods Trio (Mason Brooks, Sam Goldstein and Isaac Solomon) bring back the laughter – and the happily ever after – in *The Joy Gods Return*.

PHOTOS BY JON GARDNER

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