

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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

DECEMBER 27, 2007

Fire Destroys Two Buildings At Springhill Lake Apartments

by Mary Lou Williamson

At about 2 p.m. Friday, December 21 firefighters and paramedics from Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, Branchville and surrounding fire companies were called to a building fire at Springhill Lake (SHL) Apartments. Units arriving at 9336 Edmonston Road encountered a three-story garden-style apartment building with heavy smoke and fire showing from the rear of the building. Firefighters stretched hoses and initiated an aggressive interior attack on the fire and a simultaneous search and rescue for possible trapped occupants, according to Mark E. Brady, Prince George's County Fire Department spokesperson.

Greenbelt's fire department responded with a mixed volunteer and career crew, made interior attacks on the fire and supplied water to the tower truck from Company 7 and Engine 112. Greenbelt's chief was part of the command unit operating on the scene. The units from Greenbelt were on the scene for over four hours, assisting both with the initial attack on the fire and with overhaul once the fire was extinguished.

The fire appears to have started in a ground-floor apartment, according to Brady, and extended rapidly through the upper floors and eventually through the roof. Second and third alarms were sounded, dispatching 75 firefighters and paramedics to the scene. It required 45 minutes to knock the bulk of the fire down, Brady



PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT

Using the ladder truck from Cottage City/Colmar Manor, firefighters attack flames from above the roof of the Springhill Lake apartment buildings at 9338 and 9336 Edmonston Road on Friday afternoon, December 21.

said. No injuries to civilians or firefighters have been reported.

An adjoining building at 9338 Edmonston Road sustained significant fire damage as well. Sixty residents were evacuated from the 21 apartments in the two buildings. A third building was also affected as water and heat were lost when SHL maintenance crews shut off utilities to the two fire-damaged buildings.

Charles Cummings, who lives next door, told the News Review he was coming home from the Metro station, walking. He spoke of the "confusion" he felt as he tried to take in what was happening and get to his apartment. He stood and looked for a while. "It was heart-breaking to

watch" as peoples' homes were burning, Cummings said.

By Sunday, the broken windows and doorways were boarded up and huge blue tarps covered the burned out section of the roof. Rented chain link fencing closed off the destroyed buildings.

"No one," Cummings said (meaning the residents), "has been able to get back into the buildings."

Investigation

The cause of the fire is under investigation, Brady said. The focus is on one of the apartments on the ground floor but entering that area is not yet possible, he

See SHL FIRE, page 8

Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs Are a Green Savings Alternative

by Tom Jones

The following is the latest in a series of occasional environmental articles from the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Sustainable Design and Practice (SDP) Committee. Tom Jones, a volunteer for the SDP Committee, recently researched use of compact fluorescent light bulbs at Rapidan Camps in Virginia.

You've probably heard about compact fluorescent (CF) light bulbs, which can be used to replace ordinary old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs. Many Greenbelters already have CF bulbs installed in their houses. The electricity savings can be significant – CF bulbs use about 1/3 the electricity of traditional incandescent bulbs. This means \$5 per year savings in electricity for each bulb that is used three hours a day.

In summer savings from CF bulbs are compounded. A CF

bulb also produces 1/3 as much heat, so a running air conditioner doesn't have to cool as much; in fact, more power may be saved from the air conditioner than from the light itself. In winter, however, homes with electric resistance heat (like most in GHI) see very little energy savings from CF bulbs. While light bulbs are not usually used for their heat, they actually are almost as efficient at heating a home as a baseboard heater (but not gas, oil and heat pumps).

CF bulbs are more complex than incandescent light bulbs so it helps to learn some details. Read on.

CF Quality

The Energy Star rating certifies CF bulbs for many important criteria including lifespan, startup time, light color and for not flickering. Discount bulbs may produce a much harsher light that

can make colors look different. Energy Star bulbs must also state on the package the minimum temperature at which they should be used, which is important since some discount bulbs do not work at all outside in cold weather. Energy Star bulbs usually reach their full brightness in about 30 seconds; discount bulbs can take as long as three minutes.

Some people feel that CF bulbs are dimmer than incandescent bulbs. Most manufacturers provide a "wattage equivalent" rating, for instance saying a 15 watt CF bulb takes the place of a 60 watt incandescent bulb. However, there are no formal standards for this comparison. A 75-watt equivalent CF bulb replacing a 60-watt incandescent bulb will still result in significant electricity savings, so use

See LIGHTS, page 6

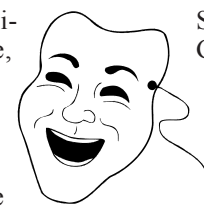
Masks, Mystery and Music Will Entertain One and All

by Anne Gardner

It's going to be carnival time, Venetian style, at this year's Greenbelt New Year celebration. The revels will begin on Monday at 6:15 p.m. in the skate park (in the absence of canals and bridges in Greenbelt) with a traditional sword-fighting "battle of the bridges" and at 6:45 p.m. the crowning of the mysterious masked King Paolo and Queen Francesca. They will reign over the festivities for the remainder of the evening. Be sure to bow to them. If they wave their scepters at one, that means good luck in the new year.

Also at the skate park one can enjoy hot cider, s'mores and a sing-a-long, courtesy of the Greenbelt Girl Scouts and local folk singer Melissa Sites, before moving inside to the other New Year's venues.

In the Community Center fun activities are promised for all ages. Continuing the Venetian theme, party goers can make a Carnevale mask and other accessories then, suitably disguised, venture forth to enjoy the many musicians and other activities. There will be juggling, balancing and tight-rope walking by circus performer Gregory May, Mad Hot Ballroom dancing with Frank



Solomon, improv with Greenbelt Recreation Instructor Jesse Folks and puppet shows from Blue Sky Puppet theater.

Want to listen to some music? Then relax in the piano lounge with Greenbelters Jim Olson and Chris Fominaya playing American standards, Broadway, jazz and contemporary pop standards. Join my husband and me ("Transatlantic Crossing") for traditional fiddle tunes from both sides of the Atlantic and sample some traditional Chinese and Scottish folk music with "East and West," another local Greenbelt band.

For something a little different, try "Thus," performing "an astounding array of strange music" on instruments they invented themselves. Meanwhile, on the main stage in the gym, all can hear the high-energy Duke Ellington School of the Arts choir and dance to DC Motors.

Hungry? The Scholarship Café will be selling hot dogs, sesame noodles, chicken-on-a-stick and other goodies in aid of the Mary Purcell Geiger Scholarship Fund and Chef Lou will be dishing up his legendary desserts in the piano lounge.

See NEW YEAR, page 4

Some 17-year-olds May Now Vote in Primary Election

by Judy Bell

On December 20 the Maryland State Board of Elections made a unanimous decision to allow most 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections. According to a press release by the board, Attorney General Douglas Gansler had previously advised that 17-year-olds could not vote in primary elections.

Gansler has subsequently reversed his opinion, now allowing the implementation of Maryland law as it has been in the past and asserting that the associated rights of the political parties, as guaranteed by the First Amendment, allows the parties to determine whether a 17-year-old who will be 18 by the next general election may vote in the party's primary. Both the Maryland Democratic and Republican Parties have explicitly stated that a 17-year-old registered with the party may vote in that party's

primary election.

All 17-year-olds who have previously submitted voter registration applications are now active registered voters who are eligible to vote in the primary election of the party with which they are affiliated.

The Maryland State Board of Elections has requested that the State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick provide assistance with ensuring that 17-year-olds in state schools are aware that they can register and vote in the upcoming 2008 Presidential Primary on February 12 if they will be 18 on or before the general election.

The deadline to register to vote in this election is Tuesday, January 22, 2008. Voter registration applications are available at www.election.state.md.us. The toll-free number for the board is 800-222-8683.

What Goes On

Monday, December 31

6:15 p.m., Early Revels at the Skatepark followed by Carnavale at the Community Center

Tuesday, January 1 – City and Greenbelt Homes, Inc., Offices Closed

City Police Spread Christmas Cheer

by Alexandra Lopez

Christmas came early to Springhill Lake Elementary children this December in the form of friendly law enforcement officers from the Greenbelt Police Department.

The children, selected based on individual necessity by administrators at Springhill Lake Elementary School, met early Saturday morning with members of the Greenbelt Police Department for the first annual "Shop with a Cop" program.

The primary purpose of the "Shop with a Cop" program is to provide a happier holiday season for 20 lucky children, each given \$100 dollars to spend at their discretion on themselves and their loved ones at the local Target Department Store at Beltway Plaza. The funding to make this event possible came from generous donations from the Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police – Lodge #32, Target at Beltway Plaza, Springhill Lake Apartments and the Greenbelt community at large, to whom the children participating are clearly very grateful.

After being transported by bus from the Springhill Lake Recreation Center to Target for Christmas shopping, they returned to the recreation center to wrap their presents and eat a pizza lunch, courtesy of Three Brother's Pizza.

In addition, the families of each participant were given a \$50 gift certificate to Safeway to help with Christmas dinner, provided by donations from the Faith Baptist Church of Laurel.



Cops and kids find carts inside the front doors at the Greenbelt Target in preparation for "Shop with a Cop" day.



A Target manager hands out gift cards to the Greenbelt police officers on Saturday, December 22. The officers then help the children buy Christmas gifts for themselves and family.

PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER LOPEZ

Foundation Funds Libraries' Access

Public libraries throughout Maryland will receive funds to update their publicly accessible computer hardware. The Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Library Development and Services has announced that the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is awarding more than \$400,000 in grants to help Maryland public libraries provide quality access to computers and the internet.

The new "Opportunity Online" Hardware Grants are for public libraries serving communities with high concentrations of poverty and at risk of having outdated technology. The grants are designed to help secure sustained local funding for computer replacements and upgrades to maintain quality technology services. Forty-nine public libraries in Maryland are eligible to participate in the grant which requires that libraries secure a local match. Librarians participating in the program will also be required to go through training designed to help them raise awareness in their community about their library's services and increase local support and funding for technology services.

Early in 2007, Maryland public libraries received over \$34,000 from the Gates Foundation to fund two outreach projects: the Rural Library Sustainability Project to enhance networking in rural libraries and keep their libraries thriving and the Spanish Language Outreach Project to provide library staff with skills to reach out to the Spanish language community.

For more information visit www.MarylandPublicSchools.org/MSDE/divisions/library.

Board of Ed. Elects Chair, Recounts Successes

On day 365 of its first term as an elected body, the Prince George's County Board of Education elected Verjeana M. Jacobs, Esq. as its chair and Ron L. Watson, Ph.D. as vice chair. They will serve in their positions for one calendar year.

Jacobs, a Bladensburg High School graduate, served as vice chair her first year in office and is also the chair of the Board's Finance Subcommittee.

In addition to becoming vice-chair, Watson continues to serve as co-chair of the Capital Improvement Program Subcommittee. Watson, a graduate of Central High School, was recently appointed to the county's Career and Technical Education Task Force and noted that this initiative is one of great importance to him and the school system because these programs and experiences will help prepare youth for post-secondary and lifelong education, vocational and technical training, and expanded career options.

In assuming the new position, Jacobs cited three major accomplishments during the Board's first year.

Grant Funding

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is one of 18 school districts in the nation to receive over 1.5 million from the Federal Teacher Incentive Fund grant which offers incentives to keep the best and brightest teachers in its classrooms serving children who need them most. Pilot schools have not yet been selected.

Advance Placement

Final results released by the

College Board show dramatic increases in the number of Prince George's County public school students excelling in college-level courses and demonstrating mastery on Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Participation among African-American children, who represent more than three quarters of the county's students, grew 42.5 percent. The number of exams taken by African-American students increased by 46.1 percent and the number of exam scores of 3, 4 and 5 turned in by African-American students rose 36.3 percent. Many universities will reward a score of 3 or higher with college credit. Additionally, the number of test takers among Hispanic students increased 57.3 percent with 42.7 percent scoring 3 or better.

Overall in PGCPS, 3,271 students took an AP exam in 2007, an increase of 30.2 percent from 2006, and scored an overall increase of 17.3 percent in the number of AP exam scores of three or higher.

School Improvement

As state assessments scores continued to rise, PGCPS experienced record levels of student achievement and many schools exiting School Improvement status. Eleven elementary schools came out of School Improvement and 17 elementary and middle schools in improvement made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and are now in position to exit improvement status next year.

Seven high schools exited School Improvement and six more made AYP so are in position to exit next year. Also, no new high schools entered School Improvement status.

Grin Belt

The squirrels and their cartoonist Agnes Conaty are away.



Holiday Deadlines, Schedule Changes

New Year's Week Issue – Dated Thursday, Jan. 3
Advertising and Copy Deadline: SUNDAY Dec. 30

Holiday Office Hours

Sunday Dec. 30 - 2 to 4 p.m.; 8 to 10 p.m.
(Monday Dec. 24 - Saturday Dec. 29 - CLOSED)
(Monday Dec. 31 - Sunday Jan. 6 - CLOSED)

All articles, photos, announcements and advertisements must reach us by no later than Sunday at 10 p.m., sooner if possible. Businesses on a five day schedule will need to submit copy on FRIDAYS for the Christmas or New Year's week issues. Please note that we will not be able to accept additional material for these issues after the stated deadlines. *Happy Holidays to All!*

How to Create A Green Home

Choose Energy Star appliances. Energy Star-qualified products meet a high level of energy efficiency, which can translate into savings in electric bills. When considering the price of a new appliance, consider not only the purchase price but also the long-term savings. A reduction in a household energy bill by \$50 per appliance per year or more.

– U.S. Green Building Council

Correction

Our apologies to Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Gloria Lawlah for the error in her name in the Medicare Part D Open Season article in last week's paper.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE

WEEK OF DEC. 28

ATONEMENT

(R)

Friday

*2:30, *5, 7:30, 9:50

Saturday

*2:30, *5, 7:30, 9:50

Sunday

*2:30, *5, 7:30, 9:50

Monday

*2:30, *5, 7:30

Tuesday

*2:30, *5, 7:30

Wednesday–Thursday

*5, 7:30

*These shows at \$6.00
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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.

Reel and a Meal Attracting Audience to New Deal Café

by Brian St. George

As the New Deal Café struggles for financial survival, it continues not only to bring music and art to Greenbelt but also a film and dinner series. Reel and a Meal has been powering along for four months, attracting motivated and energetic crowds of 40 to 60 people to see films with an environmental theme and to enjoy the vegetarian creations of Chef Debra.

Reel and a Meal is a collaboration between the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch group, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Prince George's Peace and Justice Coalition, Global Consciousness Press, CHEARS and, of course, the New Deal Café. It was established to foster understanding in the community and beyond on how the ecology of the planet affects us all. (Rumor has it, it may even have attracted a mole from the NSA.)

The latest film in the series, "Homeland," depicts four different American Indian tribes struggling for basic human rights under attack from the powerful and rich: Coal, Oil, Nuclear and Gas corporations, often referred to as King CONG. Where does a 300 lb. gorilla do its business?

The real issue at stake with Indian territories is land rights – they don't have any. So CONG companies can and often do set up operations that poison aquifers, rivers and land that Native Americans and non-Native Americans depend on for survival. A legal maneuver referred to as sacrificial land allows CONG to go after any land it wants, provided it can convince the federal government its actions are vital to the national interest.

As reservations are often remote, without media outlets or proper legal representa-

tion, CONG often gets its way. (Setting up a uranium mine in Bethesda would be a bit more challenging.)

In the first story the Cheyenne refused to sell their soul to buy their future. So the federal government provided leases on the edge of Cheyenne territory, allowing CONG to use a Cheyenne river as a sewer without consulting the tribe.

All films showing at the New Deal are independent and focus on issues that affect our lives, as opposed to commercial films about teenagers on spring break or Bruce Willis saving us from evildoers. You're not likely to see these films at Beltway Plaza nor at Blockbuster. Perhaps that's a good reason to come to the New Deal. That – and if you're lucky, you may get some of Shirley Middleton's holiday fudge.

Active Audience

The audience of mostly Greenbelters were engaged and asking questions on issues. The New Deal continues to be staffed by nearly all volunteers – a Greenbelt tradition – serving, preparing and taking orders. They could use more such volunteers. This type of event benefits the New Deal and keeps it as a community resource. Who else will provide this type of service should the New Deal not be here?

Perhaps this has always been the case in history. If the New Deal were selling Big Macs and featuring Britney Spears, human rights and environmental justice would probably not be on the menu. The films are scheduled on the third Monday of every month, with the next showing on January 21. Check the New Deal website at www.newdealcafe.com for details.

Community Events



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

The balcony is sparkling at this Lakeside apartment.

Free Local Films New Year's Eve

On New Year's Eve from 11 to 11:45 p.m., the 2007 GAVA/GATE Animation Festival will be screened at the Old Greenbelt Theatre in Roosevelt Center. It features animation produced by students in the recent classes and selections from the 38th Annual ASIFA-EAST Animation Festival. This free performance is suitable for all ages. The group is part of the Greenbelt New Year celebration but this event does not require an admission charge. For more information call 301-474-2192.

At the Library

The library will be closed on Monday, December 31 at 5 p.m. and Tuesday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday. There will be no Cuddletime next week.

Storytimes

A librarian will read age-appropriate stories:

Wednesday, January 2, 10:30 and 11 a.m., Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months with caregiver, limit 15 children.

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

Caregivers are asked to pick up a free ticket at the Children's Desk.



News Review Available Online

While the News Review website committee plans for future changes to the newspaper's present website, the city has generously offered to place the current issue each week on their website, www.greenbeltmd.gov. Look for the starburst that says "New" and download the paper to your computer.

Breast Cancer Drive Raises \$1.2 Million

Safeway has announced that \$1.2 million was raised through customer and employee contributions during the company's annual Breast Cancer



ties. Many stores also held raffles, sold hot dogs, beverages and other food items to raise money and awareness. This year's effort was also supported

by approximately 40 elected officials from the mid-Atlantic region who agreed to serve as guest baggers in local stores with customer donations being contributed to the cause.

The beneficiaries for the Washington and Baltimore areas are MedStar Health, with a network of seven facilities in the area, and the Kimmel Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins University. Both organizations will share the proceeds raised by Safeway's Eastern Division which includes Delaware, Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

Webb's 90th Party To Be at New Deal

On Saturday, December 29 Esther Webb and her extended family will be holding an informal celebration of her 90 well-lived years at the New Deal Café from 2 to 4 p.m. Community members are invited to bring smiles, well-wishes and memories of time spent together. Light refreshments will be served. No gifts! All are welcome.

Postal Services Available



Limited postal services are now available in the Municipal Building

Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring in 2008 at the New Deal Café!

New Year's Eve Party

Offering an evening for Grown-ups with the Jazz stylings of the

Magic Ray Jazz Ensemble

and dance to swinging jazz of the

John Guernsey Group

Dinner Buffet

\$15/person or \$25/couple

Not hungry? Suggested donation of \$5 – \$10 to help support the music

Cash Bar

Champagne toast!

Music starts at 8pm

Doors open from 7pm until 1:30 am for late niters and folks on western time zones

Don't get caught without a plan for New Year's!

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, Maryland (301) 474-5642

www.newdealcafe.com

Sponsored by Friends of the New Deal Cafe Arts (FONDCA)

Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall
Center Court
301-220-1155

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m. ONLY \$5.50

Children, Seniors \$5.50

Adults \$7.50

R = ID Required

(!) = No pass, No Discount Ticket

Week of December 26

WED (12/26) - THURS (1/03/08)

Water Horse: Legend of the Deep, PG (!)

11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story, R (!)

12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10

Alien vs Predator: Requiem, R (!)

11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

National Treasure: Book of

Secrets, PG (!)

12:30, 4, 7:30, 10:30

The Great Debaters, PG-13 (!)

12:30, 4, 7:30, 10:30

Alvin and the Chipmunks, PG

11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

I am Legend, PG-13

11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

This Christmas, PG

11:40, 7:50, 10:40

The Perfect Holiday, PG

2:20, 5:05

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE NEW DEAL CAFÉ!

DECEMBER 30, 2007

- 12 YEARS IN OLD GREENBELT -

STILL SERVING THE COMMUNITY WITH ART, MUSIC AND FOOD!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

NEW YEAR

continued from page 1

Meanwhile, over at the Youth Center participants can stop by GreenBeLT Pride's Rainbow Café for pizza, chips and baked goods and pick up some popcorn from the Greenbelt Swim Team. Magic Mike will be wowing the audience with his slight of hand and making balloon sculptures and all can also try their luck at teen bingo, make bead necklaces with the swim team and enjoy the giant inflatable games hosted by Camp Pine Tree.

Finally, don't forget to stop by the Movie Theater at 11 p.m. for the GAVA/GATE Animation Showcase, before returning to the Community Center gym for the countdown to midnight with DC Motors. King Paolo and Queen Francesca will be on hand to end what promises to be a magical night of fun for all!



Free Guide Explains Health Care Coverage

Marylanders overwhelmed by information when trying to choose a health care plan can now turn to a single, easy-to-read guide thanks to the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). The report is now available for individuals and employers at no cost.

The report rates the seven Maryland HMO/POS health plan providers. In 2008, Preferred Provider Organizations (PPOs) also will be included in the report.

Download the complete report from the MHCC website at <http://mhcc.maryland.gov/hmo> or receive a free copy of the information by calling 410-764-3460 or toll free at 877-245-1762.

Baha'i Faith

"The fundamental purpose animating the Faith of God and His Religion is to safeguard the interests and promote the unity of the human race. Suffer it not to become a source of dissension and discord, of hate and enmity."
— Bahá'u'lláh

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
www.bci.org/greenbeltbahai www.bahai.us



Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt

SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
SERVE BREAKFAST
AT S.O.M.E.
Sunday, December 30
Meet at St. Hugh's School
Parking Lot, 6:00 AM

Advocates Needed For Abused Youth

The office of the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Prince George's County, Inc. is recruiting volunteers to advocate for the needs of abused and neglected children in the county. CASA gives training and supervision to volunteers who spend time getting to know the children and what is in their best interests. Volunteers also work with teachers, social workers and attorneys to ensure that the child's needs are addressed. CASA volunteers present their recommendations about the children's needs to the court.

CASA/Prince George's County is now accepting applications for day and evening training sessions. Bilingual volunteers are especially needed and urged to apply.

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

Volunteers Sought To Raise Puppies

Guiding Eyes for the Blind is looking for volunteers to love and socialize a future guide dog in their home. To learn more, attend one of the classes held on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. at St. Matthews Church, 14900 Annapolis Road in Bowie.

For more information visit www.cdc.guidingeyes.org or contact Laura Waters at 410-798-6859 or ljwaters@comcast.net.



Congratulations to

— Christina Charmichael of Greenbelt Elementary School and Hubert Willoughby at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, who are among 11 new Prince George's County teachers to receive National Board Certification. The elite credential has gone to 218 Maryland teachers, 73 of them in the county, making Prince George's fourth in the state in National Board certified teachers.

— Marc H. Duncan, who was awarded a BA in communication at the December graduation of St. Vincent College of Latrobe, Pa.

— Diane Dwyer Terrett of Eugene, Ore., who was honored recently as the "Oregon Medical Case Manager of the Year." She works for Pacific Source, a health care organization in Eugene. Diane grew up in Greenbelt and left many years ago to attend Nursing School in Denver, Colo. Her parents, Tom and Shirley Dwyer, have lived in Greenbelt for over 50 years.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We'd especially like to hear more from our neighbors in Greenbelt East and Springhill Lake. To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

— Kathleen McFarland

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open heart, Open minds, Open doors
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
Come as you are!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
6905 Greenbelt Road • 301-345-5111
Sunday 8:15 am Worship Service
10:30 am Worship Service

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

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

Congregation Mishkan Torah
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223
An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.
Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.
Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults.
Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children.
Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program.
Opportunity for leadership development.
Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors.
Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities.
Interfaith families are welcome.
Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville/Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
December 30, 10 a.m.
"The Tradition of Homecoming"
by Jacob B. ten Hove, co-minister with Pallas Bane, worship associate
(A special welcome to young adults whose journeys have taken them away from Paint Branch.)
— Barbara W. and Jacob B. ten Hove, co-ministers

Greenbelt Baptist Church
101 Greenhill Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770 – (301) 474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
Welcome!
Sunday 9:45 am Sunday School
Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service
Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting/Bible Study
ALL are Welcome!
"Helping People Connect with Christ and His Family Through Loving Service"

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..."

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!

Learn About Islam
GIVE THANKS
Every breath that we breathe is a blessing from God and we learn from the Prophet Solomon (peace be upon him) to recognize these blessings each day. The Holy Qur'an tells us how he never forgot to be thankful to God. He is quoted to have said, "This is by the grace of my Lord, to test me whether I am grateful or ungrateful! And if any is grateful, it is (a gain) for his own soul; but if any is ungrateful, truly my Lord is free of all needs, supreme in honor."
— The Holy Qur'an, 27:40
Count your blessings every day. For more information about gratefulness from an Islamic perspective, call 301-982-9463 or email 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)
Dec. 30: Making Resolutions That Last
Pastor Lou Redd
301-474-4499 410-340-8242 (cell)
...living life together



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

This decorated balcony in Springhill Lake overlooks Cherrywood Lane.



*The Board of Directors
and Staff at GHI
Would Like to Wish
a Happy Holiday Season
to all GHI Members
and the Entire
Greenbelt Cooperative
Community*

Md. Retail Rules Explained by AG

The Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division offers the following information about shopping and holiday gifts.

Gift Cards

Many gift cards have an expiration date or fees after initial use. Since 2006 Maryland law says store-specific cards may not expire fewer than four years after purchase and the store may not impose fees or charges of any kind during that four year period. Any terms or conditions about expiration or fees after four years must be printed clearly in a visible place on the card or its envelope.

Returns, Exchanges

Despite the best intentions, refunds and exchanges of gifts are common during the holiday season. A retailer is allowed to set whatever policy it chooses for returns or exchanges, as long as it posts the policy. Before making a purchase, find out the store's return policy. The refund rule says that if a store imposes limitations on refunds or returns, the merchant must disclose its policy in writing so consumers are aware of the policy before making their purchases. Also ask for a gift receipt at the time of purchase to enclose with any gifts. If the store does not offer gift receipts, keep the receipt to support any refund request.

Defective Items

Some of the best presents can be well-received but defective. Purchases are covered by an implied warranty – a guarantee that the item works when purchased – regardless of the store's return policy. Implied warranties require that goods be in operating condition and fit for sale and that they continue to work for a reasonable period of time. Merchants must honor the implied warranty whenever they sell a new or used product, other than used cars.

For more information call the Consumer Protection Division's hotline at 410-528-8662 or visit the website at www.oag.state.md.us.

Save Gas – Drive A Green Machine

Buy a high-efficiency car. See the U.S. Department of Energy's list of most fuel-efficient cars at <http://www.fueleconomy.gov/feg/best-worst.shtml>.

– U.S. Green Building Council



City Information



GREENBELT NEW YEAR 2008 CARNEVALE IN VENICE

Come join jugglers, swordfighters, and Paolo and Francesca, the masked king and queen of Carnevale, for a sparkling night of entertainment for all ages!

Early Revels start outside at 6:15 pm at the Skate Park Plaza, with the Greenbelt Girl Scouts hosting a Community Campfire with Folksinger Melissa Sites and free hot cider and s'mores. Paolo and Francesca will arrive shortly after 6:45 to be crowned the monarchs of the carnival. They'll throw open the doors of the Greenbelt Youth Center and the Greenbelt Community Center, and Carnevale will begin! (The Early Revels will be held in the Community Center in the event of rain.)

This year's entertainment includes a record number of Greenbelt performers, including East and West, Transatlantic Crossing, Camp Cabaret, the GAVA/GATE animation showcase, and Greenbelt Piano Lounge players Jim Olson and Chris Fominaya. New headliners include circus performer Gregory May, the outlandish instruments of THUS, and the Duke Ellington School of the Arts Show Choir. Returning favorites include DC Motors, Magic Mike, Blue Sky Puppets and the Improv Asylum.

Admission wristbands are on sale now for \$5 at the Co-op Supermarket, the Greenbelt Community Center, and the Greenbelt Youth Center. Admission is \$7 at the door. Children 5 and under are admitted free.

FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD

At its May 29 Regular Meeting, the City Council adopted changes to the Forest Preserve article of the City Code and approved the formation of a standing Forest Preserve Advisory Board. Residents interested in serving on the new board may call 301-474-8000 for a application form and booklet or find the form and information on the City website under "Boards and Committees."

COMMUNITY VISIONING FOR GREENBELT
Join the Mayor and City Council in visioning the future for the City of Greenbelt.

Express your views on how to make Greenbelt the best community it can be.

Attend one or more of the Community Visioning Sessions:

- **Saturday, January 12, 2008, Springhill Lake Elementary School, 6060 Springhill Drive, Multi-Purpose Room**
- **Saturday, January 26, 2008, Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Council Room**
- **Saturday, February 2, 2008, location to be determined in Greenbelt East**

For more information, contact the City at 301-474-8000 or info@greenbeltmd.gov.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th, and Tuesday, January 1st, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of December 24th and December 31st
Monday Route – Regular Schedule (on Dec. 24th & Dec. 31st)
Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, December 28th, and Friday, January 4th.

GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th, and Tuesday, January 1st

GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER

Winter Session

Adult Water Aerobic Classes
Session Dates: 12/31 thru 2/22
Residents and Passholders: December 17th and 18th
Open Registration: December 19th, until classes are filled.

For class listings, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

SWIM MEET CLOSINGS

Please note – the indoor pool is closing at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 19th, 2008 and on Saturday, January 26th, 2008 for high school swim meets. For more information call 301-397-2204

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

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

Greenbelt CARES

FREE BABYSITTING COURSE

Monday, December 31 from 10am-1pm
Greenbelt Municipal Building -25 Crescent Road
Targeted toward students recently completing grades 5-8. Learn responsibility, health and safety issues, poison control and fire safety. Students who complete this course will receive a certificate of completion and may participate in the Odd Jobs Program.
Info: 301-345-6660

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Greenbelt Board of Appeals
Variance Application 07-002-V
Notice is hereby given that the Greenbelt Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on January 8, 2008 at 7:30pm in the Greenbelt Community Center (Suite 200), 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD on an application filed by Mr. Rudy Balfour for consideration of a request for a 13 foot variance from the 20 foot rear yard setback requirement for the purpose of constructing a deck to the rear of the home located at 6816 Green Crescent Court. For more information please contact Terri Hruby at 301-345-5417.

LIGHTS continued from page 1

the next larger size if more light is needed.

Some people notice the difference between regular and "soft light," so you may want to consider this factor in CF bulbs. The color of a CF light is often rated in Kelvins. Lower Kelvin ratings have more red light and are more suitable for bedrooms and living rooms. Higher Kelvin ratings have more blue light and are more suitable for kitchens and workplaces.

Standard CF bulbs are not made to work with a dimmer and use of a dimmer can even pose a fire hazard. If a dimmer is needed purchase specified dimmer-compatible CF bulbs, which cost more and are becoming more commonly available. These work well for brighter intensities but if the dimmer is set for low light, the bulb will create a flashing strobe effect.

CF bulbs are available at many stores, although experience suggests being particularly wary of generic bulbs from big box stores. One Greenbelter recommends the website 1000bulbs.com.

Using CF Bulbs

The lifespan of a CF bulb is significantly impacted by how often it is turned on and off. A report from the National Lighting Product Information Program says "[CF bulbs] are not recommended in spaces where lights are switched on and off frequently, such as bathrooms and closets. [CF] products are recommended for spaces such as living rooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, hotel rooms and outdoors where

they are likely to be started less frequently." Other, more minor factors affecting the lifetime of a CF bulb are whether it is used in an enclosed or an open fixture and even whether it is used with the screw base facing up or down. See the National Lighting Product Information Program (NLPIP) information at the end of the article.

Remember that many CF bulbs are bigger than incandescent bulbs, so check the size of the bulb to confirm it will fit into the fixture.

Disposal

On disposal, CF bulbs contain small amounts of mercury and should not be thrown into the trash. They should be given to a special CF bulb recycling program. Both Ikea and My Organic Market in College Park have collection centers. For information about disposing of CF bulbs and for cleaning up if one accidentally breaks, see the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website listed below.

As mentioned in the "Be Cool, Save Money, Help the Planet" series published last year in the Greenbelt News Review, the mercury content of CF bulbs is not a reason to avoid using them. The largest source of mercury in our air comes from burning fossil fuels to produce electricity. According to EPA that means that use and disposal of CF bulbs has less negative environmental impact than the incandescent bulb – and the impact is even lower if the CF bulb is recycled.

For most typical household

uses of light bulbs, switching to CF bulbs is a great way to save both energy and money and also to help reduce pollution. But it is important to get the right CF bulb and to use it in the right place.

More Information

The September 2007 issue of Consumer Reports has a detailed review of CF bulbs including ratings and is available at the Greenbelt Library. The NLPIP has very detailed reports for free download at www.lrc.rpi.edu/NLPIP. The EPA "Fact Sheet: Mercury in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)" is available at www.energystar.gov/ia/products/lighting/buyers_guide/Mercury.pdf.

Audubon Bird Walk At Fran Uhler Area

The Prince George's Audubon Society will host a half-day walk at the Fran Uhler Natural Area at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 5. Meet at the end of Lemon Bridge Road off Md. 197, just north of Bowie State University and the MARC line. There will be woodland and field birds, a good chance for raptor flyovers and some waterfowl. The nearby WB&A trail is a good area for red-headed woodpeckers, winter wrens and the occasional barred owl. The bird walk is suitable for beginners and experts; waterproof footwear is suggested. No reservations are needed. Call 410-765-6482 for details.

Mormon Temple's Lights and Music

The 30th annual Mormon Temple holiday lights and free programs are open to public view at dusk through January 1. There are exhibits inside the Visitors Center and more than 450,000 lights on display from dusk to 10 p.m. daily. Music programs are offered nightly at 7 and 8 p.m. by a variety of local community groups. Included are bell choirs, barbershop ensembles, choirs, blue grass bands and more in the Visitor Center theater.

The temple is located at 9900 Stoneybrook Drive in Kensington For further information, call 301-587-0144 or visit the website www.lds.org/dccalendar.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center in Beltsville, MD IS RECRUITING MEN WHO ARE:

- 1) OVERWEIGHT, 2) NONSMOKING,
- 3) AGE 35 - 65 YEARS,

FOR NUTRITION RESEARCH

If you meet all the above criteria, you may be eligible for this study to evaluate the effects of protein and carbohydrate on body weight and body composition.

Dr. David Baer is the Principle Investigator.

Participants will be compensated.

For information, call the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center at (301) 504-5454, email volunteers@ars.usda.gov, or visit our website at www.usdanutritionstudies.us



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.

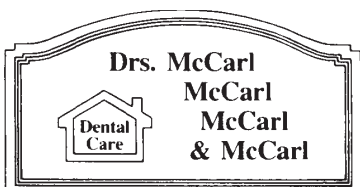


Nicole Burgess of Severna Park had severely discolored teeth from a very early age. Throughout her life, Nicole had been self-conscious of her smile. In just three short weeks, the McCarl Dental Group gave Nicole a beautiful smile and a new start in life! Call the McCarl Dental Group to see if a smile 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</p> <p>\$45⁰⁰</p> <p>After Complimentary Initial Dental Exam (Value up to \$192) Includes necessary X-rays on day of examination. New patients only. Expires: 1/31/08</p>	<p>Teeth Bleaching</p> <p>Special Only</p> <p>\$200⁰⁰</p> <p>Reg. \$500.00</p> <p>Expires: 1/31/08</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

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf.

Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robberies

December 14, 10:18 p.m., 9200 block Springhill Lane, a man reported that he was walking home when he was approached by two men. One of the men produced a handgun and demanded money. The victim was searched by the man and after finding no money both men fled the scene. The suspects are described as a black male 18 to 20 years of age, 5'8" with black hair and brown eyes, wearing all black clothing and a ski mask; and a black male with black hair and brown eyes, wearing all black clothing.

December 14, 10:15 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, a man reported that he was walking home when he was approached by two men, one armed with a handgun. They grabbed the victim and went through his pockets, taking a cell phone, cash and a credit card. Both men fled the scene on foot. The suspects are described as a black male 18 to 30 years of age, 6' to 6'2", 150 to 170 pounds with brown eyes, wearing black sweat pants, a black jacket and a ski mask; and a black male 18 to 30 years of age, 5'9" to 5'11", 130 to 170 pounds with brown eyes, wearing dark clothing and a black ski mask.

December 17, 9:19 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court, a cab driver reported that he parked his cab and was getting out when he was approached by two men, each armed with a handgun. The men struck the cab driver several times with the handguns while demanding money. After taking his wallet and cell phone both men ran to a nearby vehicle and fled the scene. The suspects are described as a black male 18 to 20 years of age with black hair and brown eyes, wearing black clothing, a hooded sweatshirt and a ski mask; and a black male 18 to 20 years of age with black hair and brown eyes, wearing black clothing and a hooded sweatshirt.

December 20, 11:38 p.m., 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace, a man reported that he was walking to his vehicle when he was approached by two men. One of the men displayed a handgun and both then assaulted the victim, punching and kicking him several times while removing the wallet

from his pocket. They took the victim's car keys and fled the scene in his vehicle, a red 2003 Honda Accord 2-door, tags unknown. A possible third suspect fled the scene in a nearby vehicle described as a white Ford Crown Victoria 4-door. The suspects are described as two black males 17 to 25 years of age, tall with medium builds; each suspect was wearing dark clothing.

Assault Arrest

December 15, 3:33 a.m., Frankfort Drive and Greenbelt Road, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with second-degree assault. A woman reported that she and her boyfriend were inside a vehicle arguing when he pulled the car over and punched her in the face several times. The man was arrested on the scene and was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner. The woman was transported by ambulance to a hospital for a laceration near her eye.

Child Neglect

December 13, 6:30 p.m., Greenway Center, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with two counts of child neglect. Police responded to a report of unattended children in a parked vehicle and located the vehicle with two children inside, ages five and two. The father returned to the vehicle a short time later; he was arrested and released on citations pending trial.

Trespass

December 18, 2:41 p.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School, a resident youth was arrested for trespass and disruption of school activities after he was found on the grounds of the school. The youth, who is not enrolled in the school, was released on citations pending action by the school board and the juvenile justice system.

Open Alcohol

December 20, 12:29 a.m., 7200 Hanover Drive, a nonresident man was arrested and charged with open alcohol after police observed him leaving the Holiday Inn holding an open bottle of liquor. He was released on citation pending trial.

Burglaries

December 15, 6:40 p.m., 16 Court Ridge Road, unknown person(s) used unknown means to enter a residence. Personal pa-

pers and documents were taken.

December 16, 2:21 p.m., 6800 block Green Crescent Place, unknown person(s) entered an open garage and removed a car battery, car tires and a ladder.

December 17, 10:14 p.m., 7800 block Jacob's Drive, unknown person(s) entered a residence by forcing open a sliding glass door. Among the items taken were two televisions, a digital camera, a laptop computer and power tools.

December 20, 2:27 p.m., 9300 block Edmonston Road, unknown person(s) attempted to enter a residence by tampering with the front door bolt lock. Entry was not gained.

Vehicle Crimes

The following vehicles were reported as stolen: a 2002 Ford Crown Victoria 4-door from the 100 block Westway; a 1999 Infiniti Q45 4-door from the 7700 block Hanover Parkway; a black 2003 Lexus GS300 4-door, Maryland tags 6CJD27 from the 9300 block Edmonston Road; a green 1997 Mitsubishi Galant 4-door, Virginia tags KFC2069 from the 9100 block Springhill Lane; and a green 1996 Honda Civic 4-door, Maryland tags 3CDC83 from the 6000 block Springhill Drive.

Seven vehicles were recovered, three by Greenbelt police with no arrests made and four by various other police departments with two arrests made in one recovery.

Theft from and vandalism to vehicles were reported in the following areas: Beltway Plaza, 5800 block Cherrywood Terrace, 9300 block Edmonston Road, 9100 block Edmonston Terrace, 9200 block Springhill Lane, 6100 block Springhill Terrace, 6400 block Capitol Drive, 22 Court Ridge Road and 8000 block Mandan Road.

Theft

December 17, 7200 block Hanover Parkway, the following suspects were observed breaking into three vehicles and removing window-mounted GPS units: a black male 20 to 25 years of age with black hair, wearing a red or orange North Face jacket; and a black male 20 to 25 years of age with black hair, wearing a camouflage jacket. They fled the area in a vehicle described as a burgundy Ford Crown Victoria with tinted windows and shiny rims.

SHL FIRE continued from page 1

explained. Portions of the upper two floors have dropped down. Heavy equipment will be needed to clear the debris before investigators will have access to the area.

A preliminary estimate of the loss to the buildings was set at \$500,000, according to Brady, but later bumped up to \$1 million.

Help for Residents

An information center was set up at the nearby SHL Recreation Center, where residents could talk with representatives of the Red Cross, SHL management and the Citizens Services Unit of the county fire department to discuss their immediate needs. Most residents were put up at a local motel for three nights but were expected to find other arrangements beginning Christmas Eve.

Help for Victims

Both Berwyn Heights and Greenbelt Fire Departments are collecting gift cards for such stores as Target, Wal-Mart or Safeway to be given to the fire

victims on Monday, December 24. The fire departments have requested that no cash, checks, food or furniture be donated. Gift cards may be dropped off at the Berwyn Heights fire department at 8811 60th Avenue or call 301-883-7714 to make arrangements for pick-up of donated gifts. Gift cards may also be brought to the Greenbelt Fire Department at 125 Crescent Road. Red Cross information is available on the website at www.redcrossNCA.org.

At the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club meeting Friday evening, funds were raised to help the displaced fire victims. Sylvia Lewis reports that the club was able to collect \$210 to assist the Springhill Lake fire victims - 21 \$10 Target gift certificates were purchased and donated through the Berwyn Heights Fire Department.

Diane Oberg, James Giese, Eileen Farnham and Kathie Jarva also contributed to this story.



PHOTO COURTESY PGFD

Thick black billowing smoke could be seen for miles.



PHOTO BY BILL CORNETT

Using the ladder truck from Cottage City/Colmar Manor, firefighters attack flames from above the roof of the Springhill Lake apartment buildings at 9338 and 9336 Edmonston Road on Friday afternoon, December 21.

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

**Wear White at Night
so drivers can see you!**

Smell Gas?
(Sulfur or rotten eggs)
Call Washington Gas Light
800-752-7520 or 911

CLASSIFIED

AUTOMOTIVE

1996 BUICK LESABRE – Recently passed state inspection (12/11/07). Well maintained, 104,000 miles (used as second car). Blue book value is \$3,700. 301-474-5657

HELP WANTED

HOMEOWNER NEEDS HOUSE PLANS/DRAWINGS of interior of a Lakewood rambler home, like #3 Orange Court. Will pay \$50. Email LKR267@yahoo.com or call 609-921-0950.

NEED HELP? Place a classified ad here and let your neighbors know. The rates are reasonable and there are nearly 10,000 papers distributed here.

LOST and FOUND

LOST – Women's bifocal glasses, along sidewalk or street in North End of Old Greenbelt. Please call 301-474-5657.

REAL ESTATE – RENTAL

HOME TO SHARE – Beltsville, Laurel, very large master bedroom, Hi-speed free utilities, pet okay, available January. \$565. 1 month deposit. 240-264-3452.

SERVICES

COMPUTERS – Systems installation, troubleshooting, network, wireless computer design and upgrades, anti-virus, anti-spam, firewall. IBM, Dell, HP, Gateway. JBS, 240-606-6020, 301-474-3946.

PATTI'S PETSITTING – Let your furry, feathered, finned or scaled friend stay at home when you go away! Pet-sitting by a Professional Animal Care Specialist. All types of animals! Available for mid-day walks. Insured! Very reasonable rates! Group discounts! References available. Call Patti Brothers at 301-910-0050.

CARPENTER SERVICES – Handyman, drywall, plaster, paint, etc. Mold removal (certified). 301-908-8670

BARB'S PET SITTING, LLC – Reliable, experienced and professional. GHI residents get special discounts. Midday walks, weekend and holiday appointments. Call Barb, 301-356-0162. References available.

JACKIE'S CLEANING – No job too big or small. Estimates, 301-731-0115.

GREENBELT PAINTING – Affordable handyman services. Homeowners association repairs, general home improvements. Drywall, gutter cleaning, professional quality workmanship. Guaranteed lowest prices. Free estimates. Local references. www.handymanpainters.com, 240-671-8952

EXPERT REPAIR and installation of roof, drywall and paint, windows, siding, doors and more. 35 years experience, many local references. Call Art Rambo Const., 301-220-4222.

GOT SKILLS? Let all of Greenbelt know by placing an ad right here. The rates are reasonable and the target audience is made up of your neighbors who just may need the skills that you have to offer.

RATES

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

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

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.



Continental Movers

Free boxes
Local – Long Distance
\$80 x two men
\$90 x three men
301-340-0602
202-438-1489
www.continentalmovers.net

Home & Business Improvements

Remodeling-Repairs-Int. & Ext. Painting
Bathrooms-Basements-Kitchens
Ceramic Tile & Laminated Floors
Pressure Washing-Deck Care-Sheds
Wisler Construction & Painting Co.
Serving Greenbelt since 1991
301-345-1261
www.wislerconstruction.com
Owner has over 20 years experience
Member of the Better Business Bureau
MHIC40475

Town Center Realty and Renovations

Call Joe Comproni, Realtor
Cell: 301-367-8270
Office: 301-441-1071

We need help on the Ad Desk!
The News Review needs an ad desk person on Monday and Tuesday afternoons and Tuesday evenings. Our ad desk staff help businesses and individuals prepare ads for publication in the weekly newspaper. This is a volunteer position working with a great group of people and doing a valued job in your community. Call Mary Lou at 301-441-2662 or Eileen at 301-513-0482.

Town Center Realty and Renovations
Buying or selling a house?
Call Mike McAndrew 240-432-8233
or George Cantwell at 301-490-3763
or Rich Cantwell at 410-790-5099
or Mike Cantwell at 240-350-5749
or Joe Comproni at 301-367-8270
7829 Belle Point Drive
Greenbelt, MD 20770
Member Multiple Listing Service
Low Commission Rate – No Added Fees!
GHI – 3 Bd. end, 2-story addition, \$270,000
GHI – 2 Bd. backs to woods, \$185,000
Greenbriar – 2 Bd. completely remodeled, \$215,000
Edmonston – Colonial, detached garage, \$350,000
Laurel – AA County, 3 level TH, end unit, deck, 5 min. to Ft. Meade and NASA, \$315,000

Membership ... a sense of belonging
CREDIT UNIONS **Together We're Better™**
Join your Community Credit Union and take advantage of all of our terrific products and services.
Greenbelt Federal Credit Union
112 Centerway;
301-474-5900
www.greenbeltfcu.com

Ring out the Old Year!
at **Willy K's**
in the Greenbelt Holiday Inn.
2007
New Year's Eve Special!

\$159.00 Couple
includes Dinner from a Special Menu
Champagne at Midnight
Room and Breakfast
(Double occupancy only)
Willy K's in the Greenbelt Holiday Inn
7200 Hanover Drive Greenbelt MD 20770
For Reservations call: 301-220-4441

Realty 1, Inc. Branch **Mary Kingsley Branch Manager** **115 Centerway 240-604-6605**
48-B Ridge Rd.

In the entryway, Art Deco-style glass blocks preserve privacy while letting the sunlight stream in.

This marvelous GHI townhome has a tiered garden that overlooks pristine woodlands.

The kitchen and bath have been extensively upgraded, enhancing the home's appeal.
Mary Kingsley, Realtor®
115 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770
240-604-6605
(voice mail 301-474-2602)
email: mary.kingsley@gmail.com
Mary Kingsley is a Realtor, a Graduate of Realtor Institute, Work Force Housing Certified, and a Maryland licensed loan originator.

CSPM Enrollment Period Is Now Open

The College Savings Plans of Maryland (CSPM), a state agency, announced that the 2007-2008 enrollment period for participation in the Maryland Prepaid College Trust (MPCT) is now open and will continue so through April 4, 2008.

The MPCT is one of the two Section 529 plans offered by the CSPM that give families a tax-advantaged way to save for college education. Both plans are backed by the security of a Maryland Legislative Guarantee.

The other vehicle for college savings is the Maryland College Investment Plan (MCIP), which is open for enrollment year-round and is managed and distributed by T. Rowe Price. The MCIP was recognized this year by major financial publications as one of the top five plans in the country.

Information about both of the College Savings Plans of Maryland is available online at www.collegesavingsmd.org where a video explaining the plans can be viewed or downloaded. Information is also available by calling their toll-free number 888-4MD-GRAD (463-4723).

Visit Planet Mars December 27 to 29

The Crosby Ramsey Memorial Observatory at the Maryland Science Center will be open Thursday to Saturday, December 27 to 29 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. (weather permitting) offering visitors a rare view of Mars at its closest and brightest. During the "Mars Opposition," the planet will be at its closest to Earth until 2016 – 56 million miles from Earth.

Visitors will see the mountains, valleys and rifts on the Martian surface through the observatory's computer-driven Alvan Clark and Sons Refractor Telescope. The Mars viewing is free.

The Maryland Science Center is located at 601 Light Street at Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For information and tickets visit www.marylandsciencecenter.org or call the 24-hour information line at 410-685-5225.

Arboretum Offers Winter Exhibit

The U.S. National Arboretum presents a winter landscapes exhibit from January 5 through February 3 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Viewing stones from the permanent collection will be exhibited with the traditional "Friends of Winter" – pine, bamboo and Prunus species such as flowering cherry, apricot and plum. This event is free. No registration is required. Visit www.usna.usda.gov/Education or call 202-245-4523 for information.

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All of us at Pleasant Touch wish you and your family a beautiful, joyous holiday season and a safe and happy new year!

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Release toxins and deeply relax with a **Detoxifying Body Wrap**. Your whole body is wrapped in a seaweed detoxifier and then as you relax under a steam canopy, the wrap stimulates an increase in the lymphatic flow of the body.
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Or choose a **Niacin Body Wrap** to focus on cellulite reduction and overall inch loss. Your body is exfoliated with a papaya enzyme, then we apply a niacin body cream, which carries toxins away and reduces the appearance of cellulite.
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Free Massage Oil or Lotion with Massage

We hear from so many of our customers that they just love the massage oil or lotion used during their Pleasant Touch massage. So come in for a 30-minute or longer massage, and take home a free bottle of massage oil or lotion!

These offers may not be combined with any other offers, and must be booked by January 31, 2008.



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Yoga Free-for-All January 7-13!

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Happy New Year! Visit us during our week-long open house, and try out some classes with Greenbelt Om's 12+ yoga teachers. Did you know that SIX of our instructors are Greenbelters? When you support Greenbelt Om, you are supporting your neighborhood yoga teacher!

Monday

12:00-1:00 pm – Mixed Lvl Lunchtime (Laura)(b,c)
6:15-7:30 pm – Mixed Level Kripalu (Laura) (b,c)
7:45-9:00 pm – Yoga Basics (Debbie)(b)

Tuesday

10:15-11:45 am – Super Gentle Yoga (Debbie)
12:00-1:00 pm – Mixed Level Lunch (Debbie)(b,c)
6:00-7:15 pm – Kripalu Level II (Carol I.) (i)
7:30-8:30 pm – Kripalu Level I (Carol I.) (b,c)

Wednesday

12:00-1:00 pm – Meditative Lunch (Avalaura) (b,c)
6:15-7:30 pm – Vishwayatan Yoga (Manju)(b,c)

Thursday

10:15-11:45 am – Intermediate Hatha (Adi)(i)
12:00-1:00 pm – Mixed Level Lunchtime (Adi)(b,c)
7:45-9:00 pm – Ashtanga Yoga (Brecken)(i,a)

Friday

10:15-11:45 am – Yoga Basics Series (Melissa)(b)
12:00-1:00 pm – Mixed Level Lunch (Melissa)(b,c)
6:15-7:30 pm – Kripalu Level I (Joel/Carla) (b,c)
(sign interpreted class)
7:45-9:00 pm – Kripalu Level II (Joel/Carla)(i,a)

Saturday

9:00-10:00 am – Pilates Level I (Emily) (b,c)
10:15-11:30 am – Integral Hatha Level I (Karl)(b,c)
11:45-1:00 pm – Mixed Level Kripalu (Laura)(b,c)
1:15-2:30 pm – Capoeira (Joel) (i,a)
3:45-5:00 pm – Prenatal Yoga (Carrie)

Sunday

10:15-11:30 – T'ai Chi Level I (Penny)(b,c)
11:45-12:30 pm – Hatha Level I (Carol M.)(b,c)
5:00-6:00 pm – Community Kirtan
6:00-7:00 pm – Community Sitting Meditation

(b)=beginning; (c)=continuing
(i)=intermediate; (a)=advanced

For class descriptions, teacher bios and more information, visit us at

www.greenbeltom.com

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Riversdale Exhibit Highlights Servants

It is nearly dinnertime at Riversdale. There is a flurry of activity as the mistress of the house chooses her clothing in anticipation of the arrival of her guests. Servants are busy cooking and preparing the meal and readying the home for the festivities.

Riversdale House Museum presents a new exhibit, "Out of the Shadows: Servants in the Spotlight," focusing on the lives of Riversdale's servants, both enslaved and free, who served Rosalie Stier Calvert and her husband George. Throughout the house vignettes literally spotlighting the activities and duties of the servants will be juxtaposed against those of the Calverts and their guests.

The exhibit may be viewed during the museum's regular open hours on Fridays and Sundays, noon to 3:30 p.m. through March 16. Special tours for groups of 10 or more may be arranged by appointment. There is a charge. The Riversdale House Museum, a National Historic Landmark, is located at 4811 Riverdale Road in Riverdale Park.

For more information call 301-864-0420, TTY 301-699-2544 or visit the website: www.pgparcs.com.

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Corner Lot
 2 Br. townhome on corner lot adjacent to protected woodlands. Fresh paint and more. Ample yard space with shed. Ready 4 U! \$186,500.

Great Value
 This 2 br towhome has fresh paint, refinished floors, new sink, counter-top and stove. Fenced backyard - backs to playground. \$174,900

One Bedroom GHI - Better Than New
 Completely remodeled GHI home with fresh paint, new carpet, new stove & refrigerator, updated bath, landscaped yard & more. \$108,500 U.C.

Townhome With Garage
 Large 2 bedroom block townhome & garage with electric and heat. Fenced backyard opens onto large open space & playground. Nice!

Woodland Hills
 Brick rambler with 5 bedrooms. Hardwood floors, 2 full baths and eat-in kitchen. Storage shed with electric power. Backs to Parkland. \$414,900

Hillmeade Station
 Stone fireplace, large deck, completely remodeled kitchen with modern appliances, garage and more! 3 bedrooms & 2 full baths. \$369,900

One Bedroom - Cheaper Than Rent
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Remodeled Townhome
 Stainless steel appliances, custom cabinets & matching hutch, landscaped front & back yards & more in this 2 br. townhome. \$178,000

Westchester Park
 Updated kitchen w/flat top stove, built-in microwave, ceramic floor tile and modern cabinets; - modern bathroom, too. Roomy shed. \$180,000

Charlestown Village
 Single-Level living in Greenbelt proper! New stove, refrigerator, kitchen floor and carpeting. Patio, thermal windows and more! \$184,000 U.C.

Snowden Oaks
 Rambler in Laurel with large family room addition. Den can be used as a 4th bedroom. \$0 down, \$0 closing for qualified buyers. \$329,900

Charlestown Village
 Bright two level townhome in sought-after Old Greenbelt! Dual-level dishwasher, Corian countertops, private balcony, & more! \$236,000

Greenbriar
 This is the best-priced condo on the market! Lots of improvements - extra den, priced thousands below the competition! Value! \$174,900

Brick Townhome
 2 br townhome with remodeled bath and tile flooring. Hardwood floors, spacious cabinets & lazy susan, stacking w/d, chair molding. \$205,000

2 Bedroom Townhome
 GHI townhome with laundry room addition. Remodeled kitchen and bathroom. Adjacent to protected woodlands. Nice! \$185,000 U.C.
Shady Grove Village
 Shows like a model home! 3 levels, 3 br, 2 full & 2 half baths. \$389,000

Your Greenbelt Specialists

Greenbelter Teaches Art in Venezuela

by Robert Snyder

Having participated with a social justice and solidarity delegation to Venezuela in 2006 I wanted to return again to assist or make a contribution to Venezuela's Bolivarian Revolution and improve my Spanish, too. So I contacted some friends there and they set up for me a part-time volunteer position in Merida at one of their community/cultural centers teaching art classes to poor children over the summer.

The class was one large group of about 22 children ranging in age from 6 to 15 years. Venezuela's schools are closed during the summer months of July and August and the community centers offer many classes and activities for children and teens as do ours here. While I was teaching art (painting and drawing) there were music classes, martial arts, gymnastics and other art classes being taught by Venezuelan staffers.

At first it seemed several other staff members were not too receptive to me but after a few weeks they embraced me and made me feel welcomed as just one of the bunch, particularly when they realized that I was a "Chavista" and wanted to do what I do here (teach art) and to help make a contribution no matter how small to their cause.

I was invited to attend a few PSUV (United Socialist Party of Venezuela) meetings in Merida with my host family. Like a church service a few guests were introduced and applauded. I was also introduced as the gringo art teacher from the U.S. I had worn my red and green Che Guevara T-shirt so I think I received extra applause.

I wanted them to know that not all U.S. citizens believe what

the Bush/Rice/Cheney administration and FOX TV and CNN say about Venezuela and Chavez. President Chavez has implemented many new programs to improve the lives of Venezuela's poor and working class through using their oil sales proceeds to pay for health care and new clinics, schools and free college education programs and job training for the poor.

Bartering

I watched the TV news one evening in late July with my Chavista host family. The Argentinian president and his delegation were in Caracas at a signing event with Chavez. Argentina was to give Venezuela 2,000 head of dairy cattle in exchange for Venezuelan crude oil. There is a shortage of milk and cheese in Venezuela and Argentina needs additional energy assistance. This is solely bartering and there have been many such contracts between Venezuela and other Latin American countries recently.

Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina and other socialist and leftist governments of Latin America aren't "playing by the rules" anymore. They are dismissing US neo-liberal economic policies of the 1980s and 90s of borrowing from the

World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, getting in debt and then finding out that the poor were getting poorer.

Latin America is improving economic integration and solidarity and becoming less dependent on Europe and the U.S. while the lives of the poor and marginalized improve.

I witnessed this when I visited other small towns and cities in Venezuela. Many new public works projects are being built. Merida, Maracaibo and Barquisimeto are building new mass transit systems. Caracas is expanding its subway system with new metro stations. City parks are being renovated and new housing and sports and cultural centers are under construction.

In late June we were able to attend one of the Copa America soccer games hosted by Venezuela. Merida was one of eight



Robert Snyder and children from one of his art classes in Merida, Venezuela.

cities involved. We attended the Peru-Uruguay game. Peru won 3 to 0. It was next to impossible to get tickets for host country Venezuela games.

As the end of my eight weeks in Merida was approaching I had noticed my second grade level Spanish begin to improve as I had become used to speaking in Spanish with

my host families and friends and with merchants in their shops. It was also my first experience teaching children in Spanish. I was impressed with how receptive the students were to my less-than-smooth command of the language.

Colombians

Another issue I learned about while serving in Merida was that there are many (some say about 1/4 of the population) Colombians living and working in this western part of Venezuela. Over the past 20 years many have fled the civil conflicts in that neighboring country where the population was forced off the land – displaced internally by the paramilitary and Columbian army's actions and the wealthy white monoculture growers of cotton and the African palm. Most of these people are indigenous Indians or Afro-Colombians. Over the past seven

years the Chavez government had welcomed them to Venezuela saying that they would find refuge and assistance in Venezuela.

Lately there has been some friction between these Colombian immigrants and the local Venezuelan population. Some Venezuelans feel that they can not get jobs when the Colombians have taken many of them. Also there is some concern that Colombians are draining away services (free health care and education) which they can't get in Colombia. There are some similarities here with policies toward immigrants from Mexico and Central America that flee to the U.S.

Chavez and his supporters in their parliament have passed legislation addressing this immigration problem by giving these Colombian nationals living in Venezuela until this January to apply for and become citizens of Venezuela. They would then be expected to pay taxes, vote and participate in Venezuelan civil society. If they do not they are to be sent back to Colombia. The word on the street in Merida was that most were complying with this. In fact the host family I stayed with most of the eight weeks were Colombians who had moved to Venezuela to escape poverty in Columbia. They also wanted to have their children benefit from the much superior Venezuelan public schools.

Another highlight was being in the beautiful mountain city of Timotes (pop. 24,000) the weekend of July 22 through 24 while Simon Bolivar's birthday was being celebrated all over South America in city parks and town squares with fireworks, rifle salutes, poetry readings, songs and dancing.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

from our family to yours!
Greenbelt News Review

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