

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 78, No. 3

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

DECEMBER 11, 2014

## Council to Seek a Professional Assessment of Forest Preserve

by Kathleen Gallagher

On November 17 all members of the Greenbelt City Council met in worksession to discuss the Management and Maintenance Guidelines for the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, with particular regard to the removal of invasive plant species by city staff and others.

As established by law in the city code, one of the functions of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) is to monitor the condition of the preserve, as well as activities within it, and to report to council any circumstances indicating that intervention consistent with the guidelines is required. For some time now, the subject of how to deal with invasive plants in the preserve has been a cause of disagreement among board members.

Several votes have been taken on draft reports to forward to council. Although the board agrees there is a need to take action, and a majority report had emerged with a recommendation for sequential and non-overlapping steps leading up to plant removal, a minority of the board believes limited removals should begin immediately.

Most, if not all, members of FPAB were in the audience for the meeting but the only members introduced were those who

addressed council.

The board has had other disagreements over the last couple of years related to appropriate uses of the Forest Preserve under the guidelines, as well as to the conduct of its own meetings and of some members.

Mayor Emmett Jordan made it clear he wished to limit discussion to the topic at hand, maintenance guidelines.

### Staff Memo

Celia Craze, director of Planning and Community Development and staff liaison to FPAB, was asked by Jordan to start with an overview of her memo. She gave a history of the development of the guidelines and an account of several previous removals by city crews of invasives in the Forest Preserve. She stressed that, as a policy document, the guidelines cannot be used as a template for every event; rather, over the years, the staff has used the guidelines as a broad outline of policy by which to make day-to-day decisions.

She said their review process for any activity, involving appropriate staff and rigorous review against the guidelines, has always been subject to approval by the city manager and that the chair of FPAB has been consulted if there appeared to be anything

doubtful.

City Manager Michael McLaughlin commented that over the years events unforeseen by the task force that formulated the guidelines have occurred, including the recent Forest Preserve Anniversary events. Staff has used the guidelines as a policy document that can be extrapolated, he said, to provide direction for particular situations.

Nonetheless, several incidents have occurred where board members believe FPAB should have reviewed prospective work rather than having been notified after the fact.

Most recently, some board members have considered invasive species to be such a threat to the preserve that they have proposed initiating removal with small groups of volunteers. Craze said it had been staff's opinion that making incremental changes through small work groups would be appropriate and in keeping with past practice, but other FPAB members questioned whether that was consistent with the guidelines.

Jordan said it was his hope that tonight's meeting would result in updating appropriate code sections and guidelines. He noted that many issues have been coming to council over the last couple of years from or about FPAB, and he believed that any clarifications that can be made to improve the process should be made.

### Staff Recommendations

Craze said what she had described was how decisions had been made since adoption of the guidelines in 2007 and, in staff's opinion, it had been a successful process until the recent issue

See **COUNCIL**, page 12

## City Seeks State Funds To Repair Dam at Lake

by Thomas X. White

The following is a continuation of last week's story reporting on the November 24 regular meeting of council which lasted for five hours. Council action on Forest Preserve issues is reported above.

### Legislative Program

With the annual dinner meeting with the state and county representatives scheduled for December 10, council has listed the city's priority issues to put forward at the meeting. State priorities will include a requested \$285 thousand bond bill for the needed repairs at the Greenbelt Lake dam, funding for Greenbelt Road streetscape improvements and revisions for the noise barrier policies along the Beltway.

County priorities include the Greenbelt Station (North Core) school attendance issue (Greenbelt high school students from that area are being sent to Parkdale instead of Eleanor Roosevelt), action on a new Greenbelt Fire Station and the county Board of Education offer of five school rooms at the old Greenbelt Middle School.

In addition, the council seeks more general support from the legislators regarding protection

of traditional municipal funding sources, planning and zoning authority for municipalities and WMATA funding for Sunday bus service in Greenbelt. The legislative program was approved unanimously.

In another action, council approved a joint Four Cities Resolution in support of the location of a new headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at the Greenbelt Metro Station site. When approved by the four cities (Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights and New Carrollton) Congressman Steny Hoyer will read it into the Congressional Record.

The final action for the evening as the clock approached one, was council approval of Councilmember Rodney Roberts' request that an issue be referred to the Ethics Commission. With no discussion the request was approved and the item is also to be scheduled for an upcoming executive worksession.

### What Goes On

**Saturday, December 13**  
10 a.m. to noon, Santa's Visit, Youth Center (See details in city ad on page 5.)  
6:30 p.m., Moonlit Movies, "Elf," Youth Center  
**Sunday, December 14**  
4 p.m., Holiday Lights Concert, Community Center  
**Monday, December 15**  
7:30 p.m., Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center  
8 p.m., City Council Work-session, Theater Operation  
**Wednesday, December 17**  
8 p.m., City Council Work-session, WSSC Waterline Relocation Proposal, Community Center

## American Education Week

In celebration of American education, these columns will be telling the stories of selected teachers from the schools that serve the Greenbelt community. This week readers will get a glimpse inside Greenbelt Middle School.

Organized by Lisa Zammuto, the stories feature teachers or staff members at each school. David Lange, who originated the series, assisted.

## Joyce Erb-Appleman Is Language Arts Teacher

by Ana Mulero

The reporter caught up with Joyce Erb-Appleman during her busy day for teaching language arts in the new Greenbelt Middle School:

Mulero: What can you tell me about your background?

Erb-Appleman: I'm originally from Ohio and my background is actually in family and child development. I was a social worker for the first 10 years of my career in Ohio. I did child protective services social work, which involved going out and investigating abuse and neglect. During that time, I got married, had children. The job got kind of dangerous at times. I reached a point where I thought maybe it's important that I stick around for my kids. I had a couple of close



Joyce Erb-Appleman

calls, and I thought I better just do something different. So, I kind of just backed away from that and the Department of Human Services was great in helping me get into a school system.

Mulero: Where did you get your degree?

Erb-Appleman: I went to Ohio State University. That's where I got my degree. When I went back to school, I went to Walsh University and got a degree in elementary education. So, I'm certified K-8th grade.

Mulero: How did your experience as a social worker influence your teaching?

Erb-Appleman: Well, I think I was a good social worker. I was good at what I did but it

See **ERB-APPLEMAN**, page 6

## Crisis Intervention Is Adam Tinsley's Forte

by Ana Mulero

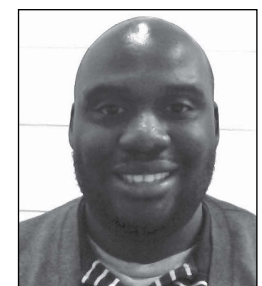
The following interviews were conducted with Adam Tinsley, crisis coordinator and crisis intervention resource teacher, and George Covington, principal of Greenbelt Middle School:

Mulero: What can you tell me about your educational background?

Tinsley: I went to high school in Atlanta, Ga. From there, I went to Emory University for my undergraduate degree in philosophy with a strong concentration in psychology. I went to graduate school in Clark Atlanta University, where I got my master's degree in special education.

Mulero: How did you become interested in pursuing a master's degree in special education?

Tinsley: I have always been interested in helping the intellectually impaired, as well as students with disabilities in general. Since I was a little kid, let's say middle school, I volunteered for the Special Olympics. Growing



Adam Tinsley

up, my parents were very community service oriented so that had been instilled in me early on. In college, since I had a strong focus in psychology, I wanted to do something in a related area. So, I worked at the autism center on campus.

We had an autism center preschool. There are very different special needs or educational things at Emory as far as jobs. After I graduated from my undergraduate, I decided to substitute teach for a year. My father helped me get that job. I worked with an alternative middle school and I met some very challenging behaviors there. But it was also a blessing because I was able to help the staff and help the students in managing those behaviors.

Mulero: Can you tell me a little bit about your multiple roles?

Tinsley: They're one and the

See **TINSLEY**, page 6



# Letters to the Editor

## Haste Makes Waste

The issue of invasive species is not new to Greenbelt. In fact, years before the Forest Preserve was officially claimed as an integral part of this city, another local green urban canopy was identified by the Department of Natural Resources as under siege. From lessons learned then, could this become a game changer: giving us (scientist, citizen, policy maker and contractor) another chance to get it right? This time around could it become a turning point away from an urgent, non-specific rush to judgment which had become the mantra: but, in fact, led to one more environmental crisis after another?

Back then, a campaign to save the trees unfolded, but since there weren't enough volunteers interested or committed enough to follow through, an array of pesticides were selected to kill English ivy, bamboo and wild roses. However, science tells us English ivy has a waxy coating, so toxic chemicals are basically useless. Still, they were used, according to scientific logic of professionals. As for the roses that had attracted migrating songbirds to rest a while on their journeys north and south, that were also homes to native bees and other pollinators: these, too, were drenched with toxic chemicals. As other natives (plant and animal) became collateral damage, dogwoods became toast. The vegetative buffers, targeted along the stream banks, also succumbed to science as mixtures of chemicals were dispersed over and over. Wildlife, poisoned and forced from their homes, took refuge in our yards.

Then, because the stream buffers were destroyed, the mechanically masticated understorey from the forest washed down over eroded stream banks, destabilized the walking path and clogged drainage pipes. Sedimentation, loosened from bare slopes, also moved down stream to the lake. When this other crisis was identified, the stream needed to be scientifically widened, which resulted in the assessment to cut down dozens of mature trees. Our original reliance on science to save these very same trees used more science to finally destroy them. Let's not forget about the fire that ignited in dead, dried up plant material (bamboo) killed by flammable chemicals and left to rot. It almost destroyed our homes until saved by the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.

The Forest Preserve Advisory Board is not opposed to science: in fact, it appears to be very much in favor of using applied science. But, science for the sake of science is no solution. Let's connect the dots between the disciplines and try to behave as nature behaves and learn from our mistakes. As Hugo Haring once said in 1925, "The only way forward is to consciously act as nature acts." And, perhaps that includes more than science.

Jean Newcomb

## Ivy Revisited

The photograph I am submitting was taken at a seldom-used entrance to Greenbelt's Forest Preserve from Ridge Road. As English ivy climbs trees, it begins producing seeds, many of which will wind up deep in the preserve.

The city council took up the issue of invasives November 17

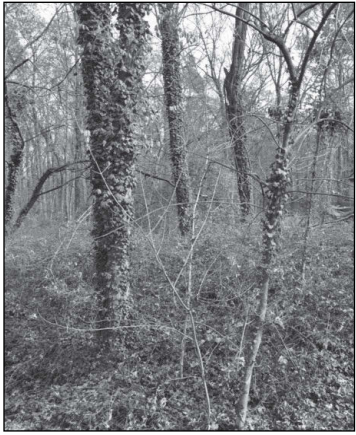


PHOTO BY WILLIS WITTER

in front of a standing-room-only crowd that remained until nearly 1 a.m. The results were mixed.

On the plus side, the council agreed unanimously to hire professional forest ecologists and biologists to assess the health of the preserve, the goal being to develop a long-term management plan.

The Forest Preserve is like a rose, beautiful but fragile, as if threatened by a deadly fungus.

Every day, English ivy moves deeper into the preserve. Each spring, new patches of stilt grass renew their assault, threatening to destroy the blanket of bright green ferns in lower elevations in the woods.

These are special woods and they need protection. Until then, the policy has been one of neglect.

In the past 15 years of hiking the preserve, I've seen multiflora rose block all access to one part of these woods. It lies between the community gardens at Hamilton Place and the foot bridge across the Baltimore-Washington Parkway.

The council created the preserve a decade ago and it adopted a set of guidelines three years later, which called for annual assessments. Yet this will be the first attempt to scientifically evaluate the forest's health.

The very act of authorizing a professional assessment is more than a good investment in the future, it marks a sea change. It was as if the council shifted Greenbelt's focus from passive neglect to active management.

Perhaps the city can adopt a motto for the preserve: "Protect, Don't Neglect!"

Unfortunately, a darker outcome spoiled Monday's session. If I had covered the council session as a news story, I would have written the following:

"The Greenbelt City Council banned all invasive management efforts in the Forest Preserve until the completion of a professional assessment by forest ecologists and biologists.

"In a unanimous vote, the council authorized the assessment.

"But by consensus it rejected any short-term invasive management until the professional assessment is in hand and can be used to draft a long-term strategy to protect the 200-acre woodland, best known as the site of Greenbelt's annual Pumpkin Walk.

"One councilmember estimated the entire process would take more than two years. Nevertheless, the council turned aside appeals by some in the audience for small-scale projects by volunteers to deal with immediate threats such as English ivy and stilt grass – activities that until Monday have been routinely approved in the past."

In writing such a story, I would then grab my tape recorder to retrieve the exact quote from Councilmember Rodney Roberts, saying that the preserve has been here for 50 years and it can survive another couple years.

With another 750 words of elaboration, the article would end.

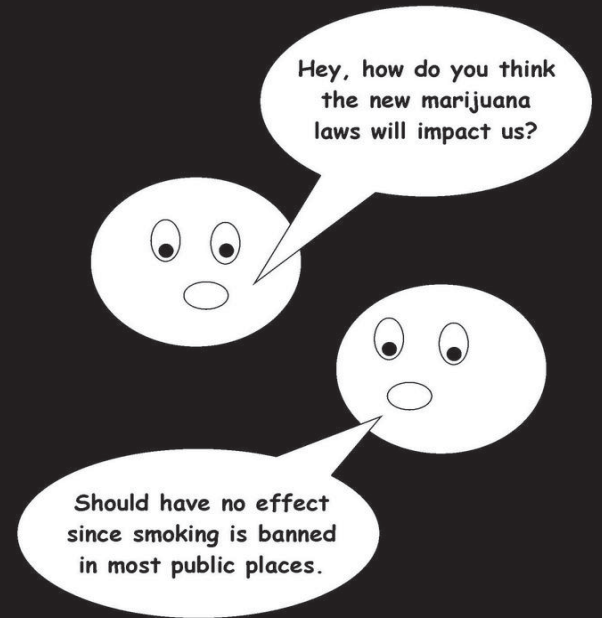
I'm not as confident as Mr. Roberts.

I plan to keep taking photos in the preserve, hoping they can be used in future editions by the News Review. Perhaps this paper will also accept photos from other Greenbelters who worry about the damage English ivy could cause in the next two or three years.

Here the council failed by halting a past practice, in which city staff issued permits to groups such as the Cub Scouts to spend a few hours Saturday afternoons

See LETTERS, page 7

"My Two Cents" with Sense and Nonsense



Support the City Council's no smoking ban in Roosevelt Center.

© Chris Logan 2014

## Free Nutcracker Ballet at UMD

Free tickets are now available for Ballet Company M's production of The Nutcracker, on Saturday, December 13, at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Dance Theatre of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Call 301-405-2787 for more information and reservations.

## Carriers Needed

News Review Routes in Franklin Park, \$10 wk. Call Arlene Clarke at 240-988-3351

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas X. White, president; Cathie Meetre, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Tom Jones.

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.

## NOTICE TO GHI MEMBERS

### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

## GDC & GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

Thursday, December 18, 2014

GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 7:30 PM



### GDC Agenda Items

- Financial Criteria for Selecting Tenants for the Parkway Apartments
- 2015-17 Waste Removal Contract

### GHI Key Agenda Items:

- Communications Committee Report
- ARC's Recommendation for Changes to Rules Re: Door Colors
- ARC's Recommendation for Changes to Rules Re: Tree Removals by Members
- ARC's Recommendation for Changes to Rules Re: Privacy Screens
- Buildings Committee's Recommendations Re: Policy for Solar Domestic Hot Water Panel Installations
- Review Minutes for 2014 Annual Membership Meeting
- Proposed Purchase of a Tractor for Snow Removal, 1st Reading
- 2015 GHI Budget Expenditure Authorization, 2nd Reading
- Buildings Owner's Insurance Policy Renewal, 2nd Reading

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



To request a sign language interpreter for this meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).



# Community Events

## At the Library

Tuesday, December 16: Toddler Storytime, 2 p.m., for ages 2 to 3, limit 20 people. Thursday, December 18: Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3 to 5, limit 20 people; Baby Laptime Storytime, 11:15 a.m., for ages birth to 12 months, limit 20 people; and Baby Storytime, 12:15 p.m., for ages 12 to 24 months, limit 20 people. Encourage your child to make reading a positive experience by bringing them to the library's storytimes. Each program contains engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy.

### Read to Rover

Saturday, December 20: 2 p.m. Read to Rover is for children ages 6 to 11, helping them build reading confidence while reading aloud to specially trained therapy dogs glad to listen. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required; call 301-345-5800 for more information.

All Prince George's County library branches will be closed on Wednesday, December 24 and Thursday, December 25 for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day holidays. The Greenbelt library will reopen on Friday, December 26 at 10 a.m.

All libraries also will be closed on Wednesday, December 31 and Thursday, January 1 for the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day holidays. The Greenbelt library will reopen on Friday, January 2 at 10 a.m.

## GHI Notes

Thursday, December 11, 6:30 p.m., Investment Committee meeting, Board Room.

7:30 p.m., Finance Committee meeting, Board Room.

Friday, December 12, noon, OFFICE CLOSED (Employees Holiday Party). Emergency Maintenance will be available.

Saturday, December 13, 11 a.m., Pre Purchase Orientation, Board Room.

Tuesday, December 16, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee meeting, Board Room.

Wednesday, December 17, 7 p.m., Woodlands Committee meeting, Board Room.

Thursday, December 18, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors meeting (Open Session), Board Room.

Friday, December 19, OFFICE CLOSED. Emergency maintenance will be available.

## Annual Shop With A Cop Dec. 13

The Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police's annual Shop with a Cop will take place Saturday, December 13 at Beltway Plaza. This program partners children in need with police officers, allowing children to purchase Christmas presents for themselves and family members. Each child is allotted a budget of \$100 and transported to a local store to make purchases, then to a present-wrapping party with pizza. Children are selected through nominations by their elementary school.

Funding for this program is provided by donations. For further information, contact Scott Kaiser at 240-542-2135 or [Skaiser@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:Skaiser@greenbeltmd.gov).

## Last Star Party For this Year

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will hold its last star party of 2014 on Saturday evening, December 13, at the City of Greenbelt Observatory, located at Northway field. Come and observe Mars, Uranus and Neptune, along with the galaxies, star clusters and planetary nebulae there are to be seen. For those who wish, we will review pictures taken with our astronomical camera of what visitors to our star parties have seen over the past year. As usual, visitors are welcome to set up their own telescopes on the hill.

Observing will begin around 6 p.m. and continue for about two hours. There is no fee for the event. Attendees are asked to park in the ball field lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope.

The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

## Patron Day, Demos, Wine Tastings at Co-op

Patron Appreciation Day and the Seasonal & Savory Food Demo & Wine Tasting is on December 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. Co-op staff will serve up a kale, carrot and apple salad along with souffles from Garden Lites.

Visit the Co-op's website, [greenbelt.coop](http://greenbelt.coop), for information on this month's holiday hours and events.

## Holiday Deadlines, Schedule Changes

Now is the time to plan ahead in order to accommodate changes in the regular advertising and print schedule of the Greenbelt News Review. Please note the following:

### Christmas Week Issue – Dated Thursday, December 25

Advertising and Copy Deadline:  
MONDAY 12/22 at 8 p.m.

### New Year's Week Issue – Dated Thursday, January 1

Advertising and Copy Deadline:  
MONDAY 12/29 at 8 p.m.

### Holiday Office Hours:

Monday 12/22 – 2 to 4 p.m.; 6 to 8 p.m.  
(Tuesday 12/23 – Saturday 12/27 – CLOSED)  
Monday 12/29 – 2 to 4 p.m., 6 to 8 p.m.  
(Tuesday 12/30 – Saturday 1/3 – CLOSED)

All articles, photos, announcements and advertisements must reach us by no later than Monday at 8 p.m., sooner if possible. Please note that we will not be able to accept additional material for these issues after the stated deadlines.

The News Review is grateful for everyone's help in submitting their advertisements and copy as early as possible so the special holiday schedule will work. Please call us at 301-474-4131 if there are any questions. Happy Holidays to All!

## Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The Golden Age Club is ready to move ahead for another interesting year. A slate of officers for 2015 was elected on December 3 and will be installed in January. Many thanks to the nominating committee for the phone calls.

The Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 17. Come, meet and greet and enjoy all sorts of goodies. Maybe some eggnog, too.

No meeting on December 24 or December 31. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 7, 2015.

With the busy holiday season at hand take time to enjoy moments with family and friends. May everyone enjoy the glorious season with joy and peace for the whole world.

## GIVES Holiday Meeting Is Saturday

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) will hold its holiday meeting on Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 114.

A short meeting will precede the holiday celebration. Members are invited to bring food or drink to share. Non-members are welcome to come to the meeting and stay to meet and talk with the group.

For further information call the GIVES office at 301-507-6580.

## The Bus

Customers with Disabilities and Seniors RIDE FREE  
1-877-331-TRIP (8747)

More Community Events are throughout the paper.

## Greenbelt Arts Center THIS WEEKEND ONLY

### The Chromatics



The Chromatics bring their "Yuletide Tantrum" to the Greenbelt Arts Center. Performing a mixture of traditional holiday tunes and neo-classics, tossed together with offbeat originals about life in one modern high-tech world, and all done in their indescribable style, the Chromatics ensure that the playfulness of the season shines through.

Dec. 13 at 8pm and Dec. 14 at 2pm

Ticket prices: \$20, \$16 Students/Seniors/Military, \$12 Youth

### COMING SOON

Julius Caesar - Jan 9-11, 2015 - Guest Production from The Rude Mechanicals  
Tales of Terror: Poe's Birthday Bash - Jan. 16-18, 2015

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



## ACADEMY STADIUM THEATERS

6198 GREENBELT ROAD  
CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA  
301-220-1155

For directions visit [www.academy8theaters.com](http://www.academy8theaters.com)

Most features are \$5.00  
all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D  
R = ID Required  
(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend  
\* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows

## WEEK OF DEC. 12

### FRIDAY – SATURDAY

Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt. 1, PG  
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:50  
Horrible Bosses, R (!)  
11:10, 4:15, 7:10, 9:35  
Beyond the Lights, PG-13  
1:35, 9:40  
Exodus "Gods and Kings," PG-13 (!)\*  
10:45, 11:50, 2 (3D), 4, 5:15 (3D), 7:15  
Top Five, R(!)\*  
11:20, 12:05, 1:50, 2:35, 4:20, 5:05, 7, 7:35, 9:30, 10:05  
Penguins of Madagascar, PG\*  
11:20, 1:45, 4, 7:15, 9:30  
Big Hero 6, PG  
11, 1:35, 4:10, 6:50, 9:25

### SUNDAY – MONDAY

Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt. 1, PG  
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7  
Horrible Bosses, R (!!)  
11:10, 4:15, 7:10  
Beyond the Lights, PG-13  
1:35  
Exodus "Gods and Kings," PG-13 (!)\*  
10:45, 11:50, 2 (3D), 4, 5:15 (3D), 7:15, 8:30  
Top Five, R(!)\*  
11:20, 12:05, 1:50, 2:35, 4:20, 5:05, 7, 7:35  
Penguins of Madagascar, PG\*  
11:20, 1:45, 4, 7:15  
Big Hero 6, PG  
11, 1:35, 4:10, 6:50

### TUESDAY

Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt. 1, PG  
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7  
Horrible Bosses, R (!!)  
11:10, 4:15  
Beyond the Lights, PG-13  
1:35  
Exodus "Gods and Kings," PG-13 (!)\*  
10:45, 11:50, 2 (3D), 4, 5:15 (3D), 7:15  
Top Five, R(!)\*  
11:20, 12:05, 1:50, 2:35, 4:20, 5:05, 7, 7:35  
Penguins of Madagascar, PG\*  
11:20, 1:45, 4, 7:15  
Big Hero 6, PG  
11, 1:35, 4:10  
The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies, PG-13 (!)\* (preshow)  
7, 7:10 (3D)

### WEDNESDAY

Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt. 1, PG  
10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7  
Exodus "Gods and Kings," PG-13 (!)\*  
10:45, 11:50, 2 (3D), 3:30, 5:15 (3D), 6:45  
The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies, PG-13 (!)\*  
11, 11:55, 2:30 (3D), 3:30, 6 (3D), 7  
Top Five, R(!)\*  
11:20, 12:05, 1:50, 2:35, 4:20, 5:05, 7, 7:35  
Penguins of Madagascar, PG  
11:20, 1:45, 4, 7:15

### THURSDAY

Hunger Games: Mockingjay Pt. 1, PG  
10:45, 1:30, 4:15  
Exodus "Gods and Kings," PG-13 (!)\*  
10:45, 11:50, 2 (3D), 3:30, 6:45  
The Hobbit: Battle of Five Armies, PG-13 (!)\*  
11, 11:55, 2:30 (3D), 3:30, 6 (3D), 7  
Top Five, R(!)\*  
11:20, 12:05, 1:50, 2:35, 4:20, 5:05, 7:10, 7:35  
Penguins of Madagascar, PG  
11:20, 1:45, 4, 7:15  
Night at the Museum (Preshow)  
7  
Annie, PG (preshow)  
6



## GUTTER CLEANING

Aerotech Gutter, DCG Cleaning, & Gilbert Construction are performing fall gutter cleaning and inspections. Inclement weather may affect the schedule but the workers plan on being in this approximate area the week beginning December 15.

Laurel Hill Courts 1-15;  
Hillside Courts 9-14, 20; & Ridge Court 65

During that time, workers will be on ladders around buildings. Please close your window shades to preserve privacy.

You may contact Peter Joseph at (301) 474-4161 ext. 141 if you have any questions or comments.



*In Memoriam*

# One of the Good Guys Is Gone

by Rick Ransom

John 'Rock' McBride, a lifetime Greenbelter and a member of the local band The Good Guys, died late Tuesday night, November 25, from an apparent heart attack. He would have been 60 years old on Christmas eve, a birth date he celebrated by hosting a party every year.

John is survived by his wife Linda, his two children John and Lisa, his sister Mary Ellen, his grandchildren John and Claire, and their mother and young John's mate Jacqueline Lilly. He was preceded in death by a brother, Bill, when John was a young man. It's interesting to note that John's son works at GHI as a master plumber and Jaky works at the Co-op part-time. It's a true Greenbelt story.

John was one of my closest everyday friends whom I met in the year 2000 when forming a band with him and Donald Nickolson, who was even closer to John than I. John was funny and generous – a certifiable chef who was happiest cooking for a gaggle of people sitting at his kitchen table. Although I only knew John these last 14 years or so, I learned quickly what a great and loyal friend he was.

When we first started the band, the three of us practiced at John's house for seven years. John would always cook dinner, running back and forth between playing guitar and singing and cooking. As much as John liked playing, he liked cooking for everyone even more. When dinner was ready he would yell "bean time" and we would pause long enough to eat. He did this so faithfully that we thought about naming the band Dinner At Rock's. We never paid for the food, but we did try. John wouldn't have it. He was a proud man who had not a lot but was glad to share what he had. That's the way he lived.

John graduated from St. Hugh's School and attended Parkdale High School. He subsequently was employed by GHI as a plumber's helper. He later worked at Magnolia Plumbing learning the trade enough to become a master plumber. He worked there for several years until he had a life-threatening accident. A grate in the sidewalk collapsed and John fell through, taking a metal rod through his upper leg.

One member of the rescue team was astute enough to realize the rod could not be removed safely without excessive bleeding, so they transported John to the hospital with the rod embedded in his leg. He spent two long, hard months in the hospital and, according to him (I didn't know John then), nearly died on several occasions, suffering two different pulmonary blood clots and enough other difficulties to fill a notebook.

Despite the devastation of this

accident (his injured leg was twice the size of the "good" leg), John lived an active life after retiring ten years later on disability, using a leg pump for 90 minutes daily to assist with circulation. He walked to and around Greenbelt Lake to keep in shape and lost 60 pounds on doctors' orders after an initial heart attack a few years ago. He performed home tasks and many physical favors without complaint, resting more frequently when the leg was strained.

If you asked people to write in a book of memories all of the favors and nice things John had done for them, the book would be thick indeed. After shoveling his own walk when it snowed, he would shovel three or four of the neighbor's walks and a good portion of the court. He visited his friend Terry Walton frequently after Terry acquired MS, taking him to visit Thomas Sharp with us in West Virginia when Thomas was terminally ill. He also accompanied me and Lee Dorsey and John O'Brien to visit Pete Ladnier in West Virginia when Pete was losing his eyesight from brain tumors that eventually killed him.

With the band, John joined enthusiastically in playing at benefit performances to raise money for sick friends or for a friend's son, like mine. His good friend and court mate Tic Mangum noted it was appropriate that John died at Thanksgiving because he represented that spirit of giving year round.

John was a good man by anybody's measure and the embodiment of the spirit of being a Greenbelt kid; i.e., never forget your Greenbelt family. A memorial service was held at St Hugh's Church on Wednesday, December 3, followed by a reception at the Greenbelt American Legion (they are always so kind to make

their banquet hall available when it is vacant). Many friends were there, including friends of his children, because John knew them all personally and was helpful to them as well. That's how he lived.

A few people spoke about John, some overwhelmed by tears and our loss. Yours truly remarked about John's ability to make everyday happenings in life so humorous you had to ask him to stop so you could catch your breath. His friend Donald said he was going to miss him terribly, noting humorously through his tears that John always had a cold beer. If he ran out while you were there, he would disappear for ten minutes or so while he hiked down to the Co-op to refill the stash.

John's wife spoke most eloquently, relating that John loved his friends in Greenbelt, especially The Good Guys. She said they'd had a long life together (41 years) and that she knew how lucky she was for that time.

John had told Linda and his friends that he wanted to donate his body to science (of course). Linda said that he remarked "Well, you pay for everything in life, you ought to be able to die for free." A pragmatic sort was he, no doubt. He's left a large hole in the hearts of all who knew him. It can only be repaired by friends and family sharing his memory and the love that he stood for in the manner in which he treated all he encountered. As for The Good Guys, we have recorded four CDs full of songs from performances and jam sessions. They are posted and can be downloaded for free on the website [www.rickransom16g.com](http://www.rickransom16g.com).



*In Memoriam*

# Mary Linstrom

That was a wonderful tribute to the life of Mary Linstrom written by Sandra Lange in the December 4 edition. The Linstroms were our neighbors in 11 Court of Ridge Road. A finer family you will not find. And who deserves the lion's share of the credit for that? Mary

Linstrom who with her husband Jack was raising nine amazing children while devoting untold hours in pursuit of her volunteer efforts. Her other accomplishments are all the more incredible when her family life is considered.

- Robert H. Haslinger

**GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH**  
*Christmas Eve*  
*Candle Light Service*  
**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**7:00pm**  
 101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770  
 (301) 474-4212 [www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**"He Is Here"**  
 A Christmas Cantata  
**Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 pm.**  
 Light refreshments will be served  
 101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770  
 (301) 474-4212 [www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**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 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe**

**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*

December 14, 10 a.m.  
 Holiday Choir Service  
 The choir led by David Chapman, Music Director;  
 Rev. Russ Savage; and  
 Carol Carter Walker, Worship Associate

Join us for this traditional joyous service of holiday music.  
 The choir will offer works for both Christmas and Hanukkah, and all will join in singing familiar Christmas carols.

**Celebrate the Birth of Your Lord**  
**At Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

Christmas Eve - Dec. 24th  
 12:15 p.m. Simple Service of Holy Communion  
 9:00 p.m. Festive Service of Holy Communion

Christmas Day - Dec. 25th  
 9:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
 6905 Greenbelt Rd. 301-345-5111  
[www.Myholycross.org](http://www.Myholycross.org) (Join us on Facebook)

**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.**  
**Third Sunday of Advent, Joy and Friendship**  
**Dinner Follows**

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)  
 Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

Sunday Worship  
 10:15 a.m.  
 Glenyce Grindstaff, Pastor

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223  
*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.*

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

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

**Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS**  
 Sundays 10 A.M.  
 Municipal Building  
**ALL ARE WELCOME.**



### Reel and Meal Offers Cowsspiracy Film

On Monday, December 15, Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café will present the documentary Cowsspiracy: The Sustainability Secret. An optional vegan buffet begins at 6:30 p.m. and the free screening starts at 7 p.m.

Cowsspiracy: The Sustainability Secret is a groundbreaking feature length environmental documentary, following an intrepid filmmaker as he investigates a destructive industry and why the world's leading environmental organizations are too afraid to talk about it. Reviewers have noted that this humorous documentary is as eye-opening as Blackfish and as inspiring as An Inconvenient Truth.

Mike Tidwell of Takoma Park will serve as the post-screening facilitator. Tidwell is the founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots nonprofit organization dedicated to raising awareness about the impacts and solutions associated with climate change in Maryland, Virginia, D.C. and beyond. He is also an author, filmmaker, vegetarian, ardent activist and environmental leader.

In keeping with the Reel and Meal's annual holiday tradition of giving back to the greater community, donations will be collected following the screening for an organization fighting deforestation in the Brazilian rainforest.

Reel and Meal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues. Three Greenbelt volunteer groups sponsor Reel and Meal: Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking and the Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition.

For more information on this month's event, contact Cam MacQueen at worldisvegan@aol.com.

### Mid-week Bird Walks At Lake Artemesia

The Prince George's Audubon Society, with members of the Patuxent Bird Club, hosts mid-week bird walks on the first and third Thursdays year-round along the Luther Goldman Birding Trail at Lake Artemesia.

The 2.2-mile trail loops around the 38-acre lake and alongside Indian Creek.

Habitats include open water, wetlands, wood edge, riparian forest and meadow, which offer opportunities to see woodland and field songbirds as well as waterfowl and possible raptor flyovers. Meet at 3 p.m. on December 18, January 1 (self-led by participants) and 15, February 5 and 19 and March 5 and 19 at the parking lot at Berwyn Road and Balew Avenue in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed.

For more information, visit pgaudubon.org or call 301-509-2212.



# City Information

## MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 15-19

Monday, December 15th at 8:00pm, **WORK SESSION: Review of Theatre Operation Proposal** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipality](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipality)

Monday, December 15th at 7:30pm, **Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)** meeting at the Community Center. Open to the public.

Wednesday, December 17 at 8:00pm, **WORK SESSION: WSSC Water Line Relocation Proposal** at Community Center Building, 15 Crescent Road.

**All meetings listed are open to the public. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.**

**THIS WEEKEND AT THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS**  
 Saturday, 12/13 from 10am-12pm, **SANTA'S VISIT:** All ages. FREE! Youth Center. All the children will receive a FREE picture with Santa.  
**ELVES WORKSHOP:** 1:30-3:30pm at the Youth Center, Ages 7-12, \$5 per child. Pre-Registration Required, call 301-397-2200. Children will bake cookies and make a beautiful craft.  
**HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONCERT:** Sunday, 12/14 at 4pm. FREE. Enjoy holiday music with the Greenbelt Concert Band.

**This holiday season, consider making a Charitable Donation to the City of Greenbelt's Agency Funds**



Consider donating at this time of year to the Agency Funds, which helps our neighbors in need. The Agency Funds comprise a set of funds maintained by the City of Greenbelt, but not owned by the city as all assets are used to account for outside parties.

### Donation areas include the following:

**The Recreation Department:** funds used to support camp scholarships and special events.

**Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau:** the funds provide refreshments for the counseling sessions.

**The Good Samaritan Fund:** funds provide for out-of-town persons stranded in Greenbelt and monies for groceries for low income families with whom CARES is working.

**Emergency Assistance Fund:** funds assist Greenbelt residents at-risk of eviction.

**Advisory Committee on Education (ACE):** fund initiatives such as ACE scholarships.

**The Greenbelt Theater:** funds help keep the theater open.

**Spay and Neuter Clinic Agency Fund:** funds used to purchase supplies and equipment to perform cat and dog neuters at the shelter.

Checks may be made payable to the City of Greenbelt. Donors may direct their donation toward one or more of the agency funds. Donations are tax deductible and upon request a letter acknowledging your gift will be issued.

**Thank you to all residents who have contributed in years past. Happy Holidays!**



The Greenbelt Community Center and the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center will be once again collecting new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots through December 22nd. Every Friday in December (12th and 19th), patrons bringing a toy will receive \$1.00 off daily admission at the GAFC.

GREENBELT AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER  
 101 Centerway, 301-397-2204

**WE ARE HIRING!**  
**We Want You!**



Certified Lifeguard, Pool Manager, and Swim Lesson Instructor Positions available...

Apply at: <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/Jobs.aspx>

### LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE

The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves from the following areas with the leaf vacuum until January 16, 2015. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents not to park in front of leaf piles. **Info: 301-474-8004**

**December 15-19:** Woodland Hills, Greenbrook Village & Estates

**December 22-26:** Lakeside, Greenspring I & II  
 December 25 & 26 Holiday

**December 29-January 2:** Lakeside, Windsor Green  
 January 1 Holiday

**January 5 - 9:** All areas

**January 12-16:** All areas

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Committee  
**For information call 301-474-8000.**

### WANTED: WELCOME PACKET MATERIALS!

The City of Greenbelt will be compiling Welcome Packets for new residents in January. Local businesses, groups, organizations are encouraged to provide materials to include in these packets. Flyers, coupons, promotional items, etc. Please provide 300 of what you would like to include to the city office, attention Beverly Palau at 25 Crescent Road by Friday, January 16th. If you have any questions, please contact [bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov) or at 240-542-2026.

### Visit our adoptable pets at the Greenbelt

**Animal Shelter**

**550-A Crescent Road 301-474-6124**

Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm



**Junior is sweet and loves to be held and petted. He is polydactyl (he has extra front toes). Some people consider polydactyl cats to be good luck! Junior is looking for a forever home.**

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

### MOONLIT MOVIES-HOLIDAY EDITION!

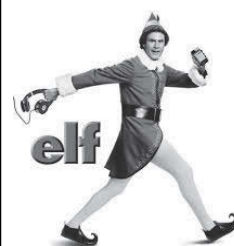
**"ELF"**

**Saturday, December 13th  
 6:30PM SHARP**

**Greenbelt Youth Center Gym  
 FREE!**

**Bring your own blanket or chair.**

**301-397-2200**



VISIT GREENBELT CITYLINK AT  
[WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV)



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[FACEBOOK.COM/CITYOFGREENBELT](https://www.facebook.com/CITYOFGREENBELT)

[TWITTER @CITYOFGREENBELT](https://twitter.com/CITYOFGREENBELT)

Watch fun videos on [YouTubeCityofGreenbelt](https://www.youtube.com/CityofGreenbelt)

### Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday  
 10am - 4pm

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

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



## ERB-APPLEMAN continued from page 1

was a job where we were going out and doing investigations and you're pretty much on your own. I was young. When I started there, I wasn't married yet. I was just fresh out of college. It was a job where I saw a lot of change. I saw a lot of families and children. I started out in 1979-80, and at that time it was kind of a nice pleasant job. We would help families figure out how to go grocery shopping and clean their house. We also taught basic kind of maintenance things with their kids. I was definitely over the life expectancy of a social worker. So I had a couple of options but the one that I thought was most appealing to me was going into the school system and working as a social worker.

Mulero: What are some of your favorite topics?

Erb-Appleman: As an elementary teacher, I have always said I like all of the subjects. I didn't have a particular favorite subject but I kind of did. I always like to teach writing. That was always my favorite thing to teach.

Mulero: Why writing?

Erb-Appleman: I think it's

really important. I believe it's the way we express ourselves in terms of our own ideas and our original thoughts. I also believe that it's something that people are afraid of. I mean, some people think they are good writers but others really don't. Writing can be hard. It's one area that I can see a tremendous amount of growth. For example, there are so many different types of writing I just think that at the end of the year I have always developed good writers and I'm really proud of that.

Mulero: What do you enjoy the most about teaching?

Erb-Appleman: I guess I like that challenge of making sure that kids have the best education and the most positive experience. I accomplish this goal by putting myself not just in the parents' shoes. I don't forget what it was like sitting in a classroom as a 12-year-old. I remember how I felt.

This program tonight (a dramatic presentation) is an opportunity. When I was in school, I would have thought, "All of the kids that are really dramatic and get up there and do a great job,

they're the ones that are going to get picked." I don't pick those kids; that's not what I'm looking for. I'm looking for potential.

Mulero: Why did you select Ms. Erb-Appleman as a teacher for GMS?

Principal George Covington: Ms. Erb-Appleman is excellent in the classroom. She has been selected as the Professional Development Lead Teacher. So, whenever we do professional development she is involved with presenting or at least preparing. We have student-learning objectives that every person has to do in the school and she is the expert in that. She is an excellent Talented and Gifted (TAG) teacher. She comes in early to work with people on various things. She is just invaluable. She is just the kind that you just want to make sure that she doesn't burn out. But she has been doing it for so long and so consistently that it seems like she just keeps on going and she's great.

*Ana Mulero is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.*

## TINSLEY continued from page 1

same. The school prefers to utilize crisis coordinator because it covers the gamut. Sometimes I might counsel kids. I'm not a professional school counselor but I am trained in de-escalation tactics and certain aspects of counseling. So, I can counsel students on an on-going basis, but I'm not a professional school counselor so I have limitations to my counseling. But I assist with the professional school guidance department. I also deal with discipline here so if a student acts outside of the guidelines that we have as a school and that we have as a county, I'll talk to and mentor students, guide them in the right direction as far as their behavior. I develop some behavior intervention plans for students. If they're having trouble with a particular teacher, and in particular other students; peer-mediation, I mediate conflicts.

Mulero: What kind of strategies do you use to help motivate students?

Tinsley: Well, there is no one size fits all. A strategy for one student might not work for another. But as far as, let's say bereavement, sometimes I can work with the student. I can talk to them about the bereavement. But sometimes they might be too deep in the process of bereavement that I might have to enlist the help of a counselor. I feel like I can talk to all students but not all students feel like they can talk to me. So, recognizing my limitations in working with specific students, that's a challenge

but that's a strategy also that I can use where I say, "Well, hey, let me find somebody you can talk to."

Mulero: What is your favorite part about teaching or being a counselor?

Tinsley: Interacting with the students. Seeing the student having the "Aha!" moment. Going from not knowing to knowing a little bit more and then building on that. And filling in questions. Some people say the most annoying part about being a parent is having to answer the why questions coming from your children. But that's what we are in the business to do here, at the school, answer the why questions and encourage the students to keep asking the questions. So, seeing the process of discovery and self-discovery, I would say is the most gratifying and satisfying part of what I do here.

Mulero: Why did you select Mr. Tinsley?

Principal George Covington: What I have witnessed from Mr. Tinsley is hard work in the school with the students. He is crisis intervention coordinator so he does a great job with squelching the squabbles that come. Especially in middle school, as they learn to solve conflicts on their own, he helps them do that. He runs the Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Program, the umbrella for our whole discipline program. He does a mentoring group with some boys after school. He is the baseball and basketball coach.

visit [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

# Blurry vision is a potential diabetes symptom.

We help people better manage this complex disease.

Poorly managed diabetes can lead to **heart attacks, strokes, blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage and limb amputation.**

Recognize the symptoms:

- + Blurry vision
- + Extreme fatigue
- + Extreme thirst
- + Frequent urination
- + Increased hunger
- + Irritability
- + Non-healing wounds
- + Tingling numbness in hands or feet
- + Unexplained weight loss

Doctors Community Hospital's Joslin Diabetes Center can help!

**The only multidisciplinary program in Prince George's County accredited by the American Diabetes Association, we provide both medical and educational services.** In fact, our comprehensive program includes board-certified endocrinologists, certified diabetes educators, registered dietitians as well as diabetic ulcer and non-healing wound care.

To schedule an appointment or request a free diabetes educational brochure, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

  
DOCTORS  
COMMUNITY  
HOSPITAL

 Joslin Diabetes Center

8100 Good Luck Road  
North Building, 5th Floor  
Lanham, Maryland 20706

[DCHdiabetes.org](http://DCHdiabetes.org)

ASK US ABOUT OUR FREE DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP



# Letters to the Editor

cutting ivy vines at the base of tree trunks or pulling up stilt grass on trails into the preserve from Plateau Court.

My hope is that the council will revisit this issue at some point in the near future, before Greenbelt Forest Preserve bumper stickers begin appearing with the slogan: "Protect, Don't Neglect."  
*Willis Witter*

## Where's the Value?

In the News Review (Nov 26) I read with puzzlement about a local French immersion school. Depicted are well-meaning, dedicated, hard-working and really smart people doing wonderful things.

In high school I benefited academically from studying French and have always been proud of my accomplishment but otherwise found little use for it over a lifetime and have encountered few others who have.

Although there may be some benefits in studying non-native languages, this may not be the most pressing learning assignment for our young. Why not an immersion school which addresses poverty, hunger, prostitution, human trafficking, disease, crime and drugs? Why not immerse our young in a manner whereby some of them could become our future leaders?

Let's be cautious about squandering the minds of our newest generation as we fiddle while Rome (Greenbelt) burns or sink with the Titanic while the band plays on seeing nothing but their music.  
*Bill Norwood*

## A+ for Greenbelt Elementary School

As I sat down on a chair in the corner of the kindergarten room, the teacher, Mr. Bell warned me that I would be "trampled" there. I wasn't sure why because the students were very involved on the rug with notebooks and pencils. When the Smart board question changed, they RAN to a large map on the wall packed with information . . . where I had been. Enthusiasm and excitement penetrated the room.

Next came a carefully organized transition as these five- and six-year-olds moved to the computer lab. They were cooperative, patient and extremely motivated to start their activities with the luxury of individual computers.

This was part of our experience at Grandparents Day at Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) last Friday. Having taught classes from pre-school to AP high school between us, we were very impressed.

We moved on to Ms. Arcido's 3rd grade class, where she incorporated the grandparents into a mini career-day learning experience. The students were very inquisitive and politely asked meaningful questions about our jobs. They accrued points for using the week's vocabulary words like "inhospitable," which was an apt term to use in reference to my description of a dissection in

a high school biology class.

We've watched our grandchildren bloom at GES and recommend it highly. As a department chair in a competitive New York high school, an important part of my job was to evaluate teaching performance and classroom management. From my observations I would give GES an A+!

*Angela and Peter Buckley*

## It's Good!

While on the path up Gardenway, toward Spellman Bridge, suddenly, up ahead, a scant two to three dozen yards, an animal emerges from woods to my left. It looks like a cat, so that when I see it isn't - it pauses, faces me - I know just what it is: a canid, bolting across the path into the gardens, a streetlight showing just enough of a white tip to the backlit bushy tail. Red fox.

I walk a few more yards. A sign. It's heavy, it has to be in this world, on what one can't do. But at the top, the reason for the woods, the fox. TO PROTECT THE LAND, ITS TREES, PLANTS AND WILDLIFE.

Bright, day-like artificial light. Roaring traffic. An emergency kiosk with a public phone and a prying camera eye. But also a fox and a forest preserve.

It's good to be in Greenbelt, and enough. I turn for home.

*Don Ahearn*

## Children's Arts Drop-in Programs

Arts Specialists Aaron Springer and Ann Potter lead fun arts workshops for children ages 3 to 8 with their parents. Free monthly Arts Drop-in at College Park Community Center meets on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon, and at the Old Parish House on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. on December 13 and 14. To learn more, call 301-474-1210.

CPAE Book Club will be moving to Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. to explore nonfiction by women. On December 16, the book is *Unbowed* by Wangari Maathai. In it, the Nobel Prize winner recounts her extraordinary journey from childhood in rural Kenya to the world stage. When Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in 1977, she began a vital poor people's environmental movement, focused on the empowerment of women, that spread across Africa.



We were saddened to hear of the death of Keith Marshall, 78, at Washington Hospital Center on December 8, 2014. Condolences to his wife Martha and other family and friends. Keith was a longtime tuba-player with the Greenbelt Concert Band.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards and honors to share with our readers. To send information for Our Neighbors, email us at [newsreview@verizon.net](mailto:newsreview@verizon.net) or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

*- Kathleen McFarland*

## Free Diabetes Support Group

Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free diabetes support group on Monday, December 15 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at 8100 Good Luck Road on the 5th floor of the North Building. To register call 301-324-4968.



**New Year's Eve with Vintage #18**

*Soultime Blues Revue with Karim and Maria's Delectable Buffet: appetizers, soup & salad, entree, dessert & champagne at midnight!*

**\$55 p/person** *Reservations recommended*

**New Deal Cafe** 113 Centerway  
[www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com) 301.474.5642

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

Prices Effective: DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	15	16	17	18	19	20
21						

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 9 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

Greenbelt

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Grocery Bargains		Grocery Bargains	
Green Giant Canned Corn or Green Beans 14.5-15.25 oz. <b>60¢</b>	Swanson Soup Broth Asst. 14.5 oz. <b>60¢</b>	Betty Crocker Potato Sidedishes 3.7-5.1 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	San Giorgio Assorted Spaghetti or Macaroni 8-16 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>
Domino Baking Sugars 10X/Lt & Dk Brown 2 lb. bag <b>\$2.00</b>	Shurfine Canned Pineapple Assorted 20 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Ocean Spray Cranberry Juice Blends Assorted 64 oz. <b>\$2.00</b>	Nestle Assorted Chocolate Morsels 10-12 oz. <b>\$1.77</b>

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# Police Blotter

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

## Robbery

November 25, 11:20 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. A man walking to a residence after parking his vehicle was approached by two men, one armed with what appeared to be a handgun. They announced a robbery. After obtaining his wallet and cell phone, they ran to a red vehicle and fled.

November 26, 8:30 p.m., 8100 block Bird Lane. A cab driver was robbed after he picked up a man at the Greenbelt Metro Station. After paying the fare, he displayed a handgun and demanded the cabbie's wallet, money and cell phone. He then exited the cab and fled on foot. He is described as a black man, 28 to 35 years old, 150 to 160 pounds, wearing a black jacket, grey pants and a black wool cap.

## Trespass

November 28, 6:24 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 24-year-old nonresident man was arrested and charged with trespass after he was observed inside Beltway Plaza after having been banned from the mall by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

## Theft

November 25, 6:10 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A woman left her phone unattended at the Beltway Plaza Laundromat and then noticed it was gone. A man seen leaving the laundromat after the theft is a suspect.

November 28, 10:35 a.m., 7500 block Greenbelt Road. Three men and one woman entered Radio Shack and grabbed two video game players and other merchandise. They fled, getting into a vehicle described as a 4-door blue Buick Regal. Each of the men is described as being black, with the first man 18 to 23 years old, 5'8" to 6' tall, 160 pounds, wearing dark pants, a black jacket and a gray winter

hat; the second man 18 to 25 years old, 5'9" to 6' tall, 160 to 180 pounds, wearing a grey hooded winter jacket, dark jeans and black and white shoes; and the third man 5'10 to 6'3" tall, 170 to 190 pounds, wearing a black jacket, tan pants, black shoes and a gray winter hat. The woman is described as being black, 18 to 25 years old, 5'4" to 5'6" tall, 160 to 200 pounds, wearing dark jeans, a grey hooded sweatshirt and tan shoes.

November 28, 4:30 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. A parcel package was taken from the front door area of a residence.

## Burglary

November 28, 8:39 p.m., 5900 block Springhill Drive. A clock radio and an office-type chair were taken from a residence.

November 30, 4 p.m., 7800 block Hanover Parkway. A television was removed from a storage bin after forced entry.

## Vandalism

November 27, 2:27 a.m., 4 Court Gardenway. An acquaintance of a man came to his residence and asked for money. When he refused, the acquaintance began banging on the front door, breaking a glass door pane in the process. He then fled on foot. An investigation is continuing.

December 1, 9:41 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. The bedroom window of a residence was broken.

## Vehicle Crime

A 2000 Pontiac Sunfire stolen December 2 from the 5800 block Cherrywood Lane was recovered nearby on the same day.

Purses were taken from unlocked cars in the 9200 block Springhill Lane and the Greenbelt Exxon Station in the 7600 block Greenbelt Road.

Other thefts occurred in the 7400 block Greenway Center Drive, where tires and rims were

## Police Seek Information

The Greenbelt Police Department is asking for information about the car shown in the picture below. It is possible this car was involved in the December 3 theft of a parcel package in the 1 to 9 block Lakeside Drive at approximately 3 p.m.

The vehicle appears to be a Hyundai Sonata with the left rear door a different color from the rest of the car.

The suspected driver of this car is described as a man wearing all black clothing. Anyone having any information regarding this vehicle is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.



taken from a vehicle, and in the 9100 block Edmonston Road, where a book bag containing a laptop computer, a notebook-type computer and a textbook were taken after the driver side window was forced open.

Three acts of vandalism involved tires being slashed in the 7700 block Hanover Parkway (four tires on one vehicle), the 6100 block Greenbelt Road (two tires on one vehicle) and the 6100 block Greenbelt Road (two tires on one vehicle).

In the 7800 block Mandan Road the right front window of a vehicle was broken by a rock.



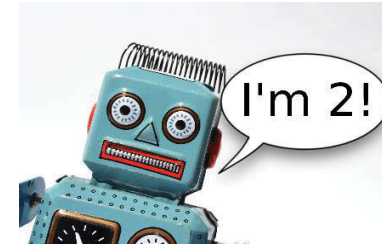
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The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

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

## Update on Greenbelt Theater Renovations

At the Monday, November 24 meeting of the city council, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Judith Davis queried City Manager Michael McLaughlin on the current status of the work being done at the Greenbelt Theater. McLaughlin responded that work has resumed at the theater. Work on the improvements to the lobby resumed last week, including the lighting for the concession area.

After a delay on the ladies room renovation, the project has been framed out and that project should move forward. The only exterior work remaining is the wiring installation being done by PEPCO.

The delay in electrical work is due in part to the need to

upgrade power to the building. A new transformer is being constructed outside the theater building at the corner of Centerway with the roadway to the Co-op parking lot.

Although pressed by council, McLaughlin could not provide an estimate for completion. He indicated that there will be a progress meeting next week and he agreed to provide council with biweekly progress updates going forward.

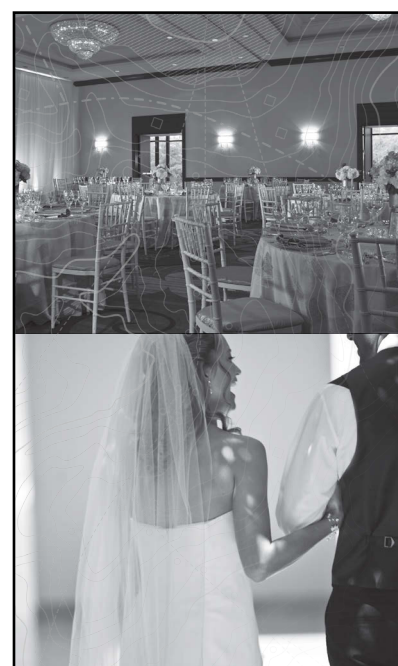
Council has a scheduled work session on December 15 for review of submitted proposals from respondents to the city's request for proposals relating to the operation of the theater following renovations. Proposals were due at the city by 2 p.m. on December 2.

## Celebrate the Holiday With Alight Dance

Alight dance theater is holding its in-studio holiday celebration on Saturday, December 13 at the Greenbelt Community Center. Greenbelters of all ages are invited to drop in between 1 and 4 p.m. to enjoy homemade cookies and participate in a variety of activities.

From 1 to 2 p.m. an open level movement class will be taught by alight dance artists. No experience is necessary; participants should wear comfortable clothes and socks.

At 2 p.m. alight artists will perform excerpts from their current repertory, Frontline and Dependent. At 3 p.m. Artistic Director Angella Foster and Resident Choreographer Wayles Haynes will teach participants how to choreograph the alight way.



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# Santa Arrives in Rain To Light Christmas Tree

by Dylan Reffe

The rain proved to be no match for the Greenbelt holiday spirit as hundreds of people braved the cold and wet weather for a chance to see Santa Claus light up the Greenbelt Christmas Tree in front of the Municipal Building on Friday, December 5. The Greenbelt Concert Band's brass choir played holiday tunes as most visitors took advantage of the free cookies and hot chocolate provided by the Recreation Department. Among volunteers giving out food and drinks was the trio of Miss Greenbelts: Little Miss Greenbelt Jade Labbe, Junior Miss Greenbelt Jeriah Labbe and Miss Greenbelt Kristen Beauchamp.

Performing Arts Coordinator Chris Cherry welcomed everyone to the event. "This is really a community celebration with wonderful holiday music," said Cherry, who also had the pleasure of tracking Santa's progress from the North Pole. "We're following Santa with a little help from NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center," Cherry said with a smile.

Cherry then invited Mayor Emmett Jordan and members of the Greenbelt City Council up on stage to help welcome the event's special guest. While Santa was in transit, Jordan spoke about the history of the tree lighting in Greenbelt.

"The Festival of Lights Celebration started right here on this field in 1937," Jordan said. "Back then it was the primary school." He then went on to mention the ongoing Lions Club toy drive in the Community Center and the Toys for Tots box in the Aquatic Center. "It's the Greenbelt spirit that never goes out of style," said Jordan.

The mayor turned to his fellow members of the city council, and asked them to say what they looked forward to most about the holiday season. But before the council could finish, there was a murmur from the crowd as the siren of a fire truck was approaching. The crowd whispers got louder and louder until one child yelled, "It's Santa! It's Santa! It's Santa!"

### Cheers for Santa

Many families ran through the damp field to get a look at old Saint Nick as he began walking up the path to the stage accompanied by two elves. When Jordan welcomed Santa to the stage, there was a big cheer from the audience. The two men counted down from 10. When they reached zero, Santa pressed the magic button that lit up the Christmas Tree. There was another loud cheer from the audience and many "oohs" and "ahhs."

After the tree lighting, Santa and his elves passed out candy canes to all the children in the audience. "This is Emma's first time meeting Santa," said Mark Jones, holding little Emma up on his shoulders. Emma nodded, smiled and said, "I love Santa," before going back to her candy cane.

As Santa passed out candy, Jordan assisted the brass choir by offering his vocal rendition of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town." As Santa said



Santa presses the button to light Greenbelt's Christmas tree. On the right are elf Kaila Maguire and Mayor Emmett Jordan.

goodbye, many children in the audience followed him as he left the stage to be taken back to his sleigh.

After Santa left, many families stayed to listen, to look at the tree and listen to the band. Some also took advantage of the free night-

time tours of Greenbelt Museum's Historic House which it stayed open after the tree lighting ceremony until 9 p.m.

*Dylan Reffe is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.*



PHOTOS BY ERIC ZHANG

People gather around Greenbelt's Christmas tree.

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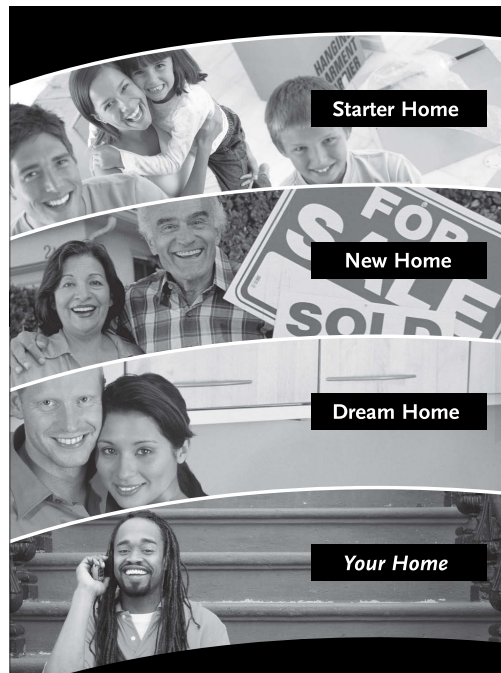
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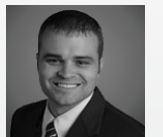
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# Join Smokey Bear to Bring In New Year with Variety

by Konrad Herling

The New Year's Evening with Friends Show, which will take place at the Greenbelt Arts Center, begins at 8:30 p.m. and will conclude with a singing of Auld Lang Syne on the mall at midnight. Among the artists you'll enjoy will be Mayor Emmett Jordan and Eleanor Roosevelt High School student Jan Knutson, both guitarists, Konrad Herling, pianist, and very likely the very talented Glenn Harris. Additionally, the show will feature a magician while Frank Gervasi will bring a few short videos from the Utopia Film Festival.

Aside from the variety of artistic offerings, the event, celebrating the community spirit that makes our city special, will feature our volunteer fire fighters and police officers, in roles which could range from standup comedy to music. The production crew is busily pursuing the likes of Smokey the Bear, whom reports indicate, actually lives in Greenbelt.

Additionally, those attending will have an opportunity to contribute to the Friends of the

Greenbelt Theater's fund raising efforts which, if successful, will enable an installation of a reel-to-reel 35 mm projector system for the renovated historic movie theater. This system would allow the Greenbelt Theater to showcase the very best films from archives across the D.C. metro area and beyond.

Those who want to get up and shake a limb will be able to dance to tunes from a variety of eras. Shortly before midnight, the audience will move to the Roosevelt Center Mall and sing all five verses of Auld Lang Syne to bring in the New Year.

For more information about the event, or to make reservations, call the Greenbelt Arts Center at (301) 441-8770.

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## Community Church Holiday Concert

A concert of both traditional Christmas and secular music will be held at Greenbelt Community Church on Saturday, December 13 at 4 p.m. Accompanied on piano by Dr. Nicolas Catravas, Greenbelt

residents Rachel Alexander, a violist, and Richard Menis, a vocalist, will perform a mix including R. Vaughan Williams' Suite for Viola and Piano as well as songs from Schubert, Franck and Tosti.

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**Corner Lot With Addition** - 2 br GHI frame townhome with front addition & cath. ceilings. Remodeled throughout, modern kit. & more. Large deck & shed.

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## COUNCIL continued from page 1

was raised regarding additional removal of invasive species by small groups. To move forward, the staff had formulated four recommendations, given here in brief:

(1) city staff be directed to initiate review of the city code to determine what amendments might be called for; (2) intervention and management of invasive species in all wooded areas of the city continue to be allowed under the direction of city staff, with activities within the Forest Preserve to be approved in advance by the city manager; (3) a task force be formed with broad representation to address the long-term management of invasive species within all city wooded areas; and (4) FPAB be directed to review the guidelines for possible updates.

Craze added that the Public Works Department is continuing to remove invasives in parkland outside the preserve. She said any plan developed for dealing with invasives needed to take all the woodlands into account, not just the preserve.

### Council Response

Councilmember Silke Pope supported the recommendation to review both the legislation and the guidelines, noting that both were developed before the city had any experience with managing a preserve and that a review for any necessary changes was in order and past due. She also thought there needed to be clarification on the responsibilities of the board and on the relative roles of staff and the board. "It needs a lot of work," she said.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts, city council liaison to FPAB, questioned why council should consider revising the code and guidelines on the suggestion of city staff because the staff could not follow the existing guidelines. He thought it was important to review the board's operations because it appeared to him that city staff is directing matters that should be directed by FPAB and that maintaining the process is essential to protecting the preserve.

Councilmember Edward Putens suggested reviewing why the city has the Forest Preserve. He said it was because the city did not want that land developed, sold or changed unless the residents of Greenbelt wanted it to be changed. He said council had adopted the guidelines with the understanding it was a living document and that things will change with time. Regarding the board's internal problems he said, "You need to straighten that out for yourselves."

### Recommendations

With regard to the four staff recommendations, Councilmember Judith Davis said she thought development of a plan for the long-term management of invasives was critical, though she was not sure the proposed task force method was the best way to go about it. She also supported review of the code and guidelines for updating, noting that it is the board to whom the code assigns responsibility for regular review and proposal of any amendments.

Given the board's recent disputes and difficulties working together, Davis said she was concerned about their coming together to do this work. She

compared the board's gridlock to that of Congress. She said she knew they had the capability to do it if they could get past the dysfunction, which she said was threatening the credibility of the group.

### Majority Report

Jordan then invited FPAB Chair Robert Snyder to talk. Snyder explained that the FPAB report contained in the meeting packet, which he called the minority report, had been adopted on a 4-0-1 vote on a motion made after a number of members had left the room. He said it did not represent the full board. He had in hand a copy of a report adopted 6-3 on a vote by the full board.

Both reports called for instituting a professional evaluation of the condition of the Forest Preserve as provided in the Forest Health section of the guidelines. The minority report supported allowing small groups to engage in removal of invasives under supervision without waiting for the completion of the assessment and development of a long-term invasive plan. On the other hand, the majority report supported a sequencing of the tasks spelled out in the guidelines such that the plan would be developed following the assessment and no plant removal permitted until there was a long-term management plan.

Otherwise, Snyder said he supported the staff recommendations in general terms though he would disagree with some points. Most notably, he challenged Craze's statement in her memo that nowhere in the guidelines is there a prohibition against pulling invasives under the direction of a trained staff member.

Snyder said the guidelines clearly state there must be management goals and a management plan prior to pulling invasives. Moreover, management decisions are to be made by committees and individuals designated by the city council, not by the staff alone.

Snyder stressed that the city first needed to get an independent, professional evaluation since that would be the basis for everything else. He added that invasive plants are not the only issue that needs assessment in the preserve prior to other maintenance actions.

### Other Views

Davis agreed that the independent evaluation should be done. She was concerned, however, that no short-term management would occur for up to three years if the process suggested in the staff recommendation establishing a task force to develop the plan were followed.

Putens questioned the role of FPAB while the proposed task force was in operation. He asked, "Who's in charge? If there are people who want to pull some invasives, to whom do they go?" Craze replied that such requests would be reviewed by staff in-house, since current practice is that they go to the city manager, not the board.

Looking at the staff recommendations and the majority FPAB report, Councilmember Leta Mach asked Snyder what would happen to the small groups who wanted to do pulling? Snyder said the majority did not

support that. He said again that the evaluation and the plan must precede any pulling.

Putens reiterated that it was still not clear what the interim process would be, who would give permissions for what, and what the role of FPAB would be.

Pointing out that winter and the disappearance of foliage were upon us, Davis said no evaluation could start now anyway and that perhaps in the interest of time, some way to compromise could be found.

Snyder said it might be concluded later that volunteers could be used at an earlier phase, while the plan was being developed, but only if that suggestion was an outgrowth of the assessment itself and was compatible with the plan.

Roberts said if people are experiencing a desire to pull invasives while the process of evaluating the Forest Preserve is in process, there are plenty of invasives in city woodlands outside the preserve. For the time being, start by pulling invasives elsewhere than the Forest Preserve and follow the required process for the preserve, he said.

### Discussion Continues

Brief discussion occurred regarding the qualifications and process for identifying an individual to undertake the independent assessment, likely to be the easiest piece of the puzzle. Snyder said FPAB had already identified one possibility and other resources were suggested at the meeting.

### Audience Views

During audience comment, Joe Murray, FPAB member, said he was glad to see the health of the Forest Preserve being addressed and supported broad participation by members of the public participating in invasives removal.

Ethel Dutky, a member of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Trees, who previously served as the director of the Maryland Plant Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Maryland, said there are many resources available locally for undertaking the evaluation. She cited the Maryland Department of Natural Resources as well as the University.

She suggested keeping in mind a broad definition of invasives since they are not all plants; tree bacteria and fungi causing plant diseases should also be considered, she said. Similarly, she advised against making rigid rules. For example, while banning pesticides might in general be advisable, would the city necessarily object to chemicals in the face of a contemporary threat comparable to the gypsy moth?

Willis Witter, FPAB member, insisted that small groups "must" go forward in pulling easily identifiable invasives such as English Ivy without waiting for the evaluation or management plan. In his opinion, the guidelines have to-date been misinterpreted with the result that the Forest Preserve is now neglected. He said the goal should be to protect, not neglect. He said small group work should be started within the next month.

### Opposing View

Donna Almquist, also a member of FPAB, said she disagreed with the characterization of the board as not having been doing any work, but her primary concern that night was with the question Putens raised about who makes

the decisions. She referred to the point Snyder had made earlier regarding whether the guidelines say there is nothing to prohibit removal of invasives under the supervision of city staff, emphasizing that the guidelines say those management decisions are to be made by designated committees and other individuals with consent of council. She said, "The ordinance and the guidelines give the final say to you, the council, not to the city staff or the city manager."

### Forest Specialist

Jason Martin recommended that a forest ecologist or forest biologist with a background in deciduous and pine forests would be the most appropriately qualified person to undertake the assessment. He added that a qualified candidate should mention addressing three items: rate of photosynthesis, nutrient leaching from the soil and any abrupt changes in biodiversity.

Susan Stewart spoke in support of removal of invasives from the Forest Preserve.

Jude Maul of the Greenbelt Garden Club asked about policy on invasion of species from the preserve to individuals' yards.

With reference to Almquist's charge to the council, Putens later responded that although it was council's decision and responsibility, he wanted to see a plan and process that could be approved by council and administered by the staff and the board, since if every decision had to come to the council, it would not be time efficient.

McLaughlin said the process that he thought had worked best was when council was notified in advance that work would be done, with time to object. Councilmember Konrad Herling said he would prefer to have such matters placed on the consent agenda of meetings.

Possibilities were discussed for coordinating the work to be done for the city as a whole versus the preserve. Craze suggested parallel tracks whereby the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the preserve evaluation and the evaluation itself would be done while work was undertaken to set up the task force. Then the task force and FPAB could work concurrently in developing plans.

### There You Go Again

The question of whether small groups could undertake limited projects of invasive plant removal prior to the completion of the independent assessment and development of a management plan was asked and answered multiple times throughout the meeting. The mayor took one last run at the question as the meeting was about to close.

For reasons that were not obvious, this time Snyder reversed himself and said it might be considered if the request came to FPAB well in advance to review and determine its priority. When asked by this reporter why he had chosen this moment to capitulate, Snyder said that since councilmembers kept asking the same question repeatedly, his perception was that they wanted to support the staff and were hoping for a different answer from him, even though that would not be consistent with the guidelines. He thought that if the decision were going to go against the

board's advice, it would be better for FPAB to have a defined role in the decisions on the projects rather than for FPAB to be cut out of the process or merely notified.

McLaughlin indicated that in addition to direction to identify a process for engaging a forest biologist/ecologist to conduct the independent assessment of the city's Forest Preserve, the four staff recommendations would be placed on the agenda of the November 24 regular meeting for action, including the recommendation opposed by the majority of FPAB to permit the continuation of management of invasive species in all city woodland areas, including the Forest Preserve.

### Council Action

At the November 24 regular meeting, council formally acted on the five proposals for which most of the standing room only audience were present. Of the five staff recommendations council generally supported four. Council did not act on the second recommendation to allow the continued intervention and management of invasive species in the Forest Preserve. Council members seemed to wish to wait until there was a professional assessment made while a process to remove invasive species at other city locations was already in place and could continue.

As to updating the city code, council added a provision to refer the update first to the FPAB. Council agreed to establish the task force to draft a plan for management of invasive vegetation with the proviso that this would be separate from the Forest Preserve Assessment.

## Extended Hours At the New Deal

The Café is now open until 10 p.m. on Thursdays and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

Thursday, December 11 Mid-Day melodies with Amy C Kraft from noon till 2 p.m. In the evening, James and Martha host Open Mic Night from 7 to 10 p.m.

Friday, December 12 John Guernsey plays jazz and blues on piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by bluegrass group The Sligo Creek Stompers from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, December 13 Bruce Krittr plays classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. Guernsey performs classic American standards from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The U-Liners will offer up roots-rock, bluegrass, country, folk and more from 8 to 11 p.m.

Join the Deaf Brunch on Sunday, December 14 from 10:30 a.m. till noon. The Not2Cool Jazz Trio will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday evening, Jack Couldn't Make It will play eloquent ballads, blues, rock and roll and country classics from 5 to 8 p.m.

Monday, December 15 Meal and Reel will present Cowspiracy from 7 to 9 p.m. A veggie buffet will be offered for purchase starting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 16 Poetry Open Mic will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, December 16 the New Deal Café Pub Quiz is from 7 to 9 p.m.