

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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

APRIL 12, 2007

City Planning Department Requests 22 Percent Increase in FY08 Budget

by James Giese

The three budgets of the Department of Planning and Community Development were reviewed in a worksession by the Greenbelt City Council on April 4. One new position is to be added to the department – capital project manager – bringing the total departmental staff, a combination of full-time and part-time employees, to 13.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees.

The planning budget is proposed at \$344,700, an increase of eight percent over the budget for the current year, Fiscal Year 2007. The community development budget at \$698,300 is up 22 percent over FY07, reflecting the one new employee, but requires tax support of only \$27,600. Permits, fees, fines and grants are expected to pay the rest of these expenses.

The Fiscal Year 2008 budget for animal control is increased 12 percent over the current year's but is almost \$20,000 less than the estimated expenses for the current year that were caused primarily by higher than expected veterinarian fees.

Appearing before council to present their budget were Director Celia Craze and her two assistant directors, Terry Hruby for planning and Jim Sterling for community development. City Manager Michael McLaughlin, Assistant City Manager David Moran and Finance Director Jeff Williams were also on hand.

The evening began with the now obligatory electronic slide presentation, often referred to as the "dog and pony show." In this case, considering the number of animal pictures, it was more a "dog and cat show." This presentation, interrupted by council questions, their answers and commentary, took two-and-a-half hours.

Another hour was spent going over the budget booklet, now in printed form, with more questions, answers and commentary.

Accomplishments

A long list of this year's accomplishments were reviewed. The concept design plan for the Lakewood stream valley stream restoration project and repairs to the Mother and Child statue at

Roosevelt Center are expected to be completed by June. The preliminary plan for Springhill Lake was reviewed.

Installation work for an observatory structure near the Wolfe Fields at the end of Northway is underway. Permit processing is also underway for the expansion of the city Public Works facility. A crosswalk study is also being done with Public Works.

Proposed expansion of Beltway Plaza with residential buildings was reviewed, and design services for the Greenbelt Theater renovation project were coordinated. In addition woodland mitigation easement for Capitol Cadillac was reviewed.

Staff assisted with the development of forest preserve guidelines by the Forest Preserve Advisory Committee. In Greenbelt East, traffic calming street modifications are underway and preliminary plans for the redevelopment/renovation of Greenway Village apartments were reviewed.

The department also reviewed

See **PLANNING**, page 8

Council Makes 3 Wishes In First Budget Review

by Diane Oberg

It's a mid-size city department, accounting for just under nine percent of City Manager Michael McLaughlin's proposed Fiscal Year 2008 budget. Also it was the first budget worksession of the season but by the time the Greenbelt City Council had finished their review of the General Government budget, they had added three items on their wish list of new expenditures if they can scrape up the funds.

And there were hints at this meeting of future conflicts. As Mayor Judith Davis asked each councilmember if they had any items for the wish list, Councilmember Rodney Roberts replied that his only wish is that council didn't have a wish list. With the increase in assessments, he said, council should be trying to cut McLaughlin's proposal so they would not have to hike taxes.

Davis challenged Roberts to identify what he would cut, not just say that the budget should be cut. Roberts pointed out that council was just getting started on its budget review.

General Government

The General Government budget covers administrative costs of the city, including council, the city manager's office, finance and administration (which includes the information technology staff), legal counsel and public information and community promotion. McLaughlin proposes increasing staff by just one-half of a full-time equivalent in the Information Technology (IT) area, although two positions' pay will increase because of a grade increase. Excluding council, a total of 19 full-time equivalents are covered

See **BUDGET**, page 11

Opposition Groups Persist With Lawsuits against ICC

by Elaine Skolnik

The latest attempt to hold up construction of the controversial Intercounty Connector (ICC) occurred in late March when an independent fiscal transportation and economic development analysis was released by the 1,000 Friends of Maryland. (See separate story on page 6.) About the same time, in separate action, some 30 Maryland state senators and delegates signed a letter to Governor Martin O'Malley requesting that the administration "take a serious time out on the ICC."

The two groups are asking for a fresh look at the six-lane, 18-mile highway that will connect Interstate 270 in Gaithersburg with Interstate 95/Route 1 in Laurel. The cost is estimated at \$2.4 billion excluding financing costs.

Meanwhile, a third suit was filed by plaintiffs, the Shady

Grove Woods Homeowners Association (HOA) in Derwood, along with residents Max Sadtler and Connie McKenna, president of the HOA. According to news reports, the lawsuit, filed in a Montgomery County Circuit Court, "challenges the economic feasibility of the highway."

The suit also aims to protect land that would be used for elevated ramps at the ICC's western entrance in Derwood. Portions of residents' back yards would be taken. Plaintiffs say using the land for the ICC would cause pollution and be a health hazard to residents.

Opponents are also concerned that the ICC would bankrupt the transportation fund and prevent other transportation needs from being met. Defendants in this

See **ICC**, page 6

Local Watershed Groups Work To Protect and Restore Streams

by Don Comis

All three Anacostia sub-watersheds in Greenbelt were represented by 11 Greenbelters, including myself, on Saturday, March 24 at the first annual Anacostia Summit held at the University of Maryland: Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Friends of Still Creek and Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC).

The three Greenbelt area watersheds are among the 14 major sub-watersheds that together make up most of the Anacostia River watershed, which spans Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the District of Columbia.

Nine of these sub-watersheds have citizen groups "protecting, restoring and advocating for their streams," said John Galli, principal engineer with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in Washington, D.C. "COG provides primary administrative and technical support for the newly formed Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership in conjunction with the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee," Galli said. "This work is supported by the Summit Fund of Washington, a nonprofit charitable organization." Both Galli and Kate Levendosky, an environmental planner for water resources with COG, par-



PHOTO BY ALAN TURNBULL

From left to right: Bryce Dubayah (7), Michele Touchet, Ralph Dubayah, Bill Duncan, Shobha Duncan, Eric and Bob Worthington and Lutz Rastaetter with some of the 47 bags of trash that were picked up at Still Creek on March 31.

ticipated in the March 24 summit, along with representatives of all nine sub-watershed groups. Summit participants also included representatives from the Maryland Department of the Environment, the D.C. Department of the Environment, the Sierra Club, the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation, the Anacostia Watershed Society and other organizations.

Prince George's County Councilmember Thomas Dernoga gave the keynote address at the summit and Mike Callahan, a new

member of the Cheverly Town Council also attended.

The Anacostia Watershed includes all 176 square miles of land from which the slopes allow rainwater and snow melt runoff to drain into the Anacostia River. Each sub-watershed is a smaller basin where runoff drains into a tributary of the Anacostia. The Beaverdam Creek Watershed comprises 14 square miles of land. Much of this watershed is

See **STREAMS**, page 16

What Goes On

Saturday, April 14

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

Monday, April 16

8 p.m., City Council Budget Worksession: Social Services, Misc. and Other Funds, Municipal Bldg. (Live on Channel 71)

Tuesday, April 17

10:30 a.m., Only Registration for GED Course, Municipal Bldg.

Wednesday, April 18

8 p.m., City Council Budget Worksession with Public Works, Community Center

Thursday, April 19

8 p.m., Town Meeting with County Councilmember Ingrid Turner, Municipal Bldg. (Live on Channel 71)

Saturday, April 21

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Earth Day Celebration Beginning at 10 a.m. at Greenbelt Skate Park. See City Ad for Details.

Letters to the Editor

A Plea to Return Stolen Frogs

I have been a resident of Greenbelt Homes for the past 14 years and one of my greatest pleasures is my garden. Over the years I have placed plants, statuary, gazing balls and lawn furniture of which I am particularly fond in the garden at some expense. My neighbors have complimented my gardening efforts, which for me have been labors of love. Due to ill-health and bad weather, I had not spent any significant time in my meditation garden on the garden side of my home until yesterday, when I went out to do some raking.

It was then that I discovered that someone had entered my garden and taken items that I had spent years collecting. Principally among them were two large wire frogs containing iridescent plastic gazing balls, a swan planter, a red glass gazing ball and even a cinder block. The frogs were a major theme of the garden, representing transformation. I was heartbroken.

Oddly enough, one of my neighbors had noted a couple of the missing items near her home and was able to return the swan planter and the red glass gazing ball to me. Unfortunately, the two wire frogs are, so far, nowhere to be found. Should someone have become the unwitting recipient of my frogs I would be grateful for their return.

The theft of my garden items and last winter's electric bills have started me thinking about relocating.

Annie Hilliard

Many Users Seen At Skate Park

I had no strong opinion on the building of the skateboard park between the Community Center and the Youth Center; however, after the flurry of letters a couple of months ago, I decided to see just how much use it receives. My current exercise routine takes me past both the tennis courts and the skateboard park and I can report that on almost every occasion (out of a sample of 20 or so) there were more people in the park than on the courts and often by a significant margin.

Particularly considering that the entire park only takes up about the space occupied by one tennis court, this seems to have been a prudent and beneficial use of the land. If anything, expansion might be in order, as in good weather the lower section is so heavily used that people have to take turns. (That rather scary deep bowl – which looks to me to be more suited to being the setting of some low-budget sci-fi gladiator movie than to skateboarding – does not get

much use as yet, though perhaps with practice more of our local practitioners will be willing to give it a try.)

Kevin W. Parker

Surveillance Has Two Faces

I urge the Greenbelt City Council and the citizens of Greenbelt to oppose the use of video cameras as a possible way to deter crime in Roosevelt Center. I understand that the estimated cost of this technology is more than \$35,000.

I oppose the use of such technology because I believe that using cameras helps to continue the erosion of civil liberties in our country that we have witnessed over the past seven years.

I believe the use of cameras in our community will help people become accustomed to the idea that governments should have access to people's lives with fewer and fewer restrictions. While use of such cameras may be legal because of the public setting in which they would be used, I believe that their use is teaching our citizens a dangerous lesson: to keep people safe, governments should be allowed to monitor us where and when they want. Fear-based rationales like this are what have caused us to be involved in disastrous national policy projects such as the Iraq war, Guantanamo's prison and unrestricted access to phone records.

While I optimistically trust that the Greenbelt city government does not have any ulterior motives in using the cameras, I still think that local video surveillance helps to prepare our citizenry for becoming accustomed to allowing government agencies to have inappropriate access to their lives.

I believe that the Greenbelt city government is motivated by the important goal of safety but I do not believe that other levels of government are as altruistic in their collection of information. History is certainly filled with examples of governments using information against their citizenry. My professional work in the non-profit advocacy community has made me aware of how our own federal government acquires and uses information against those whose political views are at variance with the party in power.

Safety is certainly a major concern in the Roosevelt Center. I believe that more effective solutions can be found in the use of community policing of the area, economic and cultural development efforts to attract more patrons and citizen use of the Center and social support programs for those who loiter in the area due to homelessness, mental illness or poverty.

I am particularly concerned about a rumored plan to allow individual citizens with internet access to be allowed to connect to the video camera system, enabling them to view Roosevelt Center whenever they want. Such a violation of privacy would deter many people from visiting the Center, allowing it to become a more fertile area for crime than it already is.

If the City Council does approve the use of cameras, I hope that they would do so only as part of a more comprehensive plan to reduce crime in the Roosevelt Center.

I urge the City Council to seek more creative solutions than video surveillance to make the Roosevelt Center a more safe environment.

Francis DeBernardo

Is City Robin Hood In Reverse?

Here come the tax increases. Although city councilmembers said that the new Greenbelt Station development would lower our taxes, it's doing just the opposite. Or at least that's what the city manager is now saying.

What on earth was the city council thinking when it gave wealthy developers \$10 million of taxpayer money, about half the size of the city's entire annual budget? They certainly didn't listen to citizens who warned that these decisions would increase taxes.

And what do we get for having the city taxman reach further down into our pockets? The sketch on the front of last week's News Review says it all – an ugly, "upscale" monstrosity about as un-Greenbeltish as it gets. It appears that the sheriff of Nottingham is now in Greenbelt.

Corrections

The report of the Springhill Lake fires erroneously referred to a date some months ago, leading residents to be concerned there might have been earlier fires they did not know about. The fire dates were March 26 and 27. The News Review regrets the error.

The Greenbelt Arts Center ad last week for "Witness for the Prosecution" should have identified the ticket price as \$12.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF APR. 13

Namesake (PG-13)

No passes or coupons accepted.

Friday

*4:45, 7:30, 9:55

Saturday

*2:15, *4:45, 7:30, 9:55

Sunday

*2:15, *4:45, 7:30

Monday – Thursday

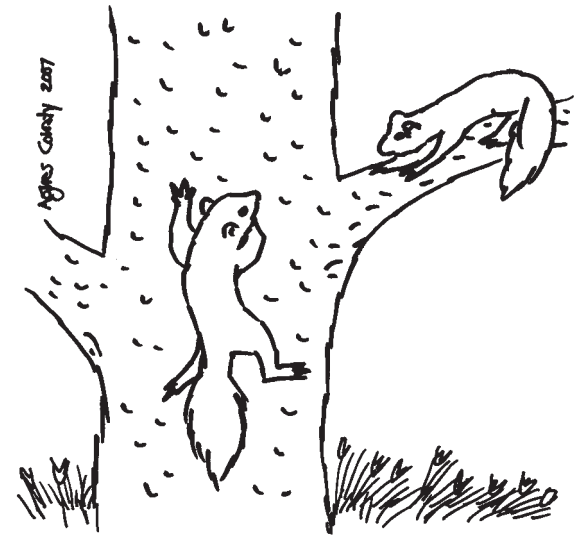
*5, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.00

301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745

129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com

Grin Belt



"Boy, was I surprised when I googled my carbon footprint!"

AGNES CONATY © 2007

At the Library Adults

Book Discussion, Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m., a librarian leads a discussion of Erik Larson's "Devil in the White City."

Storytimes

Tuesday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months with caregiver; limit 15 babies.

Wednesday, April 18, 10:30 and 11 a.m. Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver; limit 15 children.

Thursday, April 19, 10:30 a.m. Drop-In Storytime for ages 3 to 5; limit 20 children.

Turner Holds Town Hall Meeting Here

Prince George's County Councilmember Ingrid M. Turner will host a Town Hall Meeting for residents of the Greenbelt area on Thursday, April 19 at 8 p.m. in the city municipal building at 25 Crescent Road.

Turner will hear public comment and get input on the budget for Fiscal Year 2008 and projects that concern the Greenbelt area. Citizens of the Greenbelt area are urged to attend. For more information call 301-952-3094 or email Constituent Services Aide Brian K. Madison at bkmadison@co.pg.md.us.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; James Giese, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Thomas X. White, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell and Pat Davis.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

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

Greener Greenbelt: Your Ideas, Our Future

What is this? Learn more at the Open House

Saturday, April 28th
10 am to 2 pm
(Rain or shine)

Roosevelt Center

Caregiver Support Group Will Meet

A caregiver support group for family members and friends of dementia-diagnosed people will be held on Tuesday, April 24 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the second floor council chambers at the Greenbelt Municipal Building. For more information call Community Resource Advocate Christal Batey or Social Work Intern Anita Smith at 301-474-8000.

April 21 Is Crazy Quilt Music Fest

The eighth annual "Crazy Quilt" Music Festival will be held outside from noon to 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 21 in Roosevelt Center's courtyard and continue inside the New Deal Café until 11 p.m. Free music, poetry and art suitable for all ages will be provided from noon to 11 p.m.

Music groups appearing will include "The Scrub Pines," "Rain Crow," Janet Griffin, Tony Denikos, "Kitchen Gorilla," the classic rock group "Outta Scope" and the best kept secret in old Greenbelt, the back porch harmonies of "Jack Couldn't Make It."

The New Deal Café opened as a weekend-only gathering place in 1995 as the public "living room" for a cooperative of several hundred supporters. The café was relocated to its current address in the Roosevelt Center in 1999 and became a seven-day-a-week operation.

The opening of the new full time café and art center was the second week of April 2000 and soon after the first Crazy Quilt Festival was held, with musicians playing in front of the café and inside all afternoon and into the evening. Every year since, the annual birthday bash has been held in mid-April, with a long list of musical acts and other performing artists.

The diversity of performers and people it took to create the café led to the event's being named the "Crazy Quilt" Music Festival. With the recent expansion and reorganization of the café, promoters are hoping this year will be a special party.

For more information call 301-474-5642 or 202-369-6837.

Community Events

Applications Open For Artist Studios

The City of Greenbelt Department of Recreation is currently accepting applications for the artist-in-residence program based at the Greenbelt Community Center. This program provides 24-hour studio space for experienced visual artists who are residents of the State of Maryland. Monthly fees apply.

Artists are selected for participation through a jury review based on artistic merit and capacity to enrich the experience of fellow artists and the broader community during their residency. New residencies begin in July.

Applications may be requested from Nicole DeWald at 240-542-2057 or ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov. Completed applications must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 27.

Nursery School Holds Auction on April 21

Greenbelt Nursery School will hold a fundraising auction on Saturday, April 21 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the gymnasium at the Greenbelt Community Center.

The auction will feature live and silent bidding, entertainment and the sale of light refreshments. Goods to be auctioned off include dinner at Chevy's, electronic items, museum passes, sporting event tickets, handmade crafts, children's items and a custom-made animated short film featuring the winner. There is a fee for admission. Tickets will be sold at the door.

The Greenbelt Nursery School is a nonprofit parent cooperative in its 65th year of operation, making it one of Greenbelt's oldest cooperatives. The school is certified by the Maryland State Department of Education and accredited by NAEYC's (National Association for the Education of Young Children) National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. The proceeds of this fundraiser enable the school to offer quality pre-school education to families in Greenbelt and surrounding communities. For information visit the school website at www.greenbelt.com/gnsk.

For details about the auction call Zach at 301-345-0705.

GHI Notes

Saturday, April 14, 9 a.m. to noon, Woodlands Trail Clean-up, sponsored by the Woodlands Committee

Monday, April 16, 6:30 p.m., Communications Committee meeting

6:30 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m., Woodlands Committee meeting

Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m., Finance Committee meeting

Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m., Pre-purchase seminar

Tuesday, April 24, 8:30 a.m., Yardline Committee meeting

6:30 p.m., Marketing Committee meeting

7 p.m., New members coffee social

Events will take place in the GHI administration building. Committee and board meetings are open meetings; members are encouraged to attend.

April BCWWG Meeting Tuesday

The Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG) will hold its April meeting on Tuesday, April 17 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the library of the Greenbelt Elementary School at 66 Ridge Road. Among the topics to be discussed are upcoming events such as Earth Day Clean Up, the Green Man Festival, BARC field days, bird walks, frog watch and bat walks. There will also be a discussion of the purchase of microscopes and further discussion of BARC topics, the Baltimore/Washington Partners for Forest Stewardship and the ICC. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting either to assist in planning or just to find out what's happening.

ERHS Spring Art Exhibit April 24

by Andrea Henderson, ERHS art teacher

Students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School will hold a Spring Art Exhibit on Tuesday, April 24 from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be music provided by the orchestra and light refreshments served to attendees.

Art work this year includes drawings, paintings, photography, sculpture and graphic design. Students have created some beautiful pieces the community is sure to enjoy seeing.

Greenbelt residents are urged to come out, enjoy the free exhibit and accompanying music while showing support for ERHS' youthful artists.

BCWWG Earth Day Bird Watch, Clean Up

The Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG) will have an Earth Day Bird Watch from 7 to 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 21. Meet Bird Guide Michel Cavigelli at the top of Research Road at the BARC gate. Parking is available at the Greenbelt Elementary School, 66 Ridge Road.

Following this there will be a clean up hosted by BCWWG and Anacostia Watershed Society on Beaverdam Road from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. To meet for just the clean up, people may park at the visitor center (Log Lodge) at BARC. Dress for muddy work. The timing of this event will allow those who want to help with the city's rain garden installation to engage in all activities.

For more information on these events see beaverdamcreek.org or environmentalgreenbelt.org.

Dems Monthly Meeting on April 20

by Pat Unger

On Friday, April 20 at 7 p.m., the Eleanor & Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club will hold its regular monthly meeting and hear from Terry Speigner, chair of the Prince George's County Democratic Central Committee. The meeting will be in the Terrace Room of the Greenbriar Community Building at 7600 Hanover Parkway.

Speigner was elected by the committee members last November to serve from 2006 to 2010. A longtime civic activist, she served as co-moderator when Kojo Mnamdi of WAMU-FM held a countywide public forum in Laurel a year ago.

Members are reminded to bring a snack or dessert to share. Prospective members and the general public are always welcome. Anyone in attendance at this meeting will be invited to participate in an early straw vote of Democratic presidential candidates for 2008.

The May meeting on Friday, May 18 will be a legislative wrap-up with local elected officials.

For information call President Ed Terry at 301-386-0762.

HUGE BOOK SALE

Sat. April 21, 10 am – 5 pm

Greenbelt Library, Lower Level

Sponsored by Friends of the Library

Supports Summer Reading Program

Community Wide Yard Sale

May 19, 2007

Has your spring-cleaning uncovered unwanted treasures? Do you want to have a yard sale but don't want the hassle of organizing and publicizing?

Then Greenbelt Homes Inc. has the answer!

On May 19th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm there will be a community wide yard sale held

on the front lawn at the GHI Main Office on Hamilton Place.

The cost to reserve a table is \$10.00. For more information please call 301-474-4161.

Sponsored by GHI's Member & Community Relations Committee

Hope is HERE!!!!

See our ad on page 4.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

An important election is approaching for GHI members. There will be six seats available for the Board of Directors this year; in addition, all three members for the Audit Committee and five members for the Nominations and Elections Committee will be chosen.

Members wishing to be candidates must file a consent form by May 7. An information packet including the necessary form is available at GHI's offices and can be downloaded from the GHI members' website at <http://ghi.coop> – you can even arrange a cheerful personal delivery by phoning Betty Wellborn at 301-345-0415.

GHI members will have an opportunity to hear the candidates' ideas and qualifications and have their questions answered at the Candidate Forum to be held Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 at the Community Center.

The Election will take place on May 17 after the annual meeting and voting is continued on the following day between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Academy 8 Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall
Center Court
301-220-1155
All shows starting before 6 p.m.
Are ONLY \$5.00
R = ID Required
(!) = No pass, No Discount Ticket

Week of April 13
FRI. – SAT.

The Reaping, R (!)
12, 2:40, 5:10, 7:20, 10
Grindhouse, R (!)
12, 4:45, 8:30

Perfect Stranger, R (!)
12, 2:40, 5:10, 7:20, 10
Slowburn, R (!)
12:10, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
Meet the Robinsons, G (!)
12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20, 10
Are We Done Yet?, PG
12:20, 2:40, 5, 7:30, 10:20
Blades of Glory, PG 13 (!)
12:20, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10:10
Pride, PG (!)
8:25, 10:45

Firehouse Dog, PG
1, 3:30, 8:05
SUN.

The Reaping, R (!)
12, 2:40, 5:10, 7:20
Grindhouse, R (!)
1, 6:15

Perfect Stranger, R (!)
12, 2:40, 5:10, 7:20
Slowburn, R (!)
12:10, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40
Meet the Robinsons, G (!)
12:10, 2:30, 4:45, 7:20
Are We Done Yet?, PG
12:20, 2:40, 5, 7:30
Blades of Glory, PG 13 (!)
12:20, 2:30, 5, 7:30
Pride, PG (!)
8:25

Firehouse Dog, PG
1, 3:30, 6:05
MON. – THUR.

The Reaping, R (!)
2:40, 5:10, 7:20
Grindhouse, R (!)
2:10, 6:15

Perfect Stranger, R (!)
2:40, 5:10, 7:20
Slowburn, R (!)
2:50, 5:10, 7:40

Meet the Robinsons, G (!)
2:30, 4:45, 7:20
Are We Done Yet?, PG
2:40, 5, 7:30

Blades of Glory, PG 13 (!)
2:30, 5, 7:30
Pride, PG (!)
7:30

Firehouse Dog, PG
2:30, 4:45

Obituaries

Lawrence Palmer

Lawrence ("Larnie") Palmer of Fayette Place, age 82, died of pneumonia on March 30, 2007, after several years of declining health. He was a life member of Plumbers Local #5. In Greenbelt, he coached the Little League Tigers for 25 years, from 1953 to 1978.

Mr. Palmer was a lifelong resident of the D.C. area, born in Maryland Park, Md., and raised in Capitol Heights. He moved to Greenbelt in 1951 with his first wife, Elaine Soo Palmer. She died in 1967. They had two sons, Wayne and Stephen.

In 1969 Mr. Palmer married Shirley Evans, a widow whose husband Donald had coached the Little League farm team. Shirley had four young children, Mary Jo, Donald Jr., Paul and Martin, who Mr. Palmer raised as his own. In 1971 Larnie and Shirley had a daughter, Laura.

Mr. Palmer was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of American Legion Post No. 136. He was known for his easy-going nature, both as a coach and as a plumber always willing to help a neighbor.

He is survived by his wife Shirley, children Stephen Palmer of Chevy Chase, Mary Jo Jones of Franklin, Tenn., Donald Evans, Jr., of Berwyn Heights, Martin Evans of Bowie and Laura Reed of Manalapan, N.J., 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One brother and three sisters also survive. His sons Wayne Palmer and Paul Evans preceded him in death, Wayne in 1976 and Paul in 2004.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Hugh's Catholic Church on April 3. Interment was in Cedar Hill Cemetery.





Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Baha'i Faith

"Inasmuch as our God is one God and the Creator of all mankind, He provides for and protects all. We acknowledge Him as a God of kindness, justice and mercy. Why then should we, His children and followers, war and fight, bringing sorrow and grief into the hearts of each other?"
—Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160

www.bahai.org www.us.bahai.org

Larry Joseph Kling



Larry Joseph Kling of Charlestowne Village died of renal failure on March 31, 2007, two months short of his 64th birthday.

His parents were a Greenbelt first family: Gilda and Donbar (Don) Kling moved to 1-A Ridge Road in 1938. They left in 1954 when the original Greenbelt homes were sold.

He attended St. Hugh's School, Leonard Hall Academy in Leonardtown, Md., and High Point High School. He then became a mailman in Greenbelt but a chronic physical illness forced him to retire on disability.

Though always small in stature and not able to be active in sports, he had a "ready smile and talked to everybody," recalls oldest sister Patricia Austin of Beltsville. She describes him as a "fanatical" supporter of the Notre Dame (Indiana) University football and

basketball teams ("he had the shirts and all the fan signs and banners," she remembers).

Two other sisters – Carol Kling of Beltsville and Joyce Weiss of Ft. Myers, Fla. – also survive their "baby brother," as they call him.

Larry Kling loved Chinese food and all the friends he'd talk to at the Mobil (now Sunoco) service station and Co-op Supermarket in Roosevelt Center.

At his funeral at St. Hugh's Catholic Church on April 4, close childhood friends such as Ira and Michael Rosensweig and Mel Herman reminisced about the early Greenbelt days with a large number of the Kling extended family. He was buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Wheaton.

Donations in his memory may be made to the charity of one's choice.

Mentally III Offenders Workshop on April 19

A "Mentally III Offenders – Can We Break the Cycle?" "Can He/She Ever be Free?" workshop will be held on Thursday, April 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Hanko building at Beckett Field, 8511 Legation Road in New Carrollton.

Directions: Go west on Rte. 450 from the Beltway (495/95). Make a right at 85th Avenue (the New Carrollton Hotel is on the right). During construction period, follow the detour signs to the Hanko Building.

Mental Health Services Director Dr. Shailaja Kurli, Prince George's County Department of

Corrections, will speak on the "Mentally III Offender Population in the Criminal Justice System," an epidemic that seems to plague communities. She will focus on key elements vital to recognizing some salient psychiatric and psychosocial symptoms and legal situations presented by this population, how the system works, what are some available resources in the community, major treatment challenges faced by families, health professionals and the legal system.

For more information call Jane Kelly at 301-577-6026.

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

April 15, 10 a.m.
"Race: The Power of an Illusion"
by Leo Jones and Barbara W. ten Hove, co-minister
with Pat Tompkins, worship associate
— Barbara W. and Jacob B. ten Hove, co-ministers



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Dr. Paul C. Kim, Pastor
Sunday School 9:45 am Worship Service 11:00 am
Prayer Meeting Sun. 9:45 am
Senior Computer Class Mon. 2:00 pm
Handicapped Accessible Come As You Are!

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Hillside & Crescent Roads
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbelt.com/gccucc/
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

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

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 7:00 PM
Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Sunday minyon - 9:30 AM
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.
For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111




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



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

St. George's Episcopal/Anglican Church
7010 Glenn Dale Road
(Lanham-Severn Road & Glenn Dale Road)
301-262-3285 | rector@stgeo.org | www.stgeo.org




Sundays: 8:00 am Simple, quiet Mass
9:00 am Christian education for all ages
10:00 am Sung Mass with organ and folk music, ASL interpreted
1:30 pm Signed Mass (last Sunday of each month only)

Wednesdays: 7:00 pm Simple, quiet Mass

An inclusive congregation!

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH
Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt_baptist@verizon.net




Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor

Sundays:
Traditional Service 8:30 am
Sunday School 9:45 am
Contemporary Service 11:00 am


Weds. Worship: 7:00 pm
(Adult Bible Study/Prayer & Children's Ministry)

Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family through Loving Service

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322




Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:45-4:45 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe
Pastoral Associate: Rev. R. Scott Hurd



Sometimes life gets hard and we wonder why things go wrong, but let's not forget the greatest of virtues – patience.

God explains to us, in the Qur'an: "Be sure we shall test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give glad tidings to those who patiently persevere; who say, when afflicted with calamity: 'To God we belong, and to Him is our return.' They are those on whom (descend) blessings from God, and mercy, and they are ones that receive guidance."
— The Holy Quran 2:155-157

This is the guidance sent forth to humankind by the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) nearly 1400 years ago. And it is still relevant today. For more information about the Qur'an, call 301-982-9463 or email us at info@searchislam.org or visit www.searchislam.org



Hope Fellowship
... living life together

Bible Study & Worship

9:30 "Good Morning!!" Coffee and Snacks
10:00 a.m. Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Worship
Greenbelt Youth Center
99 Centerway (Behind the Community Center)

April 15 Sermon: The Cause of David's Sin

Pastor Lou Redd
301-474-4499 410-340-8242 (cell)

...living life together

Easter Egg Roll a Hit in Spite Of Cold Temperatures, Snow



Saturday's Easter Egg Hunt wasn't compromised by the almost freezing temperature and the dusting of snow. Children, bundled in warm coats, hats and mittens, eagerly sought eggs for their baskets.

Below, Greenbelt's mayor, Judith Davis, the three Misses Greenbelt (from left Molly Jankowski, Jasmin Kienas and Kimberly Wynkoop) join the Easter Rabbit in welcoming all to the frosty event.



With the utmost determination this young participant scrambled for treasures.



Another girl bundled tightly to keep warm gathers eggs.



Celsiana Cornett, left, and Mairead Alexander and (both in 4th grade) show the fruits of their labors. The dusting of snow is in the background.

Photos by Bill Cornett

Programs Planned For Astronomy Day

April 21 is Astronomy Day. Those looking for a really big hobby are urged to consider astronomy!

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt, a nonprofit educational group, has planned a series of telescope viewings and presentations for the public. It will be held at the Howard Owens Science Center and admission is free. The program is jointly sponsored by the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt and the H.B. Owens Science Center of Prince George's County Public Schools.

Owens Science Center is at 9601 Greenbelt Road in Lanham. Parking is through the entrance of the C.T. Reed Elementary School entrance off Greenbelt Road.

This will be a chance to learn about telescopes, the night sky and the universe from local amateur and professional astronomers. Events planned include: telescope viewing of the sun/night sky (weather permitting), planetarium shows, presentations, displays and door prizes.

For more information call 301-918-8750 during school hours or visit the Astronomical Society website at <http://www.greenbeltastro.org>.

Craig Scholarship For ERHS Senior

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund was incorporated in February 1986. Craig lived on Maplewood Court and died in a truck/train accident. The scholarship memorializes his memory and spirit.

Each year an Eleanor Roosevelt High School senior is awarded a Craig scholarship for tuition assistance in continuing higher education. The award recipient is recognized for his/her average to above-average academic standing with greater emphasis given to those qualities that Craig possessed: active involvement in the religious community, leadership in the civic community and participation in individual and team sports. To be the recipient, the student does not have to be outstanding in all areas but must demonstrate an effort to be well rounded and do the best he/she can.

Applicants must be Prince George's County residents enrolled at Eleanor Roosevelt High School who have applied for admission to an accredited college.

The value of the scholarship awarded will be \$10,000 (\$2,500 yearly for four years).

Application forms are available from the guidance department or front office. School transcripts and letters of recommendation, to include religious, civic and recreational involvement must be submitted along with the application. Completed application and supporting documents must be addressed to: David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund, Ltd., P.O. Box 761, Greenbelt, MD 20768.

Applications can also be picked up at the Greenbelt Youth Center business office or by calling Doug Mangum at 301-474-7874. Applications must be post-marked by 4/28/07.

Choral Society Holds "That's Amoré"

The Prince George's Choral Society will present an Italian Serenata along with its annual Italian dinner, preceded by a silent auction. The evening's gala, "That's Amoré," will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on April 14 at 7 p.m.

See advertisement in this issue for more information or call 301-441-1947.

**YARD SALE
BAKE SALE
BARGAINS**

**Sat. April 21, 9 am - 2 pm
Greenbelt Community Church
Corner of Crescent & Hillside**

Greenbelt Arts Center Presents
Annual Celtic Concert

The Homespun Ceilidh Band

Saturday, April 14 at 8pm



\$12 general admission
\$10 students & senior citizens

Greenbelt Arts Center

123 Centerway (lower level of The Co-op Supermarket)

Reservations: 301-441-8770 x4

www.greenbeltartscenter.org

New Report Recommends Hold on ICC Plans

by Elaine Skolnik

"The Intercounty Connector: Financial, Economic & Regional Development Costs," released on March 21, is a 40-page analysis of the financial and land-use impacts of what it describes as "the most expensive project under discussion in Maryland." With funding from the Abell Foundation, 1,000 Friends of Maryland, a Baltimore-based nonprofit organization, takes a "neutral stance in looking at the ICC," observed Dru Schmidt-Perkins, executive director of 1,000 Friends of Maryland.

The report notes that an examination of the ICC funding package "illuminates serious problems and consequences that should be openly discussed before making a final commitment to this major project." Referring to issues such as Garvee Bonds, which would cover \$750 million of the ICC's cost based on "anticipated (and quite uncertain) federal revenues," the report claims this expenditure "would bring the state to 93 percent of its debt capacity."

Such a commitment, the report warns, would "soon" foreclose "options for paying for other long-term capital needs." Among such projected needs would be school construction and "renovation in older areas such as Baltimore." "Money spent on repaying these bonds each year" would not be available "for transit and local road needs."

With respect to General Funds, the report states: "In addition to new debt, the ICC would signifi-

cantly deplete the General Fund, especially in the next few years, when \$265 million will not be available for other priorities in the state from education to health care, to spending on the environment. The commitment concerning the ICC was made, the report points out, when the state budget was perceived to be in surplus, not deficit.

Base Realignment

Another issue requiring analysis deals with the infrastructure needs around Fort Meade and Aberdeen, according to the federal Base Realignment & Closure Commission (BRAC). The changes in Maryland may easily reach \$6 billion "and have not yet fully been planned, accounted or funded," according to the report. Governor Martin O'Malley recently noted that "BRAC is a priority for the state."

"Given that the state and local leaders have prioritized BRAC-related transportation needs, the Baltimore Rail Plan and the Purple Line, we think it wise and prudent to more thoroughly review the ICC and its funding package," said Schmidt-Perkins. "Every dollar spent on the ICC is one less dollar available for other transportation needs," she said.

Recommendations

The report recommends evaluating opportunities for financing all state transportation priorities. It questions whether funds currently proposed for the ICC could be utilized more efficiently.

The report also recommends examining funding priorities by the Maryland Transportation Au-

thority for toll revenue.

Of particular concern is accurate assessment of land use and economic development impacts in Baltimore, Prince George's County and other jurisdictions. In particular, land use and transportation needs to support changes in use and development of military bases within the state need to be assessed. Possibly these projects may merit higher priority than the ICC.

Schmidt-Perkins noted that the administration's creation of a funding package for the ICC project "conflicts with many regional and state goals and holds other priorities in jeopardy."

"We need to step back, evaluate priorities and ensure the state is using limited money most effectively," she said. "If there was ever a time to take another look, this is the time."

Groups Rally In Opposition

A rally will be held at the Maryland State Capital on Saturday, April 14 to protest the Intercounty Connector (ICC) as part of a call to action on global warming. Groups working on global warming in Maryland will urge Governor Martin O'Malley to put a hold on the ICC. Participants will gather at the Annapolis Dock on Main Street by 11 a.m. and walk to Lawyers Mall in front of the State House. Speeches will begin at 12:30 p.m. For more information visit www.stepitup2007.org.

ICC continued from page 1

case are the State Highway Administration (SHA), State Roads Construction (which has been awarded the first of five contracts to build the ICC between I-370 and Georgia Avenue) and John D. Porcari, secretary of the Maryland Department of Transportation.

Lawsuits

The first two lawsuits, filed in late December 2006, have not yet been scheduled for court hearings. The Sierra Club and Environmental Defense were plaintiffs in one suit; the Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States and the Maryland Native Plant Society in the other. They claim that the ICC "would violate federal environmental standards and adversely affect the region's environment."

In his January 2007 comments to the News Review, David Buck, spokesperson for the SHA, said that while the SHA was not a defendant in either suit it was important to point out that "unlike unsuccessful ICC studies in the past decades, both the state's legal staff and the federal agencies were involved in the study process from the beginning." He noted that all the agencies gave the ICC study their blessing, with the key approval of the ICC route granted by the Federal Highway Administration on May 29, 2006.

Today Buck remains confident that the ICC will withstand any legal action or litigation. "We

will continue to move forward," he said.

According to a "Stop the ICC" newsletter, about 30 state legislators sent a letter to O'Malley asking for a time out on the ICC and to stop all actions aimed at taking people's homes and land.

The senators and delegates cited the two current federal lawsuits opposing the ICC, Maryland's budget crisis and the state's large and growing list of transportation needs. They asked O'Malley to take a hard new look at the ICC.

Delegate Justin D. Ross, who signed the letter, told the News Review, "I hope the letter will persuade O'Malley that there are more important transportation projects than the ICC, such as the Purple Line, which is important to this area." Delegate Ross, a Democrat, represents the 22nd District in which Greenbelt is located.

In news reports Rick Abbruzzese, spokesperson for O'Malley, said, "The governor supports the ICC and feels it's time to move forward with the project, as evidenced by the first contract being awarded."

A \$478.7 million contract was awarded for the first phase of the highway, from I-270/370 to Georgia Avenue, which is scheduled to open in late 2010.

The entire 18-mile toll highway is scheduled for completion by 2012.

Some People Don't Smile in Pictures . . .

Ask yourself if any of these areas may be affecting the beauty of your smile:



- The color or shape of your teeth
- Spaces or missing teeth
- Noticeable cavities or old dental work
- Uneven or unhealthy gums

If so, come into the offices of the McCarl Dental Group for a complete and comprehensive evaluation.

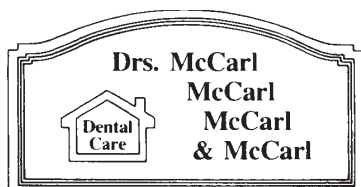


Nicole Burgess of Severna Park had severely discolored teeth from a very early age. Throughout her life, Nicole had been self-conscious of her smile. In just three short weeks, the McCarl Dental Group gave Nicole a beautiful smile and a new start in life! Call the McCarl Dental Group to see if a smile makeover could change **your** life.



It's never too late to give yourself a beautiful smile. For over three generations the McCarl family has provided a full range of dental services to Greenbelt and the surrounding communities. In the past, cosmetic dentistry was only for the wealthy. Today, however, cosmetic dentistry is affordable and available to everyone. Give someone you love the gift of a smile!

Call us today for an appointment!
301-474-4144



<p>Polishing and Cleaning \$40⁰⁰ After Complimentary Initial Dental Exam (Value up to \$192) Includes necessary X-rays on day of examination. New patients only. Expires: 4/30/07</p>	<p>Teeth Bleaching Special Only \$200⁰⁰ Reg. \$500.00 Expires: 4/30/07</p>
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Office Hours:
Monday 8-5
Tuesday 9-8:30
Wednesday 9-8
Thursday 8-4
Friday 8-3
Saturday 8-12

McCarl Dental Group
301-474-4144

28 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-0717



City Information

Meetings for April 16-20

Monday, April 16, 8:00pm, City Council Budget Work Session with Social Sevicees, Misc., and Other Funds, at Muncipal Building (live on Channel 71).

Wednesday, April 18, 8:00pm, City Council Budget Work Session with Public Works, at Community Center.

Thursday, April 19, 8:00pm, Town Meeting with County Councilmember Ingrid Turner, at the Municipal Building (live on Channel 71)

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

DONATION DROP-OFF

American Rescue Workers

Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Parking lot between the City Office and the Community Center

For further information contact the City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8303.

Greenbelt CARES Youth & Family Services Bureau
SPRING 10 WEEK GED COURSE BEGINS THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH

Registration: Tuesday, April 17th beginning promptly at 10:30am!!!

No one will be accepted into the class after this date.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING, CITY OF GREENBELT
25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD 20770

Info: Judy Hering at 301-345-6660, ext. 2016, or

E-mail jhering@greenbeltmd.gov.

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCY (i.e. driver's license, current lease, phone or electric bill)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ACE READING CLUB 2007 YOUTH WRITING CONTEST WINNERS!

Senior Division Poetry: 1st-Claire Flintoff, 2nd-Cierra Crosson, 3rd- Raquel Rexach, HM-Nyasha Trusty and Miranda Ross

Junior Division Poetry: 1st-Gabe York, 2nd-Maija Morris, 3rd-Jessamyn Daniel, HM-Deja Verrett

Junior Division Short Fiction:

1st-Johann Baptista, 2nd-Neomi Rao, 3rd-Raphael Knott, II, HM- Adam Davis

Come out to the Youth Literary Showcase Friday, April 20th at 6:30pm Greenbelt Muncipal Building-25 Crescent Rd and listen to them share their winning works! Info-301-345-6660



Congratulations to this years Golden Egg winners at the Annual Greenbelt Recreation Egg Hunt!

Thanks to all who came out in the SNOW! Everyone had a great time.

- Christina Chang: 1 1/2 - 3 years olds**
- Leo Kuo: 4-5 years olds**
- Lexie Noel: 1 & 2nd Graders**
- Clark Reese: 3rd & 4th Graders**
- Alex Hill: 5th-6th Graders**

For information on city government, events, and services, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Purchasing Agent for the City of Greenbelt will receive sealed bids for:

**Contract No. 2007-01
Department of Public Works**

until May 16, 2007 at 10 a.m., at which time they will be publicly opened and read at the Council Room, Municipal Building, City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1886. Bids may be hand delivered or mailed to the attention of the Purchasing Agent as follows:

City of Greenbelt
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770
Attn: Purchasing Agent

Description: The work under Contract No. 2007-01 installation of two (2) pre-engineered buildings (1,500 square feet and 9,750 square feet), removal of an existing trailer used for general offices, demolition of 1,760 square feet of an existing administration building, construction of a new administration building (4,300 square feet), and renovations and upgrades to an existing 4,300 square foot maintenance building. The subject project is intended to be a "green" project, with multiple features and strategies identified to reduce the waste associated with the demolition, utilize energy efficient building systems, and utilize renewable and/or recycled materials.

In addition to building construction, the contract requires site improvements, including installation of water and sewer lines, other utility lines, storm drain management facilities, radio transmission equipment, site grading, and sediment and erosion control.

It is intended that the project work be phased to allow continued use of the project site by the Department of Public Works in daily operations.

The bidding documents may be obtained in the offices of the Purchasing Agent at the above address, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 4:30 PM daily except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Bidding documents, specifications and plans may be obtained for a fee of \$50 (non-refundable) with a refundable deposit of \$150, which will be refunded upon return of a complete, unmarked set of specifications and plans.

The prebid meeting will be held on May 1, 2007 at 1 p.m., in the meeting room of the Public Works facility, 555 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland. Attendance at the prebid meeting is recommended, but not mandatory.

The City of Greenbelt encourages all minority, female and disabled citizen-owned businesses to submit bids for this project.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bid Bond made payable to the City of Greenbelt in the amount of five (5) percent of the total amount of the bid.

Questions should be directed to:

Celia W. Craze
City of Greenbelt Department of Planning and Community Development,
at 301-345-5417,
or ccraze@greenbeltmd.gov.

Earth Day and Public Works Open House



**SATURDAY, APRIL 21st
Earth Day Event: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
GREENBELT SKATE PARK
(By Greenbelt Youth Center)**

Celebrate Earth Day with the Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee and help plant a rain garden.

ATTENTION STUDENTS: Volunteer community service hours will be given.



ARBOR DAY: After the Earth Day celebration, join members of the Advisory Committee on Trees with the Arbor Day Tree Planting at 12:00 p.m., at the same location.

TREE TOUR: Enjoy a tree tour of large and unusual trees throughout the City. The tour will leave the Youth Center at 12:15pm – and will also pick up at the Public Works Open House.



PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE: Don't forget to stop by the Public Works Department Open House from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and enjoy demonstrations, tours, CNG vehicle displays and light refreshments.
For more information call 301-474-8004

MARYLAND TAX RETURN

If you live within the corporate boundaries of the City of Greenbelt, make sure to write or enter "Greenbelt" on your Maryland State Tax form under "City, town or taxing area" so that your taxes can best serve your community!

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council advisory groups. Vacancies exist on the: Arts Advisory Board Youth Advisory Committee
For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Greenbelt Municipal/ Public Access Channel 71

MUNICIPAL ACCESS: 301-474-8000: Monday, April 16th at 8pm: City Council Meeting (live) Thursday, April 19th at 8pm Town Hall Meeting with County Councilmember Ingrid Turner (live) **PUBLIC ACCESS (GATE): 301-507-6581: Wednesday & Friday, April 18 & 20: 7:00pm "Utopia Film Festival 2006-Shorts 1" 8:30pm "Invisible Children"**

APRIL IS MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT MONTH. MAKE SURE TO ATTEND SOME OF THE MANY CITY EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH AND SEE YOUR MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

Code Enforcement Becomes Major Concern to City

by James Giese

At its April 4 worksession on the Planning and Community Development budget, the Greenbelt City Council spent a good deal of time discussing code enforcement with Assistant Director for Community Development Jim Sterling and Director of Planning and Community Development Celia Craze. Code issues related in particular to the Springhill Lake apartments.

Sterling told council that about 90 percent of code enforcement work dealt with Springhill Lake. However, he noted marked improvement with how the apartment management has been dealing with maintenance and violations since December. About 60 percent of the city's rental units are located in that one apartment project.

In January, the property manager changed at Springhill Lake and the regional manager has become more involved in the issue as well. Compliance has been much faster, Sterling said. "They've got a handle on it."

Before then, "things got really bad on complaints," Sterling said. His staff implemented a strict policy on enforcement. Instead of giving 30 days notice for correcting a problem, only 10 days were allowed. As a result, there were \$60,000 in municipal infraction fines received, as compared to \$14,250 in the previous year.

Sterling noted that the other 10 percent of their code enforcement work could involve problems that are very time consuming. These often involve feuds among neighbors or family disputes.

Three rental units were unfit for habitation last year, he said. Sterling told council that Crystal Parker Batey, Greenbelt CARES crisis intervention counselor, has been of help in resolving such problems.

Sterling showed pictures of a Greenbelt Homes unit that was filthy and strewn with litter. He thought that problem had been resolved by evicting the tenant. Rubbish and trash in yards is another matter with which his department has to deal.

As to other apartment projects, Sterling said there were few problems. He said that Charlesowne North was well maintained.

Bed bugs have been a problem in some places, he noted. These are brought in by tenants, he said, but can meander to other apartments in the building. While the apartment owners can be cited, this approach does not achieve cooperation by tenants.

Greenbelt's rental housing is aging. This condition is well apparent in Springhill Lake, he said, and to a lesser extent in University Square apartments. There have been water and sewer, mechanical and electrical systems failures, as well as problems with the structural systems, Sterling said.

Springhill Lake Fire

Councilmember Edward Putens questioned Sterling about causes of the recent electrical fires at Springhill Lake that resulted in the evacuation of six buildings and the temporary shut-off of power to many other buildings.

Sterling noted that the installation of submeters had involved the use of too many wires that were too small. The city is not responsible for permitting such work; the county is the enforce-

ment agency, he said. The work had been concealed behind ceiling tile and was not apparent upon ordinary inspection.

Sterling said it was uncertain when the work was done, possibly seven years ago. The county electrical inspector has some recollection of Springhill Lake's changing its wiring in order to meter each apartment so that tenants could be responsible for paying their own electric bills. However, the city now requires a "shadow permit" whenever a county permit is taken out. This enables the city staff to keep track of work being done even though the city is not the responsible inspecting agency. The city's main interest is to determine any possible zoning problems as it is now enforcing county zoning laws.

What caused multiple fires to occur within a day's time is not known, Sterling said. A forensic scientist had been brought in to determine the cause of the problem but he could not answer that question either. Sterling thought it might have been due to a dip in power.

Craze told council that there is much speculation about what happened. The city staff, however, is limiting their review to what the city did or did not do.

Sterling noted proactive actions by the city. Buildings were posted as unfit for habitation. All submeters were ordered disconnected and that is being done throughout the project. The county obtained a report of violation and, based on that report, the city issued a violation notice. The same process of checking out the apartments is being done in all sections, as was done to section 3. In addition, the county is going through the buildings using infrared technology to check for any behind-the-walls hot spots.

A secondary issue is that circuit breakers that should have tripped failed to do so, an issue also being looked into.

Sterling noted that not every building has been found to be deficient in wiring of submeters. Some, he said, were done well and done to code. Inspectors are now making certain that all are upgraded to today's standards.

NASA Parkway Gate Closes for 2 Months

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center will temporarily close its Parkway gate to all traffic from April 16 through June 16. The Parkway gate entrance is used only by badged NASA employees and contractors who work at Goddard. The closure is to facilitate construction to complete security and roadway upgrades to areas near the gate house.

Both north- and south-bound exit ramps on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, also known as Maryland Route 295, will be blocked for two months. Employees wishing to use the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to access Goddard should exit at the Powder Mill Road or Route 193/Greenbelt Road exits. This will result in additional traffic on these roads.

For information or questions call the Goddard Security Division at 301-286-7233 or visit <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard/>.

PLANNING continued from page 1

a recreation facilities agreement and consulted with developers on design concept plans for Greenbelt Station and reviewed detailed site plans for the Fairfield apartment project there.

Applications for building code variances and zoning enforcement issues were also handled by the department.

Planning objectives for the new fiscal year include overseeing the stream restoration project in Lakewood and GHI, working with the county and WMATA on sustaining and improving transit services and monitoring planning for the redevelopment of Springhill Lake.

Other objectives include the design of Greenbelt Station north core and the redevelopment/expansion of Beltway Plaza and overseeing the design, permitting and construction of capital improvement projects associated with the development and redevelopment of Greenbelt West.

Another goal is developing an inventory of trails in the forest preserve and creating a map including them.

Community Development

For community development, some accomplishments include supervision of the new skate park construction, monitoring noise levels during musical events at Roosevelt Center and other places for compliance with noise regulation and inspecting all commercial and residential properties.

Work continued to resolve Orange Court subsurface drainage problems and final inspection of the Hilton Garden Inn was completed. Staff also reviewed designs for the north/south connector road to be built in the south core of Greenbelt Station. In addition, the Greenbelt East traffic calming construction work by private contractors was supervised.

Under animal control, staff boasted of their continuing successful efforts to place into caring homes all stray animals brought to the shelter, a total of 71 dogs, cats and other animals. Animal control participated in a variety of city-sponsored events, including the Pet Expo and the Pooch Plunge at the Aquatic and Fitness Center after the outdoor pool closed.

Detailed operating procedures for the new animal control facility and the program were developed. A donation program was initiated to obtain contributions of food, litter, bedding and other

supplies for the new facility for the routine care of animals kept there. The city is also seeking to be recognized as a PetsMart organization to qualify for possible corporate donations.

Issues

Major problems facing the department are due to pending growth in the city and the increased workload thus entailed. There are 64 ongoing planning, development and capital projects requiring planning review and departmental inspections. Over 5,000 apartments and rental units need to be inspected.

Since the animal shelter opened, a tremendous increase has occurred in the number of animals brought to it, with concern expressed that not all animals were found in the city. Another problem is the lack of full-time coverage at the shelter.

A line item for a new capital projects manager is budgeted to help with the workload expected from the new construction in Greenbelt West. Craze noted, however, a problem in providing office space for this new person.

Presently three community development staff members, she said, share a large closet in the Greenbelt Community Center, a building which was formerly a school. While possible solutions were discussed, no course of action was agreed to.

Getting staff up to date with new technology is also a problem and acquiring necessary technical equipment is an unfunded expense.

Also not reflected in the budget is the position of a full-time grants coordinator, whom Craze believes could succeed in getting grants that would more than pay for the cost of such a salary. Bowie has undertaken employing such a person and city staff will monitor the success of that venture.

Enjoy Outdoor Opera At The Smith Center

On Thursday, April 19 at 12:30 p.m., the UM School of Music Maryland Opera Studio presents Opera al Fresco with Music Director Miah Im and John Bowen, Garnett Bruce, Pat Diamond and Leon Major, directors.

Bring lunch and enjoy a variety of opera scenes accompanied by piano with minimal props. This free presentation will take place in the Grand Pavilion of the Clarice Smith Center.



Our sympathy to Shirley Palmer of Fayette Place and her family on the death of her husband, Lawrence "Larnie" Palmer.

Condolences to the family of Larry Joseph Kling of Charlesowne Village.

Congratulations to:

– Chrissy Chiddo, who has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2006 semester at Villa Julie College, Baltimore. Chiddo, a visual communication design major and graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, is the daughter of Mike and Janice Chiddo. Villa Julie College is the third largest independent, coeducational undergraduate college in Maryland.

– Artist Elizabeth Morissette, whose "Discarded Zippers" will be displayed in the Synagogue for the Arts Detritus Exhibit in the Tribeca Arts Gallery Space in New York City May 17 through June 24.

– Army Spec. Paul M. Durand who graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. Durand, the son of Jennifer Tilghman of Lake Drive, graduated from ERHS in 2000 and from the University of Maryland in 2004.

– Stuart Carey and Chioma Madubata of ERHS who were among only 700 students nationwide and three in the county to earn \$2,500 National Achievement Scholarships.

– News Review staffer Pat McCoy who has completed her master of science degree in addiction psychology.

– Noah Desch who has been named to the Dean's List for the winter quarter at Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, Terre Haute, Ind. He is the son of Michael and Theresa Desch, Lakeside Drive.

Perk Writer's Expo

Greenbelt author Mark Opsack will discuss his book "The Lizard King Was Here: The Life and Times of Jim Morrison in Alexandria, Virginia" at the College Perk Writer's Expo, on Sunday, April 15 at 3 p.m., 9078 Baltimore Avenue in College Park.

The afternoon showcase will also feature other local writers. A reception and book signing round out the program, with live jazz music presented by the duo Cliff Art. Admission is free. For details call 301-982-0587 or visit www.collegeperk.org (click on "Music & Events").

HEY WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?



**TROUBLE WITH NEIGHBORS?
BAD BUSINESS SERVICE?
NOISE? MESSY PROPERTY?**



You don't have to keep suffering!!

The City of Greenbelt has a COOL way to help you work things out without hassle, and without courts or lawyers. It's FREE! It's CONVENIENT! It's CONFIDENTIAL!

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So give yourself a break. You are only a phone call away from information that could improve your life. Call 301-345-7203.



City of Greenbelt
COMMUNITY MEDIATION BOARD

**Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket
5x16**

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robberies

March 31, 11:46 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive, a pizza delivery man advised that as he was approaching a building he encountered several young men, one of whom produced a handgun and pointed it at him, demanding money. The delivery man gave what money he had and fled on foot. Area checks by police produced no results. The robbers are described as between 18 and 20 years of age and black. One was about 5'7" in height, 120 pounds in weight and wore a black-hooded sweat shirt and dark clothing. A second was between 5'5" and 5'8" in height, weighed about 140 pounds, wore dark clothing and had a blue bandana over his face. The third robber was about 5'9" in height and of slim build.

April 1, 6:30 a.m., 5700 block of Cherrywood Lane, a man entered a mini-market, showed the cashier a handgun and demanded money. The cashier gave him all the cash in the register and the robber fled on foot toward the Beltway Plaza Mall. He is described as a black male, age 20 to 25, about 5'4" in height and weighing about 130 pounds. He had missing front teeth and was wearing a black baseball cap, navy blue hoodie and black pants.

Arson

April 4, 12:15 a.m., 6200 block of Springhill Court, someone lit a rag on fire and placed it into the basement ceiling. The fire was immediately detected and extinguished without any injuries and only minor damage.

Rape

April 4, 2:14 p.m., a woman reported that she had met a man through a mutual acquaintance. He later picked her up from work but instead of driving her home, he drove her to a parking lot where she said he raped her. Charges are pending.

Unattended Child

April 3, 8:49 p.m., 9300 block of Edmonston Road, a Greenbelt resident was arrested and charged with leaving children unattended when an officer on routine patrol found a two-year-old boy without any adult supervision. The officer located the father by doing a neighborhood canvas on foot. The father was released on citation pending trial.

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

Burglaries

April 1, 7:18 p.m., 6900 block of Hanover Parkway, a resident reported that he heard his dining room window shatter and immediately called the police. Upon the police arriving it was determined that a window screen frame had been bent and pulled away from the window prior to the glass breaking. No additional information was obtained.

April 4, 7800 block of Walker Drive, a commercial burglary was reported.

April 4, 12:15 a.m., 9200 block of Edmonston Road, a storage lot was broken into by someone and a windshield and a side view mirror on a vehicle stored in the lot were broken.

Theft

March 31, 4:50 p.m., Beltway Plaza, a repair person, while working on an ATM machine located within the mall, had miscellaneous hand tools and diagnostic discs stolen from him, according to his report to the police.

April 2, 5:07 p.m., Greenway Center, a salesperson observed a man putting merchandise into a shopping bag and attempting to leave the store with it without paying. The salesperson grabbed the shopping bag from the man. He then fled on foot to a black Ford pickup truck and drove out of the shopping center, turning west onto Greenbelt Road and then south onto the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. The shoplifter is described as a black male in his 40s, heavy set, wearing a navy blue shirt and with a large bump on his head.

Vehicle Crimes

Three vehicles were reported stolen during the week. One, a 1997 Isuzu, taken from the 9100 block of Edmonston Court was found that day in Takoma Park. On April 5, a 2003 silver Suzuki 65XR 1000 MC motorcycle, Maryland tag 412M89 and a 1999 silver Dodge Stratus 4-door, New Jersey tags PAV31X, were both reported stolen from the 9300 block of Edmonston Road.

Two other previously stolen vehicles were recovered.

Theft from and vandalism to vehicles were reported in the 9200 block of Springhill Lane, 7600 block of Hanover Parkway, 7900 block of Mandan Road, area of Breezewood Drive and Springhill Drive and the 6000 block of Springhill Drive.

Renahan and Noyes Talk about Work in Iraq

by Ted Elasser

An "Evening with Advisors to Soldiers and Statesmen" presented by the St. Hugh Council of the Knights of Columbus on Tuesday, March 27 offered an opportunity for two Greenbelters to talk about their work in Iraq. Tom Renahan, a municipal government specialist, having traveled to three regions of Iraq on two separate deployments via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), was well versed in the underlying causes of unrest in this unfortunate region of the world – his presentation was titled "Understanding Iraq."

Lt. Col. Michael Noyes, serving in the Maryland National Guard Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, was deployed to the "green zone" in Baghdad, served with the Multinational Force-Iraq in March and April 2006 and worked in the "Rule of Law" area, as well as reviewing security detention cases. The JAG Corps provides the armed forces with legal expertise in such wide ranging areas as military law to international law.

The two men have served as consultants to such stabilization efforts as counter-corruption and as advisors to local Iraqi governments on the nature of the democratic process. They saw how a day-to-day operation of a governing body becomes coordinated, the best of people and the worst of a climate saturated with unrest, unlawfulness and threatening violence. They noted how significant the issues of ignorance were in further straining the resources and patience of Iraq and its people, the majority of Iraqis seeking freedom from fear of violence, self-esteem and freedom to speak. They illustrated from personal example that there were often points of fact that are not brought out in the news reports – some good, some bad.

On the good side, they noted how sincere the majority of Iraqi



Lt. Col. Michael Noyes



Tom Renahan

people are in their attempt to restore civility to their regions, the risks they take on a day-to-day basis, the bravery they project in performing the most basic parts of the process through which peace might be reestablished.

On the negative side, there



In memoriam – During one of his deployments in Iraq, Renahan worked closely with Haider (foreground) and his team to secure the rudimentary workings of a stable society in a land desperately needing leadership. Haider, enthusiastic, smart and motivated embodied the future of Iraq. He paid the ultimate price – assassinated on his way home from work with the USAID. Iraq lost a leader and Renahan lost his close friend.

are some bad people doing bad things that perpetuate the atmosphere of hate and distrust, suspicion and fear – not necessarily because of an ancient religious feud – but because of politics, greed and the need to control. These people come from a society inclined toward violence. The cleverness of a few insurgents recruits many others to the cause by exploiting ignorance.

What more can we do? Simple – don't forget them – the people who have helped our forces and our advisors and our missions. Within all the words that Renahan and Noyes spoke that night, the ones that shone through are the universal character of being a caring, compassionate people needs to be at the front of our thoughts on this matter.

During the question and answer period, more specific information was presented on each speaker's views on many of the incendiary issues alluded to in the popular news but with the perspective of each speaker's expertise. The evening generated great interest and illustrated Greenbelt's tradition of responsible community involvement in presenting a forum for facts and perspectives important to the community's understanding of the present crisis in Iraq.

Animal Oxygen Masks to Be Given Friday

At 1:15 p.m. on Friday, April 13 at the Greenbelt fire station 11 sets of animal oxygen masks (33 individual masks) will be distributed to representatives from 10 local fire companies. Fire Chief Brian Rudy of Greenbelt will accept the masks for his station. Fire chiefs and other representatives from Berwyn Heights, Beltsville, Calverton, Laurel, Glenn Dale, Lanham, New Carrollton, Landover Hills and Old Bowie will be on hand to collect the animal oxygen masks for their first responder vehicles. Some Greenbelters will be there with canine companions to celebrate the occasion.

Donations are still being accepted so more masks can be distributed. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to H.E.L.P. Animals, Inc. Send checks to GHI, 1 Hamilton Place, Greenbelt, MD 20770 in care of Joan Krob.

For more information call Cam MacQueen at 301-345-6293.

Volunteer in ERHS School Library

Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) media specialist Susan Peterson is seeking parents and other members of the community to volunteer to help in the school library. For more information contact Peterson at ERHS at 301-513-5400 ext. 292.

Dress for Safety

**Wear White
At Night**

so drivers can see you

Publick Playhouse

**Saturday,
April 28, 8 p.m.**



The renowned modern dance company is the hottest show in town!

Dallas Black Dance Theatre

301-277-1710 TTY 301-277-3012

Prince George's Publick Playhouse Parks & Recreation M-N-C-P-C

BUDGET continued from page 1

by this budget.

Total expenditures are proposed to increase five percent over last year's adopted budget, to a total of \$2.1 million. Part of the increase reflects the fact that 2007 is a city election year. A total of \$17,100 is budgeted for the election, up from \$16,886 spent for the last election.

Council Pay

In line with standard practice, McLaughlin did not propose an increase in pay for council. Traditionally any increases for council are proposed by council, not by their employee, the city manager.

Earlier this year, Germaine Timmermans presented a petition calling upon council to increase their pay, noting that council's pay has not increased since 1989. The mayor currently is paid \$6,000, councilmembers \$5,000.

City Clerk Kathleen Gallagher had provided Timmermans with a history of council pay. Councilmember Edward Putens said that between 1963 and 1989 council pay was increased \$500 every four years. (By law, the pay increase will not take effect until a new council is elected and takes office in November.)

Putens said that if council had followed this practice, instead of holding pay steady since 1989, council members would now be paid \$10,000 and the mayor \$12,000. He proposed adopting these new levels.

Manager's Office

The city manager's office consists of 5.5 Full-Time Equiva-

lents (FTEs), and accounts for \$536,000, or roughly 25 percent of the General Government budget. In his writeup on "Issues and Services" McLaughlin noted that "workload continues to be an issue." Despite this fact, however, he did not recommend any change in staffing. When asked about it, he said that anything the city does always ripples into General Government.

This year the big issues were collective bargaining and the postal operation. While "there is rationale" for one more person in his office, McLaughlin said there is also rationale in other city departments. He tends to favor the operational side, rather than the administrative side, he said, when balancing these conflicting needs.

Councilmember Leta Mach said that council should plan to add staff to McLaughlin's office before the next round of collective bargaining. Putens agreed, suggesting a part-time staffer in the next budget.

However, McLaughlin, said he was more interested in adding a "city manager wannabe," an intern or graduate student, to help develop the next generation of city leadership.

The last position McLaughlin cut was the projected case manager for the Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program. This position had been funded by an outside grant the city will not receive this year.

At the budget presentation, McLaughlin voiced regret at having to cut this position but also

used it as an example of a position for which it is appropriate to ask whether the city should take on the responsibility of providing this service.

The budget for finance and administrative services is proposed to increase by \$75,000. This amount includes a \$57,300 increase in salaries and benefits, and a \$10,000 increase to \$83,500 for professional services, including the city's audit, information technology consulting and an actuarial study to comply with new regulations. McLaughlin also proposes to provide the IT staff blackberry-type units so they will have access to emailed help requests while away from their desks.

By the end of the worksession, council had accumulated three items on its wish list - a council pay increase, the case manager for GAIL and a marketing director proposed by Councilmember Konrad Herling. At the budget presentation on March 26, Herling stated that he expected this position to pay for itself by increasing the grants obtained by the city.

McLaughlin expressed doubts, however, that a marketing director would be self-financing. Davis also asked that the city look into setting up a mechanism by which if a citizen qualifies for state tax relief, they be provided the same percentage reduction in their city tax.

More budget stories on page 12.

Safeway Holds April Easter Seal Drive

During the month of April, Safeway stores will hold an in-store fundraising campaign at its check-out stands. Store clerks will ask shoppers if they want to make a donation to Easter Seals. Each donation will help support programs that make a difference in the Washington-Baltimore region and across the country. In 2006 this campaign raised more than \$2.6 million for Easter Seals nationwide.

The Greater Washington-Baltimore Easter Seals Region provides comprehensive services for children and adults with disabilities and their families in the local area. Core services include early education and care for children with and without disabilities, adult and senior day services and home and community-based therapy services. For more information, see the website at www.gwbr.easterseals.com.

Montpelier History Lecture Wednesday

The next lecture in the Montpelier Spring History Lecture series will be held on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:30 p.m., when Sylvia George discusses the painting, "The Burning of the Peggy Stewart," which she restored. The painting depicts the Annapolis Tea Party, a protest of English taxes on tea in the late 1700s, much like the Boston Tea Party. Free history lectures are held on the third Wednesday of the month through May at 9650 Murikirk Road in Laurel. For more information call 301-953-1376; TTY 301-699-2544.

Co. School Climate Survey Underway

Prince George's County Public Schools is currently conducting its School Climate Survey to help the school system gauge how students, teachers and parents feel about their schools. After compiling survey results, the school system will address areas needing improvement and monitor progress over a period of at least two years. The survey focuses on such factors as effective instructional leadership, emphasis on basic skills and safe and orderly environment.

Parents of students in the 1st, 3rd and 5th or 6th (depending on the highest grade in their school) received surveys to take home. Parents of middle and high school students in 8th, 10th and 11th grades were sent survey by mail. Classroom teachers and para-professionals participated in an online survey.

The school system is collecting survey data through April and will share results with the community in late spring. For additional information on the School Climate Survey call the Dept. of Research and Evaluation at 301-780-6807.

City of Greenbelt Is NARFE Topic

The next meeting of NARFE Chapter 1122 will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18 at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway. Greenbelter Lee Shields, chapter newsletter distributor, will discuss "The City of Greenbelt." All members are urged to attend and the public is invited. Call 301-345-7437 for information.

BEZAK CHIROPRACTIC: CAN WE HELP YOU?



Dr. Shaun Bezak Dr. Kelly Krol Dr. Brian Bezak

BEZAK CHIROPRACTIC AND REHABILITATION, P.A.

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Patient Success Stories At Our Clinic

When I first came to Dr. Bezak, I had terrible lower back and leg pain. I was unable to stand up straight and could barely walk. So, I gave chiropractic a try and just after a few weeks of treatment, I was pain free. Now it has been six months and I haven't had the pain since. Thank you Dr. Bezak. John

I came to Dr. Krol with severe migraine headaches that started years ago. I tried everything for my headaches, and was convinced that nobody could help me. I began therapy with Dr. Krol four weeks ago and have noticed significant improvement. Thanks Dr. Krol. Christina

I came to Bezak Chiropractic with severe neck and shoulder pain. I could not turn my neck to drive. I was unable to work out or play sports. My friend told me to see a Chiropractor. I started treatment and noticed a difference after the first week. I followed Dr. Bezak's recommendations, and I am now pain free! Thank you so much. David

Four months ago, I was in an automobile accident. After two weeks of waiting for my pain to subside, it had actually gotten worse. I consulted with Dr. Bezak and he educated me about my condition. I started treatment and almost immediately began feeling like myself again after a short period of time. Thanks Dr. Bezak. Latasha

HOURS

MONDAY/WED

10:30 - 1:00 AM/PM
3:30 - 7:00 PM

TUESDAY/THURSDAY

3:30 - 7:00 PM

FRIDAY

10:30 - 1:00 AM/PM
3:30 - 5:30 PM

SATURDAY

9:00 - 10:30 AM

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Dr. Shaun Bezak, his wife Dr. Kelly Krol and his brother Dr. Brian Bezak of Bezak Chiropractic and Rehabilitation, P.A. would like to present anybody who has ever thought about benefiting from chiropractic care, has a similar problem as described in our patient success stories above, or is dealing with one of the following conditions listed below with a special offer. When you bring in this article, you are entitled to receive a new patient exam for only \$19. This offer includes a full orthopedic exam, neurological exam and chiropractic consultation. Please take advantage of this offer and let us evaluate you to see how we may be able to help you.

Headaches
Neck Pain
Upper Back Pain
Middle Back Pain
Lower Back Pain
Knee Pain
Hip Pain
Foot Pain

Shoulder Pain
Elbow Pain
Wrist Pain
Hand Pain
Leg Pain
Arm/Hand Numbness
Leg/Foot Numbness
Tension

Auto Injury
Work Injury
Sports Injury
Slip/Fall Injury
Sprain/Strain
Dizziness
Tingling
Arthritis

CHIROPRACTIC EXAM GIFT CERTIFICATE

\$ 19

Includes consultation, examination and X-rays if necessary. Over \$165 value. Valid through May 18, 2007 with this gift certificate. Redeemable at Bezak Chiropractic and Rehabilitation, P.A. located inside of the Greenbelt Bally Total Fitness. This does not apply to injuries subject to recovery under liability or worker compensation claims. Limit one per person.

Proposed Capital Projects To Double Previous Year's

by James Giese

At the close of the worksession to review the budget for the Department of Planning and Community Development on April 4, the city council reviewed proposed budgets for capital projects contained in special funds but included with the city budget. The four funds in this category are the Capital Projects Fund with a proposed budget of \$1,537,100 for the new Fiscal Year 2008, the 2001 Bond Fund (\$2,975,920), the Community Development Block Grant Fund (\$100,000) and the Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund (\$3,030,000). Of these funds, only the Capital Projects Fund is directly supported by city real estate tax revenues. A \$400,000 transfer is proposed to be made from the city General Fund. Such funds could be used for any other city purpose including tax levy reduction.

While the 2001 Bond Fund utilizes the proceeds from the sale of bonds previously authorized by a referendum in 2001, funds raised by city taxes in this and future years will be used to repay the debt incurred.

Capital Projects

If the work program proposed in the Capital Projects Funds is accomplished (delays are quite common for capital projects), the expenses incurred would be nearly double that anticipated for the current year. City Manager Michael McLaughlin's budget proposes nearly twice as much expenditures as for the current year. Under Public Safety \$43,400 is proposed for improvements to the police facility parking lot and \$20,000 for installation of emergency call boxes in one or two locations, such as at the Spellman pedestrian overpass across the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Comment was made that the parking lot improvements might be put on hold because of possible plans to enlarge the police facility, recognizing the growth in the department that will take place with the increased population generated from new construction in Greenbelt West.

For Public Works, \$2,000 is proposed for additional wooden bus shelters, \$10,000 for gateway entrance signage to update the map sign on Southway, \$188,700 for street resurfacing of Periwinkle, Lynbrook and Julian Courts in Boxwood Village, the resurfacing of the path to the Spellman Overpass and street base repair throughout the city. Another \$30,000 is allocated for concrete repair work on streets and sidewalks and \$10,000 to deal with city drainage problems.

Park Restrooms

Under Recreation and Parks, \$200,000 is budgeted for implementing the Attick Park Master Plan, particularly the construction of restroom facilities in the park, \$13,000 for a Braden Field storage shed and \$500,000 for the acquisition of unidentified park land as parcels are identified and approved by the city council.

Under a category for major maintenance, only \$18,000 is budgeted for the ongoing repairs to the Community Center windows with a state grant of \$500,000 to pay the contractor directly for most work to be done. Another \$13,000 is budgeted for a "Wall of Honor" memorial to

recognize the accomplishments of Greenbelt residents, \$104,000 for playground improvements with some of the funds coming from grants and \$200,000 for the resurfacing of Braden Field tennis courts 1-4. Also budgeted is \$200,000 for repairs to the works of Lenore Thomas, the Mother and Child statue at Roosevelt Center and the carved stone reliefs across the front of the Community Center. The storm water outfall on the south side of the Hillside underpass requires stabilization and is budgeted for \$140,000 of which half is to be funded by a state grant. The last item is a \$45,000 budget to hire a consultant to prepare a dredging plan and develop a cost estimate for dredging the fore bays, peninsula and bay areas of Greenbelt Lake. Because of environmental concerns and treed shoreline, this work is expected to be quite complicated and expensive, if done. Program Open Space and other grant funds are expected to pay for over two-thirds of the cost of these proposed projects.

KaBoom

McLaughlin told the council that the city had been awarded a KaBoom grant for renovating one playground but not a second one requested for upgrading McDonald Field.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted that in cleaning up along the lake shores many tennis balls were found and asked staff to look at ways to keep stray balls out of the stream that eventually flows to the lake that is beside the tennis courts.

Mayor Judith Davis asked why the budget included no funds for traffic calming and said she would like to see some added. Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze said that work in Greenbelt East was nearing completion, that with the major redevelopment work being planned for Greenbelt West nothing could be planned there and that left only Greenbelt Center. There there is a problem with historic preservation of the original design concepts which did not include traffic circles. That left, she felt, only speed bumps to consider.

As to future projects, McLaughlin told council he would like to see added planning funds for an addition to the Municipal Building recognizing the expected growth of the city and added needs for staff. Davis requested funds for providing water to the dog park. Craze noted that users were bringing their own water and thought something might be worked out if Greenway Village (now the Hanover) was upgraded and added to.

The Community Development Block Grant Fund accounts for those federal grant funds allocated to the city by the county for projects in low income neighborhoods. At this time, only Springhill Lake qualifies for such grants. McLaughlin listed two projects for the anticipated maximum \$100,000 the city might receive in the new fiscal year. One is reconstructing a portion of Edmonston Road. The other is upgrading street lighting throughout the project. Last year's funds were used to do improvements on Breezewood Drive.

Theater Renovation, Public Works Costs Up

by James Giese

Enlarging the city's Public Works facility and renovating the Greenbelt theater will far exceed the original budgets for the 2001 Bond Issue according to the City Manager's proposed budget for fiscal year 2008. Council reviewed that budget at the same worksession on April 4 that it reviewed the budgets for other capital projects and the Planning and Community Development budget. There was, however, little discussion of this fund which accounts for the proceeds from the sale of a \$3.5 million dollar bond issue authorized at a referendum in 2001.

At that time it was proposed that \$2,000,000 would be allocated to expanding the Public Works facility, \$750,000 for an addition to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (to be matched by state grants of \$750,000 for a \$1,500,000 total cost), \$500,000 for bicycle and pedestrian improvements in Greenbelt East and \$250,000 for renovation of the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Since that time there has been radical change on how the bond moneys are to be used.

The most radical budget change is for the construction of an addition to the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. While the city has not declared that project be abandoned, there remains of the bond issue proceeds only \$5 to fund this project.

New Fund

The newest city capital improvement fund is to be called the Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund. It is to account for the proceeds of revenue bonds issued up to \$8,400,000 for public facility improvements at Greenbelt Station plus another \$3,500,000 the city expects to get from the developers of Greenbelt Station. For the new fiscal year, McLaughlin projects a contribution of \$220,000 from Greenbelt

McLaughlin states that design work is on hold because of AIMCO's announced plans to rebuild Springhill Lake and the proposed development of Greenbelt Station. AIMCO had proposed relocating the recreation center and building a new one on the Greenbelt Middle School property. However, the council learned that AIMCO intended to build a new center smaller than the existing building. More recent plans of AIMCO show the city recreation center at its original location.

Neither AIMCO nor the developers of Greenbelt Station believe that a city recreation building is needed as they will be providing recreational amenities. However, originally Springhill Lake, with two swimming pools, a community center and a par 3 golf course, boasted of its recreational amenities. Later, however, the residents of Springhill Lake became politically active and successfully sought their own city recreation center funded by an earlier city bond issue.

Also gone is a \$300,000 grant the city had obtained from the state for the recreation center addition. The city requested, and received approval, to use those funds for window replacement at the Community Center.

Greenbelt Theater

Another major budget change, this time in the other direction, is that for the renovation of the Greenbelt Theater. That budget is now approaching \$1,200,000, near-

ly five times what was proposed in the original bond issue. In his budget comments, McLaughlin notes that the work cannot be accomplished without a \$500,000 state bond bill supplemental grant. He told the council the design work has been completed and that the project could go to bid once permits are obtained. In his comments to the council at the meeting, McLaughlin said that state funding would only be \$300,000. Nothing was mentioned of the effect of tripling the city's costs on the other approved projects.

In the fiscal year 2008 budget the Public Works facility is proposed to cost over \$2,888,000. The city staff expects to go to bid shortly for this project. Some supplemental grant funds have been obtained for it.

The Greenbelt East improvements, which include the recent construction of traffic circles and speed bumps, is expected to cost just a few hundred dollars over the original allocation. Final construction work is nearing completion. Planning and Community Development Director Celia Craze told the council at the worksession that a traffic circle at Mathew Street and Megan Lane was not needed as speed bumps had effectively reduced traffic speed in that area. She also said that a circle at Ora Glen and Morrison Drives had become too costly. It was determined that relocating utilities would be required in order to accomplish the work.

Station to be used for Cherrywood Lane streetscape (\$50,000 out of a total cost of \$500,000), \$100,000 toward a \$2,000,000 community/civic building, \$50,000 toward the \$500,000 cost of a police station addition and \$20,000 towards the cost of an interpretive center/trails to cost \$300,000. The budgeted funds will be used for planning and design work.

The budget also proposed to issue \$4,000,000 of the revenue bonds of which \$1,000,000 is ex-

pected to be spent for the north/south connector road through Greenbelt Station. McLaughlin notes that council has not approved a funding schedule and that work will only proceed if Greenbelt Station funding is actually received.

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56-C Ridge Road, frame three bedroom home, Kitchen wall opened up; granite countertops, central air conditioning, bountiful parking.

2-K Plateau, two bedroom frame with addition. Separate laundry room, bonus room, remodeled kitchen, kitchen open to living area.

2-E Laurel Hill, three bedroom frame end unit with remodeled kitchen, upgrades in bath, and large fenced yard.



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TO BETSY with her dog Kukaro: We met at Greenbelt Lake. Can you please call me? Ruth, 301-474-5605.

THAT'S AMORÉ!! Prince George's Choral Society's annual Italian dinner/fest - 7:00 p.m., April 14th - Saturday. Come earlier for Silent Auction. With dessert enjoy a special serenato. An upbeat, fun family time. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Greenbelt. More info: 301-441-1947 - 301-336-8539.

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FOR SALE - 3K Eastway - 2 bedroom block, remodeled kitchen with new appliances, screened-in porch, ceiling fans, washer/dryer, range hood, dishwasher, freshly painted with new carpet. Contact Kathie Linkenhoker, 301-474-4161, ext. 146.

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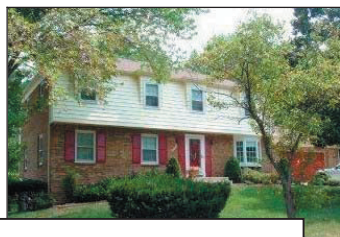
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 **Your Greenbelt Specialists** 

STREAMS continued from page 1

within the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center but some is in the northern and eastern parts of Greenbelt. Ridge Road is the approximate dividing line between the Beaverdam Creek watershed and a tributary to the Indian Creek Watershed, which includes most of central and western Greenbelt. The four-square mile Still Creek sub-watershed includes all of Greenbelt Park but more than half the drainage area is beyond the park's boundaries including Greenbelt East south of Greenbelt Road.

History

Galli and Levendosky have helped set up several watch groups, starting with the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch group in 2005 and Friends of Still Creek in 2006.

To start a watch group, Galli and Levendosky first invite citizens to a watershed education workshop. This is usually followed by a series of outdoor events such as stream cleanups and hikes.

Then Levendosky has a follow-up meeting with people interested in forming a group and guides them through the process. She often invites representatives from established groups to help. She holds monthly meetings until each group is off and running. "Creating a website and listserv [online discussion site] for the groups is very important, too," she said.

Nearby, Still Creek reaches behind the home of Michele Touchet and Fred Gasper in the Greenbelt Lake Village on Hanover Parkway and that is fortunate for Still Creek and the environment. That's because Touchet and Gasper are environmentally minded activists. Touchet is one of the founders of Friends of Still Creek and has an intimacy with Still Creek borne of many hours spent wading through it to pick out trash, touring it and just plain enjoying it.

"Still Creek goes through tunnels under the Beltway in three places," Touchet says. "Thousands of people drive over it every day and don't even know it's there."

Helping people see all streams as vital arteries of the Chesapeake Bay watershed rather than ditches or artificial drainage canals suitable only for more dumping is a major goal of Galli and Levendosky and citizens like Touchet whom they guide in setting up these groups. At the summit someone compared wetlands to kidneys because they filter out pollutants and clean water. The green areas of Greenbelt and Beltsville have often been called the "Green Lungs" of the D.C. metropolitan area, making me think more and more of the Chesapeake Bay watershed as a human body, with the streams its arteries, the wetlands and vegetation along the streams its kidneys and the forests its lungs.

That makes this area very important as guardians of the lungs and kidneys, which remain in good working order today because of the 25,000-plus acres of "Green Wedge" lands, including what is left of this city's green belt. About half of the remaining forests in the watershed are mature forests at least 65 to 100 years old, with the Beltsville-Greenbelt area's forests some of the oldest.

Stormwater and Trash

Reducing storm water runoff, trash and dumping in and along streams are among the top concerns of the sub-watershed groups. A specific concern for the Beaverdam group in Greenbelt



PHOTO BY ALAN TURNBULL

Bryce Dubayah (7), Ralph Dubayah and Michele Touchet find a mother lode of trash blocking Still Creek at the March 31 clean-up.

Discuss More, Learn More

Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC)

website: <http://www.ccric.org>

Listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCRIC>

Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group (BCWWG)

website: <http://www.beaverdamcreek.org>

Listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcwwg>

Friends of Still Creek

website: <http://stillcreekwatershed.org>

Listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stillcreek>

is BARC's sustained presence as good land stewards, said Susan Barnett, the group's president. CCRIC is focused on "proposed development from the Greenbelt Metro to the route of the proposed Intercounty Connector, including the proposed widening of Edmonston Road (MD 201)," CCRIC Treasurer and Secretary Lutz Rastaetter said. Runoff from industrial and warehouse areas is another major threat to this watershed, Rastaetter said. Rastaetter's dedication is shown in the fact that he is a member of all three Greenbelt-based watershed groups as are Barnett and others.

"Stormwater runoff is the biggest issue," said Alan Turnbull, who is providing technical assistance to Friends of Still Creek on behalf of the National Park Service. "This is caused by too much of the watershed being impervious because it is covered by pavement or rooftops. When you get 15 percent of a watershed covered with such material, you have started to radically change the nature of the stream: the stream flows with more velocity and undercuts its banks, often overflowing them and carving out new routes."

The Anacostia Watershed has an average imperviousness of 22 percent.

Still Creek and Indian Creek are about 15 and 20 percent impervious, respectively. The lowest level of imperviousness is found in the Beaverdam Creek sub-watershed (11 percent). Not coincidentally, this watershed has very clean water. It is protected by BARC's green space. The State of Maryland uses Beaverdam Creek as its reference standard for clean streams in Maryland.

Cassels Award

Among their "greatest successes to date" reported at the March Summit, the Beaverdam Creek group listed receiving the Jim Cassels Award for Community Service from Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative "to broaden its environmental work and environmental education efforts in the community." CCRIC listed the purchase of 73 acres by Maryland near the Greenbelt Metro and a rain garden installation in Berywn Heights. Friends of Still Creek counted its cleanup activities and the "No Dumping" signs now posted along Kenilworth Avenue at the point where Still Creek flows closest to the highway at the edge of Greenbelt National Park.



Susan Barnett, representing the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, provides details about the group's award-winning strategies to protect the sub-watershed at the Summit on March 24.

Register April 17 for Spring GED Classes

Registration for spring GED classes will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No one will be accepted into class after this date. The first day of class is Thursday, April 19.

Registration and classes will be held in the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. All students will be required to show proof of residency - for example, driver's license, current lease, phone or electric bill. Greenbelt residents are not required to pay a GED registration fee but will be required to purchase the textbooks (prices to be announced) and pay \$10 for the calculator. Non-Greenbelt residents will be charged \$150 registration fee plus \$10 for the calculator and cost of the textbooks (to be announced).

All fees are non-refundable. Only cash or money orders are allowed. No personal checks will be accepted.

GED I and GED II classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday for 10 weeks in the Greenbelt Municipal Building. There will be a maximum of 12 students in

each class.

GED I is for students who need review of basic math, English and comprehension skills. GED I is held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

GED II is for students who need review of algebra, geometry, English composition and comprehension skills and need to become acquainted with the GED test. GED II is held 1 to 3 p.m. Students who need more remedial work will be referred to the Prince George's County Pre-GED course.

Students do not have to be 16 years of age in order to take the GED course. Students are eligible to take a GED pre-test given at Greenbelt CARES at no cost. The actual GED test is given by the State of Maryland, not Greenbelt CARES. However, students who are ready to take the test can obtain the application forms from Greenbelt CARES.

For additional information, contact course instructor Judy Hering at 301-345-6660, ext. 2016 or email her at jhering@ci.greenbeltmd.gov.

Important Numbers to Call to Report Watershed Hazards in PG County

Water Pollution Hotline (Erosion & Sediment Control - construction sites, etc. - and Toxic Spills): 301-95-CLEAN, 301-883-3311.

Erosion & Sediment Control, e.g., at construction sites (City of Greenbelt): 301-474-2760

Illegal Dumping: 301-499-8520

Fish Kills (Maryland): 1-800-285-8195

Sewer Line Problems: 301-883-5904

Storm Drain Inlet/Catchbasin Problems (Maryland): 301-513-7300 and 1-800-749-0737

Stormwater Facility Maintenance Problems: 301-499-8520



G R E E N B E L T

Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.
125 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770

April 2007

Dear Citizens and Business Owners of Greenbelt:

It is that time again to ask for your generous donations to help support the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc., in our **Annual General Fund Drive for 2007**. We will be starting our fund drive in late April or early May. We truly appreciate your generous contributions during the previous fund drives.

You will receive your donation package in the mail during the month of April or early May. You may choose to either mail your donation back to us or bring it to the station and hand it to one of our volunteers. We are located at: 125 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD. If you should misplace your donation package, you can still mail us your contribution. Please note the new mailing address for the station: Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Dept., 125 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770.

As in the past, I would like to **emphasize strongly** that you **do not accept any solicitations over the telephone** from persons identifying themselves as members or representatives of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. **For this Annual General Fund Drive during the months of April/May, we only ask for donations through the mail.**

We have received some questions from concerned citizens as to some of our other scheduled fundraisers. During the month of December we conduct what we call our annual boot drive. At various intersections throughout the city we station our members so that they are able to collect donations in fire boots.

May I encourage you to come and enjoy a day of bingo at the station on Sundays and Fridays or at the Elks Lodge #1778 on Kenilworth Ave. in Riverdale, Md., on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. We offer food and drink at no cost to you and all of our bingos are now **SMOKE-FREE**.

Again, I would like to thank you for your very important past and continued support during our **General Fund Drive**.

Regards,

D. Christopher Fleshman, President
Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc.