

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 72, No. 52

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

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

Greenbelt Hosts Four Cities Meeting to Close Out 2009

by Thomas X. White

Sitting around a large hollow-square table in the Greenbelt City Council chambers on Thursday evening, October 29, all five members of the previous Greenbelt City Council played host to colleagues from New Carrollton, Berwyn Heights and College Park for the quarterly Four Cities meeting. This was the final meeting for 2009.

Visiting councilmembers included Mayor Steve Brayman of College Park, attending his last Four Cities meeting before retiring later this year; College Park Councilmembers Bob Catlin, Jack Perry and Patrick Wojhan; Mayor Cheye Calvo and Councilmembers Patricia Dennison, Darald Lofgren, Richard Ahrens and James Wilkinson of Berwyn Heights; and New Carrollton Councilmembers James Wildoner, Duane Rosenberg and Richard Bechtold.

The 17 elected officials were joined by their respective city managers – Michael McLaughlin of Greenbelt and Joe Nagro of College Park – and Assistant City Manager David Moran of Greenbelt and Assistant Administrative Officer Graham Waters of New Carrollton. The audience was sparse: just one Greenbelt citizen and Chris Hatcher, of the law firm of Rifkin, Livingston,

Leviton & Silver, representing Craftstar Homes, the local builder of town homes proposed for the Greenbelt Metroland South Core development.

During introductions, some curiosity was expressed as to why Hatcher was in attendance but then attendees noted that Greenbelt had added the Greenbelt Station South Core Detailed Site Plan (DSP) revision to the agenda.

For more than two decades the Four Cities group has met quarterly, rotating the meeting venue to each of the cities in turn and including on its agenda only those topics suggested by the individual towns.

(These meetings have evolved over the years into a valuable sounding board for the respective cities to share ideas and benchmark best practices for municipal operations and policies). They have also engendered a level of trust and experience in dealing with shared municipal issues that might not have developed.

One example the group is proud of is the sharing of costs and operation of a street sweeper that each city can use for periodic street and gutter cleaning. It was noted that they are using their second street sweeper. Brayman had added this topic to the

agenda only because this was his last meeting. He had done it for old-times sake.

With the current economic downturn, the Four Cities may have to consider other cost-sharing options to increase efficiency and save dwindling revenues.

Climate Plan

Another College Park-added agenda item was a report by Catlin on the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) Regional Climate Action Work Plan. Catlin noted that College Park and Greenbelt, as members of COG, are able to follow the activities of this new committee which is beginning to develop guidelines for local governments in several environmental areas. He urged non-COG members to review and utilize the COG committee's information, its work plan and its recommended best practices in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Greenbelt officials used the opportunity to describe the GHG calculator developed by the city's summer intern that enables a city to track and account for its emissions.

Greenbelt Mayor Judith Davis indicated that the calculator would be a help in establishing base-line emissions necessary to measure progress in meeting any COG or State of Maryland percentage reduction targets for GHG.

One topic receiving a lot of discussion was the trend toward an eventual transition to Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology for street lights – not an inconsiderable expense for cities. All four cities indicated they were in some stage of discussion with the PEPCO electric utility about such

See **MEETING**, page 8

Apgar, Zielinski Awarded Police Officers of 2009

by Jon Aerts

Looking prim, proper and polished – like a ballroom-bound Marine – PFC Michael Apgar accepted the Greenbelt Police Department's 2009 Officer of the Year Award Friday, November 6 with words befitting a soldier. "Anyone who does this job," he said from within the Greenbelt

American Legion – "knows we don't do it by ourselves."

That's not entirely true. In June, Apgar wrestled a 6'4" 200-pound criminal into submission after learning the man had just robbed another along the 7800 block of Hanover Parkway. Or how about this? In September, Apgar snared a serial-burglar near the 7700 block of Ora Court in Greenbelt East – on foot.

Officer Adam Zielinski of the U.S. Park Police was also presented with an Officer of the Year Award during the Legion-sponsored event for his "tenacious" patrol of the Parkway. "There's a never-ending supply of drunk-drivers out there," he told the audience of 80. In addition to making 163 arrests – and counting – for 2009, Zielinski also saved the life of a car-crash victim earlier this year.

Comments

Veterans and other notables in attendance, including freshly-elected Greenbelt councilmembers were present during the event. "It's a pleasure to be here in recognition of their

See **AWARDS**, page 10



PFC Michael Apgar shares the spotlight with Chief James Craze, after being singled out as the Greenbelt Police Officer of 2009.

American Education Week November 15 to 21, 2009

In a celebration of American education, these columns will be telling the stories of selected teachers from the schools that serve the Greenbelt community.

This week readers will get a glimpse inside Eleanor Roosevelt High School, with interviews written by students in the high school, and Springhill Lake Elementary School.

Last week's issue featured teachers from Magnolia Elementary. In the coming weeks we will focus on Greenbelt Middle, St. Hugh's and Greenbelt Elementary Schools and Turning Point Academy.

Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Ericka Brett Gives Back

by Dorinne Mettle-Amuah, 12th Grade

Greenbelt resident and child development teacher Ericka Brett walks the halls of the high school where she was once a student but this time assuming a different role – as a teacher.

"I like the idea of giving back," says Brett. "I like the idea of being able to give back to the community that gave me so much."

Brett recalls when she was a student at Eleanor Roosevelt High. Some of the teachers that she remembers but now teaches alongside are math teachers Lana Krawczel and Gerald Greenbaum and art teachers Isaac Creek and Andrea Henderson.

After leaving high school, Brett furthered her education at Prince George's Community College,



Ericka Brett

receiving two degrees: one in general studies, the other in secondary education. Following that, she attended the University of Maryland in College Park where she received a degree in family studies.

"After doing everything, I was at the point where I needed a job," she said.

Brett, who was originally supposed to be a hospitality teacher, heard of the opening at Eleanor Roosevelt High School for a child development teacher and applied for the position. Thus she started her teaching journey at ERHS. This year marks her fifth year as a teacher, with September 2005 denoting the start of her return to ERHS.

Brett actively teaches Child See **BRETT**, page 6

Music Is Central to Life For ERHS's Dembowski

by Dejen Mengis, 11th Grade

For Paul Dembowski teaching the students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School about the world of music is a job which gives him great pleasure.

"When you pick [music], it's who you are," says Dembowski. "It's a part of your life and it's something you enjoy. Music is something [that] leads you to whatever you do in life."

Dembowski grew up in Anne Arundel County and attended Brooklyn Park High School, where he excelled in basketball, lacrosse and music. Following high school he attended Longwood University in Farmville, Va., where he received his undergraduate degree in music education.

After a nine-year pause in which he taught at two differ-



Paul Dembowski

ent Virginia high schools, Dembowski enrolled at James Madison University and received his master's degree in conducting. "Music was all I did in grad school," said Dembowski. "Music is such a different type of major in that it's so involved in your life."

"The most enjoyable thing about teaching is working with individuals and watching them progress over the years," says Dembowski. "It's that working with students over several years and seeing their growth."

Virginia Schools

Dembowski came to ERHS after teaching in Virginia at Riverheads High School and Spotswood High School, where

See **DEMBOWSKI**, page 6

Letters

Fair Is Fair

Why in the world was the name of Emmett Jordan placed ahead of the name of Mayor Judith Davis in the headline on the front page of the November 5 News Review's main article about the election? Didn't Mayor Davis receive more votes than any other candidate?

Fair is fair. Good rules of news reporting should have been followed.

Joanne Kellaheer

Editors Note: Headlines are not written in descending order as are charts but to attract attention to the most newsworthy aspect of the story. The unexpected news was the election to mayor pro tem of a new candidate to city council.

City Police Announce Seatbelt Campaign

The Greenbelt Police Department wants everyone to know that starting this week they will be paying special attention to unbuckled motorists and impaired drivers. The "Click it or Ticket" and "Checkpoint Strikeforce" campaigns run through the end of the year with special emphasis on peak holiday travel times. During these times extra officers will be out conducting special enforcement details including sobriety checkpoints.

Nationally during the Thanksgiving holiday period in 2008 (which ran from 6 p.m. Wednesday, November 26 to 5:59 a.m. Monday, December 1), 389 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle traffic crashes, including 156 during daylight hours and 231 at night (two fatalities unknown). Nighttime is most dangerous because seat belt use is lower.

Of those 2008 deaths over two-thirds did not have seat belts fastened; compared to 40 percent during daytime hours.

More information about highway safety at Thanksgiving is available at www.trafficsafety-marketing.gov.

Hello to Greenbelt Lake Village

Beginning with this issue, the Greenbelt News Review will appear in the entryways of the condominium buildings at Greenbelt Lake Village. We welcome our newest readers.

OLD GREENBELT THEATRE WEEK OF NOV. 20

The Blind Side (PG-13)

Friday

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

Saturday

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

Sunday

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

Monday - Thursday

*4:45, 7:30

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

Deadline for Thanksgiving Issue

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, next week the News Review will move all deadlines back by one day in order to submit the issue to the printer on Wednesday, November 25 instead of Thursday. Naturally the printer is closed then so its employees are able to celebrate the holiday.

All copy – ads, articles, photos, letters – must reach us by no later than Monday, November 23 to be included in the November 25 issue. All material received after Monday evening will need to be held for the issue of December 3.

Thanks for your help in assuring we receive news in time to print it Thanksgiving week.

The News Review wishes everyone a great Thanksgiving!

GHI Holds Winter Warmth Workshop on November 21

by Jim Cohen

Are you a GHI member who, in January, puts on several layers of clothing before going to bed? If so (and even if not) you'll be interested in attending a GHI workshop on easy, low-cost ways to be warmer this winter. The workshop will be held in the multipurpose room at the Greenbelt Community Center on Saturday, November 21 from 4 to 6 p.m.

The workshop will feature hands-on demonstrations on how GHI members can get the most out of their electric baseboard heaters, insulate their attic hatches, prevent cold air from coming into their houses and caulk a window. Workshop participants will also get a list of online, how-to videos on these low-cost techniques and learn where they can get help in doing insulation and sealing.

Three door prizes will be awarded, each a \$25 gift certificate to Home Depot. A \$25 gift cer-

tificate to the New Deal Café will also be awarded to the maker of a displayed handcrafted item brought to the workshop that keeps the maker warmer in winter.

The workshop is sponsored by the GHI Buildings Committee, which is developing a set of recommendations to the GHI Board on home heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades. The committee is exploring alternatives for replacing GHI electric baseboard heaters which are nearing the end of their life cycles and for improving unit "envelopes" through enhanced insulation and sealing. The workshop will begin with a brief status report on the committee's progress followed by the hands-on demonstrations.

For more information on the workshop call Sheri Swaim at 301-474-4161, ext. 148.

Jim Cohen is chair of the GHI Buildings Committee.

Belair Mansion Hosts Taste of the Past

Tired of turkey? Craving something sweet? Discover syllabub, seed cake and snickerdoodles. Visit the Belair Mansion on Saturday, November 28 from noon to 4 p.m. for a "Taste of the Past." Visitors can sample heritage holiday sweets from colonial times to the 1950s.

Admission is free and no reservations are required. Belair Mansion is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive in Bowie.

For more information call 301-809-3089 or email mu-seumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Aviation Museum Offers Workshop

The College Park Aviation Museum will hold its monthly Wilbur's Workshop on Tuesday, November 24 at 3 p.m. Get a taste of the work that went into making early aircraft with a rib-making demonstration in Wilbur's Hangar. Come watch as a 1908 Wright wing rib is constructed and one lucky person will win the rib to take home. The workshop is free with museum admission.



Greenbelt Homes, Inc. Fall Gutter Cleaning

(All Buildings)



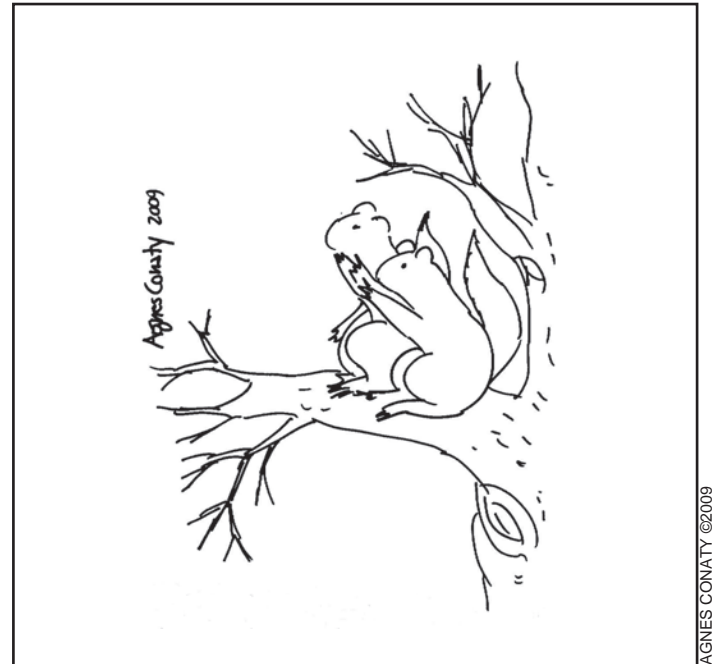
ATTENTION GHI MEMBERS

Uncle Skeeter's Roofs & Gutters is scheduled to clean and inspect your gutters starting November 30, 2009 weather permitting.

At that time, workers may appear at your building, at doors and windows. Please close your shades to preserve privacy.

Please contact Peter Joseph at 301-474-4161 ext.141 if you have any questions or comments.

Grin Belt



"I'm not looking at some pine cones but at swift Leonid meteor showers!"

On Screen

"The Blind Side" Touches Down

Opening at Old Greenbelt Theatre this Friday is "The Blind Side," the story of a homeless 16-year-old who was drafted this year by the Baltimore Ravens of the National Football League. Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron), the African-American son of a murdered father and crack-addicted mother, was adopted by the well-to-do white Touhy family (parents: Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw, who come to insights of their own) and subjected to a determined tutor (Kathy Bates). The film is based on the bestseller by Michael Lewis, "The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game." Running time is 130 minutes. Rated PG-13 for one scene involving brief violence, drug and sexual activity.

— Eli Flam

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887
301-474-4131 • FAX 301-474-5880
email: newsreview@greenbelt.com
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977
Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985
President Emeritus, 1985-

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662
Assistant Editor: Barbara Likowski 301-474-8483
News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805
Assistant to the Editor: Eileen Farnham 301-513-0482

STAFF

Jon Aerts, Jackie Bealle, Virginia Beauchamp, Judy Bell, Rebecca Boggs, Judi Bordeaux, Jessi Britton, Sharon Carroll, Mary Willis Clarke, Paula Clinedinst, Agnes Conaty, Bill Cornett, Cynthia Cummings, Peter Curtis, Patricia Davis, Fredda Dingle, Carol Drees, Elizabeth Eny, Joan Falcão, Chris Farago, Eli Flam, Kathleen Gallagher, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, Denise George, Bernina McGee Giese, James Giese, Marjorie Gray, Carol Griffith, Pat Hand, Stacy Hardy, Shirly Hayes, Solange Hess, Karl Hille, Rebecca Holober, Barbara Hopkins, Larry Hull, Elizabeth Jay, Ginny Jones, Sharon Kenworthy, Suzanne Krofchik, Meta Lagerwerff, Sandra Lange, Jane Larrick, Tami Le, Susan Lesser, Kathleen McFarland, Emma Mendoza, Mary Moien, Marat Moore, Diane Oberg, Linda Paul, Leonie Penney, Altoria Bell Ross, Ann-Marie Saucier, Jon Sham, Brian St. George, Angela Stark, Helen Sydavar, Nancy Tolzman, Heba Toulan, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Thomas X. White, Marie Wong, Bay Woods, Renata York and Dea Zugby.

CIRCULATION Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eileen Farnham, president; Thomas X. White, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Carol Griffith, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg; and Mary Willis Clarke

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.

Community Events

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals need to be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for November 23-27 include:

Monday – Cranberry juice, roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, Brussels sprouts, peach supreme.

Tuesday – Minestrone soup, baked tilapia with lemon butter, home-fried potatoes, mixed squash, lemon sherbet.

Wednesday – Grape juice, macaroni and beef casserole, California mixed vegetables, garden salad with dressing, baked apple.

Thursday and Friday – All sites closed for Thanksgiving.

At the Library

Storytimes

A librarian will read age-appropriate stories.

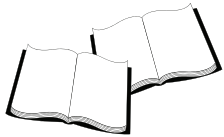
Tuesday, November 24, 1:30 and 2 p.m., Cuddletime for newborns to 17 months old with caregiver, limit 15 babies for each group.

Wednesday, November 25, 10:30 and 11 a.m., Toddlertime for ages 18 to 35 months, with caregiver, limit 15 children for each group.

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

Thanksgiving Hours

All county libraries will be closed for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 25 at 5 p.m. and on Thursday, November 26. Online library resources will be available as usual.



GHI Notes

Thursday, November 19, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting – Board Room

Saturday, November 21, 4 to 6 p.m., Winterization Seminar – Community Center Multi-purpose Room

Wednesday, November 25, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee – Board Room

7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee – GHI Lobby

November 26, Offices closed for Thanksgiving Day. (Emergency maintenance available- call 301-474-6011).

November 27, Offices closed. (Emergency maintenance available; call 301-474-6011).

Committee and board meetings are open to all members.

Dec. 4 Is Empirian Village Blood Drive

On Friday, December 4 there will be a blood drive from 2 to 8 p.m. at Empirian Village Apartments in the Village Center (Giant Learning Center) Conference Room #1 at 9220 Springhill Lane.



Schedule an appointment by calling the Empirian Village Community Office at 301-474-1602.

State Programs Are Forum Topic Here

On Wednesday, December 2 from 6 to 8 p.m., Lt. Governor Anthony Brown's office will hold a community "Listen and Learn" session at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in the library. The public meeting is a chance to discuss issues facing the community and to learn about state programs and initiatives. In addition to Brown there will be representatives from the state Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Transportation, Governor's Office of Minority Affairs and Governor's Office of Crime Prevention.

Local Authors Speak At Mishkan Torah

As area Jews get ready to celebrate Chanukah, the festival of light, Greenbelt's Mishkan Torah synagogue will host a panel discussion by area authors about how spirituality transforms darkness. The discussion begins at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, November 22 at Mishkan Torah, located at 10 Ridge Road.

Panel participants include moderator Nicole Burton, author of *Swimming Up the Sun: A Memoir of Adoption*; Solveig Eggerz, who wrote the novel *Seal Woman*; Deborah da Costa, author of children's book *Hanukkah Moon, Snow in Jerusalem*; and Frank Joseph, who wrote the work of young adult fiction, *To Love Mercy*. Two nonfiction authors will also speak during the discussion. Daniel Strickman wrote *Prevention of Bug Bites, Stings, and* psychologist Lori Dietzel, Ph.D. is co-author of *Late, Lost and Unprepared: A Parents' Guide to Helping Children with Executive Functioning*.

Rec. Center Holds Talent Show Nov. 21

Everyone six years old or older is invited to participate in the first annual Springhill Lake Talent Show on Saturday, November 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Springhill Lake Recreation Center gym. This event is free but pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register call 301-357-2212.

Golden Age Club

by Bunny Fitzgerald

The first meeting of every month is the business meeting for the Golden Age Club. Reports are read and discussions of club matters follow.

We were glad to have our president, Cathie Brannan, back as she has been under the weather for a bit.

The members voted to cancel the November 25th meeting as we all will be busy cooking or traveling for Thanksgiving.

We were saddened by the death of Ernie Varda. He was a longtime active member of the club. He had difficulty walking in later years but he never gave up. We send condolences to his family.

The nominating committee is working on a slate of officers for 2010. Please say "yes" if they call you. Working together keeps our club active and interesting.

The speaker for December 9 will be a certified trainer who likes to work with seniors. After all our Thanksgiving goodies we may need some exercise.

We have much to be thankful for here in the City of Greenbelt. Lots of friends, many activities, a newly elected city council and lots of beautiful trees.

Happy Turkey Day to all.

Help from GAIL On Medicare Part D

From November 16 through December 31 is the annual Medicare open enrollment period for the Part D Prescription Drug Program. Open season is when seniors can enroll or change prescription drug plans. It is also the time when prescription plan companies announce prices for premiums and co-pays for the new fiscal year beginning January 2010.

It is important for those who are covered and/or eligible to review available plans. People should review their plan options annually to determine if their prescriptions will be included in their provider's formulary.

GAIL program staff is willing to assist Greenbelt residents or their caregivers in making informed choices about Medicare Part D enrollment or plan changes. Those interested in this help are asked to call the GAIL program office at 301-345-6660, ext. 2012 to schedule an appointment with the GAIL team.

Santa Is at Beltway Plaza this Saturday

On Saturday, November 21 at 2 p.m. Santa will arrive at Beltway Plaza to join in Beltway Plaza and Greenbelt Lions Club's 18th annual holiday extravaganza and toy drive.

There will be a chance to have photos with Santa, a snowman, gingerbread man, face painter, balloon twister and magic shows.

Participants are asked to bring a toy for a needy family in the community and drop it in the big green and red box at Center Court.

Televised Roundtable For Parents of Infants

Parents of infants and toddlers are invited to participate in a roundtable discussion on Tuesday, December 1 at 11 a.m. in the Gallery Room of the Greenbelt Community Center.

The discussion will be of early childhood nutrition (breastfeeding, best formulas, infant and toddler feeding supplies; easy and healthy meals/recipes; etc.), basically anything related to eating and drinking for that age range.

Input is appreciated in person or by email with insights and/or favorite recipes. Emails can be sent to dansquaredfitness@yahoo.com.

CARES

Director Liz Park attended a briefing by the Governor's Office for Children (GOC) where an update was given on previous results and indicators studied by the committee, such as the number of juvenile arrests for violent and non-violent crimes. According to the Department of Juvenile Services, such crimes have remained steady for the past fiscal year. One new initiative reported by DJS is designed to detain children within their communities using electronic monitoring or evening reporting centers.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday 10 – 4 p.m.

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!

Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

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



Beltway Plaza Mall

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA AND TOY DRIVE

Beltway Plaza Mall and the Greenbelt Lions Club present the 18th Annual Holiday Extravaganza & Toy Drive

Saturday, November 21 at 2 p.m.

Activities: Balloon Twister, Magic Shows, Face painter, Gingerbread Man, Snowman & photos with Santa

Don't forget to bring a toy for a needy family in our community. Drop it in the big green and red box at Center Court.

Santa & More!



Target, Burlington Coat Factory, Giant Food, Gallo Clothing, Marshall's, AMC Stadium Theatres, Planet Fun, Gold's Gym, Jo-Ann Fabrics, CVS

6000 Greenbelt Rd., Greenbelt, MD 20770 301.345.1500
www.beltwayplazamall.com

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Synagogue

This year's interfaith Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Mishkan Torah Synagogue at Westway and Ridge Roads. All are invited to attend.

Astronomical Star Parties this Weekend

On Saturday, November 21 the Astronomical Society will hold a star party at Northway Field. Members of the society will begin to set up to view the moon and other celestial objects at approximately 6 p.m. On Sunday, November 22 the Society will hold a sidewalk astronomy party at Roosevelt Center near the New Deal Café at 7 p.m.

In the event of rain or cloudy skies the event will be cancelled without notice. For more information visit www.greenbeltastro.org/events/shtml.

Academy Stadium Theatres

Beltway Plaza Mall
Center Court
301-220-1155

ALL SHOWS BEFORE 5 p.m.

Adults/Seniors: \$6.50

Children: \$6.00

ALL SHOWS BEFORE NOON

ON SATURDAY \$5.00

ALL SHOWS AFTER 5 p.m.

Adults: \$8.50

Students/Military: \$7.50

Children: \$6.00

Seniors: \$6.50

R = ID Required

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

Week of NOV. 20

FRI. - SAT.

2012, PG-13 (!)

11:15, 11:40, 2:45, 3:10, 6:10,

6:35, 9:30, 10:05

A Christmas Carol, PG

11:15, 1:45, 4

Twilight Saga: New Moon,

PG-13 (!!)

11:45, 3, 6:15, 9:15

Precious, R (!)

11:45, 12:15, 2:15, 3, 5:05, 6:15,

7:40, 9:15, 10:20

Planet 51, PG (!!)

11:15, 1:35, 4, 6:30, 8:50

Michael Jackson's "This Is It",

PG

11:45, 2:15, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20

SUN.

2012, PG-13 (!)

11:40, 12:15, 3:10, 3:40, 6:35, 7

A Christmas Carol, PG

11:15, 1:45, 4

Twilight Saga: New Moon,

PG-13 (!!)

11:45, 3, 6:15

Precious, R (!)

11:45, 12:15, 2:15, 3, 5:05, 6:15,

7:40

Planet 51, PG (!!)

11:15, 1:35, 4, 6:30

Michael Jackson's "This Is It",

PG

11:45, 2:15, 5:05, 7:40

MON. - TUES.

2012, PG-13 (!)

12:05, 12:30, 3:20, 4, 6:40, 7:15

A Christmas Carol, PG

12:35, 3, 5:35

Twilight Saga: New Moon,

PG-13

12:45, 3:45, 7:30

Precious, R (!)

12:05, 12:45, 2:40, 3:45, 5:10,

6:45, 7:50

Planet 51, PG

12:20, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50

Michael Jackson's "This Is It",

PG

12:05, 2:40, 5:10, 7:50

Greenbelt Nursery School

Kindergarten Info Night

Monday, Dec. 7 @ 7-9 pm

Room 202 in the Greenbelt Community Center

Panel of area kindergarten representatives

Free and open to the public

For info, call GNS at 301 474 5570

SHL Elementary Students Hold Walk-a-thon

by Katie Crowe

Springhill Lake Elementary School students and several Greenbelt residents gathered on Tuesday, November 3 to participate in the annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk-a-thon.

Sponsored by the Patuxent Area Council of Camp Fire USA, the walk raised money for United Communities Against Poverty (UCAP), a nonprofit organization based in Prince George's County.

Over 50 Springhill Lake students, ages 5 through 12, walked down Springhill Drive from the school to the intersection of Springhill Drive and Cherrywood Lane and back late Tuesday afternoon. Several members of the community joined the students, along with parents, teachers and Camp Fire USA CEO Rosemary Pezzuto.

Gwendolyn Ferguson, deputy director for UCAP, also took part in the walk and took time beforehand, along with Pezzuto, to thank the children for their participation and to tell them about the importance of involvement in community service.

"It's really good for them to gain that sense of civic responsibility and civic engagement," Pezzuto said.

According to Ferguson, the funds obtained from each child's registration are collected and distributed to organizations that aid the homeless.

UCAP hosts Shepherd's Cove, the largest homeless shelter in Prince George's County for women and children. The money raised from the walk will help benefit those in shelters such as this one.

Walking Together

The students, all of whom are part of the Camp Fire USA after-school program, joined hands with one another and their neighbors to "walk together as a community and a family," Pezzuto said. The students were well aware of the service they were providing to their community and expressed enthusiasm before and after the walk.

"It's courteous to help," nine-year-old Aminah Muhammad said. "When you help the homeless, you help yourself because it makes you feel good inside."

Fourth grader Tyler Moncayo enjoyed the walk and said he would like to participate again in the future.

"When we walked, we made money for people that don't have homes like we do," Moncayo said. "It made me feel happy."

Other students said the walk was "fun" and they felt as if they were "taking a stand" to aid



Scores of Springhill Lake Elementary School students join the annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk-a-thon on November 3.

the homeless, which, according to Ferguson, is one of the main goals of the walk.

"Raising awareness is just as important as raising dollars," Ferguson said.

This year's Walk-a-thon is the 22nd annual of its kind. The National Help the Homeless Walk-a-thon will take place on the National Mall in D.C. on Saturday, November 21.

Several small, school-based walks like the one at Springhill

Lake have already taken place in the county. The walks include all school age children and have taken place at Rosa Parks Elementary School in Hyattsville and at Central High School in Capitol Heights. Tuesday's walk was the first to take place at Springhill Lake Elementary School.

For more information on the National Help the Homeless Walk-a-thon and to register, visit www.helpthehomelessdc.org.

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

November 22, 10 a.m.
 "Water Wealth, Water Justice" by Rev. Diane Teichert, with Don Henderson, worship associate
 Please bring non-perishable food for Thanksgiving baskets.

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

Sunday 8:15 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. 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.

Catholic Community of Greenbelt

SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM
 MUNICIPAL BUILDING

SERVE BREAKFAST AT S.O.M.E.
 Sunday, November 29
 Meet at St. Hugh's School
 Parking Lot, 6:00 AM

Scholarships for High School Students

A panel of representatives from several local and national scholarship offices will discuss resources for finding free money for college at the University of Maryland this Saturday, November 21 in Jimenez Hall, Room 0220. Juniors and

parents should attend the 11:40 a.m. session; seniors and parents should attend the 12:40 p.m. session.

Registration is not required. For more information, see www.precollege.umd.edu or call 301 405-0952.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
 Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
 Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service 10:00am
 Prayer Meeting Sun. 9:45 am

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 Community Church
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Hillside & Crescent Roads
 Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltucc.org
 Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
 Daniel Hamlin, Pastor

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

Of old it hath been revealed: 'Love of one's country is an element of the Faith of God.' The Tongue of Grandeur hath, however, in the day of His manifestation proclaimed: 'It is not his to boast who loveth his country, but it is his who loveth the world.' (Baha'u'llah)

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
 1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us

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"

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
 Pastor Nigel C. Black, MDiv.

99 Centerway Greenbelt Rec Center
 (Behind the Community Center)

BE A PART OF OUR WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION!
 301-474-4499



Condolences to the family and friends of longtime Greenbelter Margaret Kendall, who died November 12, 2009. She and her husband Charles were original residents of the Lakewood community.

Congratulations to:

– Outstanding police officers PFC Michael Apgar, Greenbelt Police, and Officer Adam Zielinski, U.S. Park Police, and outstanding firefighter Anthony Sluder, Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, who were recently recognized for their service by the American Legion.

– Sanette Jackson, a 2003 ERHS graduate and the daughter of Desiree Clayton, who recently received the annual Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Careers in Nursing accelerated program scholarship at Salisbury University. Sanette is a second-degree nursing student who obtained her first degree in human relations and biology from Trinity University.

– Lori Kellaher Nohe, who was appointed by West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin to be the warden of maximum security penitentiary Lakin Prison in West Columbia, W.Va. Lori is the daughter of Greenbelt pioneers Joanne Slaughter Kellaher and the late Eugene Kellaher.

To send information for "Our Neighbors" email us at newsreview@greenbelt.com or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

New Deal Café Upcoming Events

For Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C. Kraft, stop by the New Deal Café from noon to 2 p.m. on Thursday, November 19. Thursday evening brings a special monthly open microphone with the Songwriters Association of Washington from 7 to 9 p.m.

Every Friday and Saturday, 6:30 to 8 p.m., New Deal Café piano man John Guernsey taps out dreamy jazz and blues tunes, as he will on Friday, November 20. Then Cold Hard Cash brings in honky-tonk high energy notes with classic Johnny Cash hits from 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, November 21 from 1 to 2:45 p.m. Steve Pollack will play the guitar; then from 4 to 6 p.m. Bruce Krittr is featured on classical guitar (every Saturday), followed by a parade of belly dancers with the Starlight Shimmy Belly Dancers from 8 to 11 p.m.

Jim Stimson plays renaissance lutes during Sunday brunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on November 22 (first and fourth Sundays monthly).

Next Week

Greg Schatz will play New Orleans rock from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24.

Wednesday, November 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. is an Open Cajun Jam.

Next Weekend

After being closed Thanksgiving Day, the Café reopens Friday, November 27 to jazz great Buck Hill and "the smalltrio" who will play from 8 to 11 p.m. On Saturday, November 28 kick back with bluegrass by the Zekiah Swampcats from 8 to 11 p.m.

Mateo Monk's jam band has the floor from 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, November 29 with reggae and bluegrass tunes.

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

*** ARTS WORKSHOP: MAKE A WREATH ***
Saturday, December 5, 2 - 4 p.m.
at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park
Contact us by Dec. 1 to preregister. \$10.
Followed by a free Holiday Concert at 5 pm.
More info at www.cpae.org • *301-927-3013* • *info@cpae.org

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Cakes: Cheese cakes (variety of flavors), Canoli cake, Strawberry Short-cake, Pound, Carrot and others.
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Vegan and Sugar free desserts can be ordered!

\$5.00 off any order over \$25.00	Place orders in advance with Chef Lou at 301-441-9560	\$2.00 off pie order
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You must present coupon at time of purchase. One coupon per transaction

 **City Information**

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 23, 2009 - 8:00 p.m.
Municipal Building

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations

- Introduction of New Staff – Councilmember Turner's Office
- Introduction of New Greenbelt Police Officer
- Municipal Government Month – Proclamation
- End-of-School-Year Report – School Resource Officers

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

Minutes of Council Meetings
Administrative Reports
Committee Reports

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Report #09-3 (Numbered Trail Markers at Buddy Attick Park)

LEGISLATION
OTHER BUSINESS

- GHI and Right-Of-Way Encroachments
- Proposed 2010 Legislative Program
- * Employee Special Holiday
- * Reappointment to Advisory Group
- * Resignation from Advisory Group

MEETINGS
NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov to reach the City Clerk.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
City Offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The GREENBELT CONNECTION will not be operating.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE
Week of November 23
Monday Route – Refuse & Recycling Regular Schedule
Tuesday Route - Refuse & Recycling Regular Schedule
Wednesday Route – Refuse & Recycling Regular Schedule
Thursday Route – Refuse collected on Wednesday
– No Recycling Collection
There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, November 27.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES
Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

Vacancies exist on: Youth Advisory Committee, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Arts Advisory Board
For more info call 301-474-8000.

DONATION DROP-OFF
American Rescue Workers
Saturday, November 28, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
Parking lot between City Office and the Community Center
Info: City of Greenbelt Recycling Office at 301-474-8308.

75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
The celebration of the City's 75th Anniversary will occur in 2012. Applications are being accepted from residents interested in serving on this volunteer planning committee. Applications are available on the City website, www.greenbeltmd.gov, or at the City Office Building, 25 Crescent Road. Council will begin interviewing applicants for this committee in late November.

ANIMAL SHELTER PETS OF THE MONTH

	
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IKE: Sweet black white male cat. Free to a good home.
Cinnamon: High energy female 1-1/2 year old white Jack Russell mix. Also available, cute adorable kittens!

NEW! VISIT ALL OUR AVAILABLE PETS NOW ON FACEBOOK! BECOME A FAN!
Please drop off donations for shelter at the site. Co-op box does not go to Greenbelt Animal Shelter.
Visit pets at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter on Wednesdays, from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm.
For more information on any of these pets, call 301.474.6124.

2009 GOBBLE WOBBLE FUN RUN/WALK
Spend your Thanksgiving morning with the Greenbelt Recreation Department as we host the 2009 Gobble Wobble. This is a 5K race (2 laps) and a 1.5 mile fun run/walk (1 lap) around Buddy Attick Park lake path, which is an ideal way to get some exercise in before your Thanksgiving feast. All registrants will receive a Gobble Wobble shirt. Awards will be given to top finishers. All youth participants receive a medal.
When: Thursday, November 26; Race-day registration begins at 8AM, Race begins at 9AM
Where: Starting Line located in front of Youth Center; Race will be around Buddy Attick Park Lake Path
Age: All ages welcome
Fee: \$15/racer (\$5 for each additional family member)

GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER
The Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center will be hosting a Prince George's County High School Swim Meet on December 5th. The Pool and Hot Tub will close at 5:00pm. The fitness wing will remain open until 10:00pm.

The LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE for this year is posted at www.greenbeltmd.gov

BRETT continued from page 1

Development/Parenthood, a subject divided into three levels. In Child Development 1, Brett runs a practice preschool for ERHS students where students are taught how to create lesson plans for the preschool age children.

In Child Development 2, students learn skills needed to teach elementary school age children. To give them experience, Brett places ERHS students as interns at local elementary schools. Students who have progressed into the Child Development 3 level are part of a work study program working at daycare centers incorporating what they have learned over the years.

Enjoys the Work

Brett enjoys being a child development teacher because of the importance of what the children are learning in her class. "I like helping students learn how to positively deal with children. It's the closest thing to a parenting class."

Children's Advocates Needed by CASA

The Prince George's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) organization is recruiting volunteers to advocate for the needs of abused and neglected children living in foster care. CASA provides training and supervision to volunteers who spend about 10 hours per month getting to know a child and what is in that child's best interest.

Applications are now being accepted. Visit www.speakforthechildren.org or call 301-209-0491.

Although teaching is enjoyable, it also presents one challenge, ensuring a balance between the personal and educational needs of a student. "I try to make sure there is a balance so that all of my students can come talk to me about their problems. Once they deal with their problems, they will be able to begin learning."

Currently Brett is working on completing her master's degree in counseling psychology at Bowie State University with the hope of furthering her career as an educator and becoming a counseling psychologist. In her free time she is involved with her church, teaching in the Children's Ministry, singing in the choir and serving as chair for the College Connection at her church.

When Brett is not participating in church activities, she enjoys salsa dancing. In the future, she also plans on receiving a doctorate in theology to support her goal of becoming a counselor.

Hospice Offers Grieving Seminar

The Life Center at Hospice of the Chesapeake is offering Hope Full Holidays, a seminar to help those grieving to learn coping strategies for the holiday season for adults, ages 18+, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, November 21.

There is a fee and pre-registration is requested. For more information contact Roberta Rook at 301-499-4500 or brook@hospicechesapeake.org.

City Notes

Planning staff visited Empirian Village daily regarding new and ongoing inspections, reviewed the county's proposed New Mixed Use Zone legislation and the draft Stormwater Management Ordinance. They also approved a proposal to design the pedestrian bridge associated with the Greenhill/Hillside Stream Restoration project, reviewed resident concerns about safety and prepared a traffic calming plan for Edmonston Road. In addition, the planning staff reviewed proposed architectural covenants for Greenbelt Station South Core, which may need to be amended to accommodate new builders.

Horticulture staff researched purchasing large conifers to replace the city holiday tree.

Recreation staff met with a representative from M-NCPPC to review Braden Field tennis court improvements and draft bid specifications for the project.

Youth Center staff sent out registration information for the 2010 Men's Winter Basketball League to all past team managers. While the league was canceled because of low registration last year, staff fully anticipates the league running this year. League play will take place on Sundays, beginning January 3.

After an overwhelming response, the first of four art classes began on November 6 at Springhill Lake Elementary School. Over 120 students filled out and turned in applications to take part in this free class. Art staff has divided the applicants into four groups and the classes will go for six weeks consec-

DEMBOWSKI continued from page 1

he was the band director for both schools. "[Those schools] were an entirely different experience from Roosevelt," said Dembowski. "Riverheads is a small, rural school and Spotswood is only a bit larger. This is a totally different community."

During his first three years at ERHS, Dembowski worked with Sally Wagner as the band director. Although Dembowski gave up that post, he is still very much involved in band direction. "I still do a lot of band judging and guest direction," he said.

Dembowski also holds the position of president of the Maryland Band Directors Association, an organization he has worked with closely over the years. He has since become the sponsor for the Guitar Ensemble, a club he helped to reinstate after a lapse in its existence due to a lack of interest from students.

Euphonium Player

Although his primary instrument is the euphonium, a type of tuba, Dembowski also plays a multitude of instruments including the trombone, saxophone, clarinet, guitar and piano. Now in his 10th year teaching at ERHS, Dembowski teaches all levels of guitar and piano as well as principles of recording technology. Record-

tively at the school. This is the largest response received in years for a class of any sort and staff are looking forward to increasing the class offerings in the year to come.

ing technology is a unique class limited to juniors and seniors that provides students with the most up-to-date knowledge about the music recording industry.

"The class is limited so that we can keep the ratio of students to equipment practical," says Dembowski. "But we have more equipment now than ever. The class has received a great deal of support from administration and the music department."

This year Dembowski assisted in helping ERHS celebrate the 25th anniversary of its biennial "Best of Coffee House" performance, a show consisting solely of musicians within the school. "Coffee House is an outgrowth of the piano and guitar curriculum," explains Dembowski. "I think the simple fact that this has lasted for 25 years is a special statement in itself."

The show has been a staple at ERHS for showcasing some of the best musicians in the school. "Every show has something that stands out. There are always great acts," said Dembowski. Although he has been in charge of the show for the last seven years, Dembowski uses the experience as a teaching exercise in allowing students in recording technology to aid in preparing the acts.

As for the future, Dembowski is enjoying his time at ERHS and does not seem to have any immediate plans for moving anywhere else. "What we're trying to do is give students the skills and the tools to enjoy music and be involved in it."

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Police Blotter

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

Robbery

November 10, 1:25 a.m., 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. Two men approached and assaulted a person and then fled on foot. They are described as black males, 20-25 years old, 6'0"-6'2", 160-180 pounds with black hair and wearing blue jeans.

Burglaries

November 9, 1:28 p.m., 100 block Julian Court. A laptop was taken.

November 9, 4:04 p.m., 7800 block Walker Drive. Two monitors were taken.

November 11, 6 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive. A game console and DVD player were taken.

An attempted burglary was reported in 6200 block Breezewood Court.

Vandalism

November 12, 7:52 a.m., Buddy Attick Lake. Graffiti was found on a restroom wall.

Drug Arrest

November 9, 12:08 p.m., Beltway Plaza. A 45-year-old male resident was arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and trespassing on private property. He was transferred to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Vehicle Crimes

Two vehicles were stolen from the 7800 block Hanover Parkway, a tan 1995 Chevrolet Cavalier with MD tags and a blue 1994 Honda Civic also with MD tags.

Theft from auto occurred in the 7400 block Greenbelt Road (laptop and backpack) and 5900 block Cherrywood Terrace (MD tag).

There were two reports of vandalism in 12 Court Ridge Road and 6200 block Springhill Court where in each case a vehicle was scratched.

A Chevy Econoline van stolen from the 5700 block Cherrywood Lane was recovered in Fort Washington and a Honda Civic stolen from 7800 block Hanover Parkway was recovered in Hyattsville. A Cadillac Catera stolen in an armed carjacking in Baltimore City was recovered in 5800 block Cherrywood Lane. In all cases no arrests were made.

Arrest Made In Lake Path Daytime Assault

On November 10 at approximately 12:02 p.m., a woman reported she had been assaulted while walking along the lake trail at Buddy Attick Park. A suspect, identified as Edwin Soto, Jr., 28, of 11 Parkway, was arrested and charged with attempted first degree sex offense, first degree assault and second degree assault in connection with the case. He was taken to the Department of Corrections and is currently being held without bond. Police made no further details available and the investigation is continuing.

Police Make Arrests In Two Shootings

On Wednesday, November 12 at approximately 1:25 a.m. in the 9100 block of Springhill Court two men robbed one person and shot in the direction of another and then fled on foot. In connection with that shooting and attempted murder, one of the suspects, identified as Jerrell Jeffrey Tyson, 18, of 5807 Cherrywood Lane, has been arrested and charged with attempted first degree murder, first degree assault and armed robbery. He is currently being held without bond. Investigation is continuing.

Second Incident

On Sunday night, November 15 at about 11:36 p.m., Greenbelt police received a call about an armed robbery on Parkway. On arrival, officers found the victim had been shot. The person was treated at a local hospital.

There was an intensive search of the area including the help of a helicopter during which two men were located. Both nonresidents were arrested, charged with attempted first degree murder, armed robbery and first degree assault and turned over to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner. The two were identified as Derrick Rashid Martin, 23, and Terrence Marcel McCommon, 21.

The investigation continues.

MEETING continued from page 1

a transition from mercury vapor and/or high-pressure sodium lights to the LED mode.

All four cities noted their discussions with PEPCO were not going well. They see ownership issues, high costs and mutual responsibilities as stumbling blocks. Some have suggested raising these issues with legislators in order to help municipalities transition to eventual municipal ownership of street lights.

It was also noted that two LED demonstration grants have been awarded by the Maryland Energy Administration to the City of Hyattsville and the National Harbor resort. Calvo recommended that a future Four Cities meeting include further discussion and information on the LED and street light topics.

Greenbelt Issues

The Greenbelt agenda items included an update on the Greenbelt South Core DSP revision status. City representatives noted that the developers and Craftstar had been able to postpone the November 5, 2009 Prince George's Planning Board consideration of the DSP proposals until its January 2010 meeting. Calvo confirmed that Berwyn Heights had rescinded its earlier approval of the DSP revisions, making it clear that all three cities affected by the DSP revisions had withheld their approval of the developers requests.

Since Greenbelt is the only city with approval authority under covenant agreements entered into with the developers, College Park and Berwyn Heights are deferring to Greenbelt on its consideration of the DSP. Davis noted that the city's Advisory Planning Board had approved the Craftstar architectural and site plan revisions but the city remains wary of the possible impact of DSP changes on the validity of all development agreements entered into when the original project was approved in 2006.

Legislative issues were placed on the agenda by both Greenbelt and New Carrollton. All participants felt that both the state's and the county's deteriorating fiscal status will probably crowd out any new proposed legislative issues for 2010. At the county level Berwyn Heights expressed interest in strengthening the variance requirements for addressing so-called mansionization and infill issues in its neighborhoods.

There was also discussion on perennial efforts to secure ad-

ditional municipal planning and zoning authority, a topic added by New Carrollton. Information was provided that a limited planning and zoning authority bill submitted by Councilmember Thomas Dernoga has been withdrawn. Those present felt this was a strategic move to insure a better chance for the proposal in the 2010 legislative year.

It was also clear that the main concern legislatively for municipalities in 2010 would be stopping or lessening the loss of state-shared revenues. The state appears to be helping fund its budget deficits by further reductions in state contributions to municipalities for road maintenance and police aid.

College Park Issues

Other legislative issues raised by College Park included clean/efficient energy loan programs, repeal of the requirement to announce and hold constant yield tax hearings, preservation of the open space program, revitalization of tax credits and maintaining the University of Maryland Shuttle UM program allowing local residents to ride. College Park also seeks tax relief since so much of the property within its corporate boundaries is off the rolls because of the University of Maryland.

New Carrollton cautioned their colleagues to look carefully at proposed revisions to the county planning and zoning codes where developers are being given too much flexibility at the back end of the proposed new site plan approval requirements.

The Four City members also shared information on the relative status within their jurisdictions of installation of speed cameras as allowed within school zones on state, county and local roads. New Carrollton noted they are already "up and running" with the placement of speed cameras but have run into a legal issue with a recent ruling by the Maryland Attorney General that a municipality needs permission from the county to place cameras on county

roads.

New Carrollton believes the law is clear that county permission is not required; and in any case, proposed cameras would not be within the county right of way. Berwyn Heights is in the process of evaluating potential sites and considering enabling legislation.

Greenbelt, also in the evaluating mode, has no immediate plans to install speed cameras in school zones. In any case, they would likely continue to work with their existing red light camera coalition if school zone speed cameras were to be expanded.

College Park wondered if they could declare Route One and other highways school zones because of the university.

Reduced Revenue

A final item discussed was the constraints municipalities are facing with the governor's arbitrary 90 percent reduction of the traditional State Highway User Revenue (HUR) allocated to municipalities (from gasoline tax revenues, based upon street mileage within a jurisdiction). All four jurisdictions noted strategies to discontinue or curtail the level of street and road maintenance within their municipalities.

Some are resigned to not expecting a future year HUR from the state. All are reducing their usual standards for roadway upkeep, with the likely result that neighborhood streets will suffer from lack of regular maintenance. Since the governor continues to face multi-billion dollar deficits in the 2010 budget, municipal officials believe they could be facing more reductions in state-shared revenue. This item will be put on the agenda for the next Four Cities quarterly meeting.

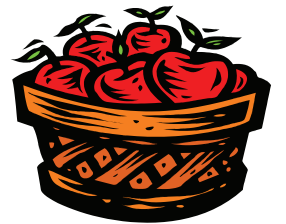
The meeting closed with fond farewells for Mayor Brayman and good wishes to those officials up for election on November 3.

The proposed schedule agreed to for 2010 was January 27 in College Park, April 29 in New Carrollton, July 29 in Berwyn Heights and October 27 in Greenbelt.

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MERCHANDISE

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PIANO – Free. Call 301-474-5905

NOTICES

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AWARDS continued from page 1



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE GLEASON

Mayor Judith Davis addresses the audience at the Legion awards banquet with honored Officer of the Year PFC Michael Apgar to her right as well as to her left Delegates Justin Ross, Tawanna Gaines and Anne Healey and County Councilmember Ingrid Turner.

commitment to the community," Councilmember Emmett Jordan said of the awardees. "It is often a thankless job."

Councilmember Silke Pope agreed. "I think people are quick to criticize the police department," she said. "I'm a big supporter of the police. Plain and simple: they deserve a pat on the back."

Three local delegates also showed up in support of Apgar and Zielinski. While at the podium, Delegate Justin Ross recounted his first run-in with the Greenbelt PD as a junior in high school. Caught red-handed with an egg fight in mind, Ross said the officer offered him a choice: to either drop the eggs and go home now or test his fate in jail. "I'll go home now, officer," Ross responded.

Meanwhile, a few on-duty cops were peeking in on the banquet hall from a rear-side door. "I'm just here in support of my compatriots," Officer Mike Dewey said. In much the same way, a table for one could be found near the podium in symbolic deference to those men and

women – our compatriots – still missing in action and living as prisoners of war.

Now in its 21st year of sponsorship, a few Greenbelt legionnaires described the event as yet another way to connect with and empower communities. "People seem to think that all we do here at the Legion is drink," said Genney Bonney, president of the Legion's auxiliary unit. "Observe." Bonney then picked up a glass of beer and began to take sips. "However," she continued, "we – the auxiliary unit alone – spend about \$15,000 a year on veterans, community and education."

With his soon-to-be wife, Jamie Ivy, standing at his side, Apgar spoke about his budding, three-year career. "Working in PD is what I always wanted to do," he said. "It's the only thing I've ever been good at."

No matter how good Apgar looks in his uniform, he better not say that at the altar.

(Note: Not present during the event was Anthony Sluder of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, who was also an honoree at the event).



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Wanda Dixon Loves Kids And Making a Difference

by Tami Le

"Every doctor, engineer or chemist got their start in someone's classroom when someone took the time for them," says Wanda Dixon, fifth grade teacher at Springhill Lake Elementary School. Dixon, who loves kids and loves making a difference, takes the time for her students so she can make a difference in their lives and in the classroom.

Originally from Ohio, Dixon received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Central State University in Wilburforce, Ohio 22 years ago. After two years, she got her certification in elementary education. Then she received her master's in school administration and supervision from the University of Phoenix five years ago.

When Dixon finished college with a bachelor's degree, she said her mom asked her what she was going to do. Both of Dixon's parents had worked in education. Her mother is a retired teacher, her father a retired principal and her brother works in education for the Cincinnati public school system. It seemed only natural for her to go into education as well.

When her mother called her a "natural educator," Dixon decided to give teaching a try and said it "fit so easily and comfortably."

While in Maryland, Dixon has worked in Frederick County schools and has taught at private schools in Baltimore. Although she has taught pre-K to fifth grade, she prefers fourth and fifth graders because she says, "They are independent and can follow directions."

Dixon taught fifth graders at Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary for five years before coming to Springhill Lake. Over the last seven years here, she has taught third grade, fourth grade, ESOL and has worked in special education.

Teaching Strategies

Dixon does not yell at her students. While being interviewed, she calmly and firmly gave them instructions for the morning. And surprisingly, they listened. She said she is particularly good at reaching the students, to get them to trust her.

She recalled an incident when she was able to calm down a boy simply by looking at him and asking him if he trusted her to solve his issue. "If you can't get kids to trust you or listen to you, it's going to be really hard to teach them," said Dixon.

As a parent, Dixon said she would want someone to regard her children in the same way she regards the students she teaches. Similarly, Dixon talks to her students about treating other people the way they want to be treated.

Even adults, Dixon said, will get bored if someone talks to them continually for an hour and a half. Dixon tries to stay active and engage students by giving them hands-on activi-



Wanda Dixon

ties and experiences that will be memorable. They will be engaged "anytime they are able to take something, cut it, build it and make it," said Dixon.

Sharing

She said her students love opportunities to stand up and share what they have learned. She gives her students

the opportunity to share what they learned with partners before sharing with the class. This keeps them actively engaged and "keeps the bulk of learning on their laps," said Dixon. Learning can be fun if the students feel comfortable.

But she said she needs to make sure they know that she's the teacher. However, rather than try to act superior, Dixon said she acknowledges when she makes a mistake because she knows she is not perfect. She tries to accent the positive rather than the negative, even in her students.

She rewards good behavior with stars that students can use to earn prizes. Dixon enjoys "seeing the light bulb on. Seeing the kids come to you in the beginning of the year a little reserved and having evidence of their difficulty but at end of the year see the look in their eyes when they actually get it." When that happens, Dixon said what she's done is worthwhile. It is most rewarding for her when her former students come back and talk to her.

Teaching Challenges

"Teaching is a very misunderstood profession," said Dixon. She said it's hard work and "for new teachers they really need to see what good teaching is." Dixon, who has been in the field for 20 years, said she can walk into a classroom and really have a sense for what should and shouldn't be happening.

With her master's degree, Dixon had considered working in administration in order to help mentor and counsel new teachers. Being able to work under an administrator who really sees her strengths, said Dixon, has been very helpful for her teaching.

Everyone has flaws, she says, "but it's good when someone can see your flaws but also your strengths and see how to make the most of them so they can overshadow and strengthen your weaknesses."

Dixon tries to use this same strategy in her teaching because "no matter what an individual's weakness may be, they can learn." If all she did was just teaching and working with kids, Dixon said it would be great. But there are "all kinds of paper work we have to do outside of the school day."

With the extra work she has to do, Dixon usually does not leave school until 6 p.m. or even as late as 8 p.m. How does she deal with the challenges and workload of teaching? Like the Nike slogan, Dixon said, "I 'Just Do It!'"

Wichtendahl Makes Special Ed. Inclusive

by Tami Le

While students, teachers and parents crowded the hallways of Springhill Lake Elementary as they hustled to attend a school assembly, Special Education Coordinator Chris Wichtendahl glided gracefully through the crowd and headed toward her office. After a postponement a week earlier because of a school incident involving student misbehavior and police officers, Wichtendahl was able finally to sit down for an interview. Occasionally someone would come in and whisper something or hand her a note. However, Wichtendahl exuded calmness in the midst of the commotion outside.

Among her responsibilities are 45-minute meetings with parents. Sometimes two-hour meetings. There are paperwork, headaches, phone calls, behavior problems and classroom observations. All these are part of the job description for Wichtendahl whose day starts at 6 a.m. usually with someone having a problem at breakfast and typically ends at 5:30 p.m.

At our meeting, however, Wichtendahl revealed no signs of distress about her work. She even said that special education at Springhill Lake is fortunate still to have its many programs and staff despite government budget cuts.

Oversight

For Wichtendahl, this means overseeing 18 teachers, 18 paraprofessionals, two crisis teachers, two speech and language pathologists, one psychologist, one motor development teacher, more than 200 special education students and 10 classrooms dedicated to students with more difficulties, like those who are autistic.

Some students even come by bus from neighboring elementary schools in College Park, Hyattsville and Mount Rainier because they do not have the same support service or as many special education programs as has Springhill Lake Elementary.

After receiving her bachelor's in therapeutic recreation from the University of Maryland in 1979, Wichtendahl went on to get a master's degree in social work and a certification in administration and supervision. Wichtendahl started her career as a social worker in a residential day treat-

ment program before she applied to be an instructional aid.

As an instructional aid at Springhill Lake Elementary, Wichtendahl said that the previous principal, Linda Sherwood, pushed her in the direction of education. Wichtendahl, who will have taught for 25 years this December, started working with fifth and sixth graders in special education at Carrollton Elementary in 1985. She came to work with the fifth and sixth graders at Springhill Lake in 1989.

In 1991, Wichtendahl became a special education coordinator at Thomas Stone Elementary. After a few years she returned to Springhill Lake Elementary as special education coordinator, supervising the Making Education Accessible in Neighborhood Schools (MEANS) program, Comprehensive Special Education Program (CSEP) and the inclusive co-teaching model.

The special education program at Springhill Lake also has a Girl Scout troop, which Wichtendahl, a former girl scout and lover of the outdoors, would often join in the summer for their camps.

No-umbrella Inclusion

When Wichtendahl said she wanted to get rid of the umbrella, she wasn't referring to the rain on the morning of November 12. She was referring to the umbrella that has for years hovered over all students in special education.

Wichtendahl recalled when she was in elementary school, the special education kids were separated in a different building. She noticed that this umbrella exists over special education, a misconception she thinks – that special education kids are all the same and that they are not able to function. One of the challenges Wichtendahl faces is getting people to "look at the whole child instead of just seeing them as special ed" because some of these kids can be really gifted in other areas.

People are not able to broaden their idea of what special ed is, said Wichtendahl. She said the special education program at Springhill Lake works hard to be inclusive and to have a co-



Chris Wichtendahl

teaching model at every level. "No parent likes to hear that their child is in special ed," said Wichtendahl.

To remove that stigma, Wichtendahl said she would invite parents in to see the classroom, most of whom will discover that it isn't bad and that no one besides the teachers

know who is in special ed and who isn't.

Inclusion Model

As part of the inclusion model, students are broken into small groups for reading. This way all the kids work together.

Wichtendahl said that by breaking up students into small groups of about six, the students "are willing to take risks that they wouldn't take with a group of 30." This inclusion model, said Wichtendahl, comes from administering and being open. It means making initiatives to get students back to school and among their peer group.

She has had lots of students who graduate from high school or others who are in college come back to visit. One student came back to talk to kids about staying in school.

Wichtendahl said it's rewarding for her to watch students grow and move out of special ed. She has watched some students come here and not talk to anyone but then find friends and become fully included. She said she enjoys seeing students gain peer interaction and blossom.

While some students may have more severe issues, for the most part all students, whether special ed or not, are the same to Wichtendahl because everything she wants for a child in terms of teaching is the same. She just wants all of them to be successful.

To be successful, Wichtendahl said the students need support. When they don't get the support they need, she said they will misbehave and avoid work. Wichtendahl, who doesn't worry too much about test scores, said her goal is to "get the kids to know more than they knew when they walked in the classroom door in August and to move in a positive direction."

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