

**Greenbelt City Council
Storm Water Management**

Work Session

**September 12, 2018
8:00 p.m.**

**Greenbelt Community Center
15 Crescent Road
Room 201**

Agenda

- Introductions
- Recent Flooding Issues at Greenbrook Estates
- Storm Water Management City Wide
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

From: Galosi, Frank L. <FLGalosi@co.pg.md.us>
Sent: Friday, August 03, 2018 12:48 PM
To: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen
Cc: Winogradoff, Derek A; Hawkins-Nixon, Dawn; Posten, Shirley D.
Subject: Greenbelt's Storm Water Management Work Session, August 8

Good afternoon Ms. Shashley- Mullen

RE: The agenda will be on the recent flooding issues at Greenbrook Estate and the storm water management city wide.

We spoke morning , and this a follow-up on a few questions regarding the City's agenda relative to the Department of Environment's role.

Flooding/ drainage topic:

1. Will the City present at this meeting or provide specifics on these complaints. Is this discussion limited to Greenbrook Estates , or are there other areas of concern? Have these been complaints been previously/ recently forwarded into the County , was there evaluation performed by either DOE , or DPWT ?
2. Is flooding caused by lack of system maintenance (responsibility City or County?) or inadequate storm drain systems . Generally DPW&T would be initially first on site to assess causes and responsibility. Both agencies would coordinate on solution and County CIP budget needs.

Water Quality program :

3. If the flooding solution is somewhat being correlated to the water quality program (Clean Water Act Fees), this program is only intended for addressing deficient water quality in urbanized areas. The program only treats one inch (1") of rainfall, way below the rainfall that would be responsible for flooding. Therefore the CLEAN Water program cannot be used for addressing flooding issues.
4. The DOE program evaluates water quality retrofit opportunities, and relies somewhat on information on such opportunity from municipalities . Does the City have water quality opportunities that can be coordinated with DOE?

Frank Galosi
Section Head
Department of Environment
Stormwater Management Division
1801 McCormick Drive
Suite 500
Largo ,MD 20774
301-883-5876
FLGalosi@co.md.pg.us

This E-mail and any of its attachments may contain Prince George's County Government or Prince George's County 7th Judicial Circuit Court proprietary information or Protected Health Information, which is privileged and confidential. This E-mail is intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient of this E-mail, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, copying, or action taken in relation to the contents of and attachments to this E-mail is strictly prohibited by federal law and may expose you to civil and/or criminal penalties. If you have received this E-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the original and any copy of this E-mail and any printout.

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 72, No. 32

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

JULY 2, 2009

Council Makes Election Changes, Reacts to Sewer Back-up Problem

by Thomas X. White

With all members present at the June 22 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council had a full agenda. Among the items on their list were completing action on the package of Charter amendments relating to changes in the Greenbelt electoral process and several follow-on resolutions pertaining to actions taken by council in adoption of the city's Fiscal Year 2010 budget.

In addition, council dealt with a resolution concerning adjustments to the schedule of fees for city staff administration of the zoning powers council exercises and other items of business for which the city manager requested council direction. In effect, this meeting's agenda cleared the decks for a majority of councilmembers to head out of town for the annual Maryland Municipal League convention in Ocean City June 28 to July 1.

Added to the agenda was an issue raised by a group of homeowners from the Greenbrook Estates neighborhood who experienced simultaneous sewer backups in the basements of their

homes. They sought council's assistance in their frustrations with the poor follow-up response from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

Sewer Backups

During the Petitions and Requests portion of the agenda, Janice Chiddo, a resident of Mathew Street in the Greenbrook Estates subdivision, and several of her neighbors requested council assistance in dealing with the WSSC following sewer backups last month in four homes. Chiddo related how sewage came up through the drains in basements with damage ranging from minor to severe.

According to the residents, the response to this incident by WSSC was very poor and that in follow-ups, WSSC has been giving the residents conflicting information on whether or not the homeowners will be compensated for the damages. Apparently WSSC informed one owner who suffered minimal damage that the agency will cover damages but has told owners of other homes whose damages were more ex-

treme that repairs will be the homeowner's responsibility.

When WSSC made on-site inspections, their staff indicated their belief that the backups were caused by the storm drainage system rather than within their sewer system. WSSC staff refused to enter the affected homes to view the damage. City Manager Michael McLaughlin wondered how such an event could affect four homes in the subdivision and still be considered the homeowner's responsibility.

Council placed the item on the agenda and, when it was taken up later that evening, they agreed to have the city staff look further into the incident and communicate concerns to WSSC regarding the plight of the homeowners and request a response.

Election Procedures

On the agenda for second reading and adoption were two proposed charter amendments and one proposed ordinance relating to changes council has decided should be made to increase voter

See BUDGET, page 6

New Deal Café Members Elect Audit Committee

by Karl B. Hille

The new incarnation of the New Deal Café, which reopened on June 26, serving beer, wine, fine desserts and its signature Middle Eastern fare, now has a three-member audit committee to help prevent any future surprise lockouts.

The audit committee – Ed James, Dorian Winterfeld and Michael Hartman – was elected Monday night, June 29 after just over an hour of debate on the committee's purpose.

"We used to have an audit committee," co-op board member Bill Wilkerson said, as the ad hoc elections committee were counting paper ballots. "After a while they sort of voted themselves out of existence as I understand it."

Calls for an audit committee, accountable to the membership as well as to the co-op board, were raised last month after the New Deal board closed its doors without explanation on May 13.

A motion that would have established an audit committee was scrapped at the June 7 emer-

gency membership meeting after members learned the board and management were close to reaching a new contract agreement.

New Committee

Members at the June 29 meeting decided on a three-member committee. Members will serve one year each and cannot serve on the co-op board or be an employee of the Café. They can request information of the board or management so long as a majority of the audit committee votes to begin an investigation and can publish their findings to the membership as well as to the board.

Improving communications between members and the board was mentioned several times during the meeting as a key function of the committee.

The committee can also look into the financial statements and audit reports of the co-op and its manager, adherence to all contracts and bylaws and accounting and budget issues.

See NEW DEAL, page 6

GHI Board and Council Meet, Hold Stakeholders Discussion

by Mary Moien

The Greenbelt City Council met with the board and management of Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI), on June 17 in a stakeholders meeting. GHI and the city have many overlapping interests as the housing cooperative formed the major core of the original city. Topics covered included utility issues, bus service to GHI areas, street right of way issues and home inspections for code violations.

Right of Way

There are a few homes and a number of yards in GHI that lie within the right of way of various streets in Greenbelt. The most serious problems are homes on Crescent Road and several residents attended the meeting. One older woman expressed concern about the fact that the right of way actually ran through her living room. The streets around GHI have a right of way that runs from 60 to 100 feet from the center of the street. In a few cases, those footages cut into homes. Celia Craze spoke for the city, describing the process that is underway to resolve these problems.

It appears that GHI and the city are in agreement that the rights of way will be redrawn where needed, starting on Crescent Road. However, how much

it will cost and how long it will take for property lines to be redrawn are complicated by the fact the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) has to review and approve the changes. The city must petition the M-NCPPC to vacate the current property lines and then approve the redrawn ones. It is not certain what the cost will be and how the costs will be shared by GHI and the city.

Of additional practical concern to GHI members is any potential problem selling homes or building additions. GHI General Manager Gretchen Overduff addressed that issue. She stated that in addition to the serious problems on Crescent Road there are about 130 yard incursion problems also on Ridge and Hillside. These involve yards only. Currently residents who have yards in the right of way can install fences, sheds or other non-permanent structures in the right of way space. No home additions can be built. Most GHI members who have a right of way problem are aware of the issue. It is hoped that the first petition, for Crescent Road, can be submitted to M-NCPPC in early fall. Although all homes will be spared, it appears that it is possible that affected yard lines

might need to be redrawn with yard size reduced.

WSSC Work

Significant replacement of in-ground pipes is going on throughout Greenbelt. WSSC is currently working in the Boxwood and Lakewood areas. They have not gotten to GHI yet but GHI board member Sylvia Lewis stated that she wanted to be sure that GHI and the city are working together on this project. Eldon Ralph, GHI's assistant general manager, commented that there have already been several meetings with the city and WSSC. He wants to be sure that yards are restored after pipes are replaced. It appears that WSSC didn't realize how much GHI property was going to be affected. The pipe replacement will cover all of the original masonry homes. City Councilmember Ed Putens cautioned staff and members to get all discussions and promises with WSSC in writing. The project has been pushed back and it currently appears that WSSC won't begin to work on GHI property for a year or more.

Pepco

The major Pepco issue is streets lights, mainly those that are out, but also some that stay

See GHI, page 6

City Police Issue Rules For July Fourth at Lake

The Greenbelt Police Department wishes everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July. To enhance holiday safety, the following guidelines are for the celebration at Buddy Attick Park (Greenbelt Lake). A tent with Police Department employees will be in the grassy area by the main parking lot to provide first aid and to help with lost and missing children.

No Alcohol/Fireworks

Do not bring alcoholic beverages to the park. Alcohol is strictly prohibited in this and all city-owned parks. Violators will be subject to arrest. Remember that all pets must be on a leash.

Fireworks are deadly, dangerous and illegal. All forms, including firecrackers, snakes, sparklers and bottle rockets are prohibited by law in Greenbelt and in all of Prince George's

County. Those found to be in possession of fireworks will be subject to arrest. Penalties include a fine up to \$1,000 and/or six months in jail.

For safety and security reasons, people carrying coolers and packages into the park may be asked to have the contents of those packages inspected.

Parking Lot

The parking lot is reserved primarily for handicapped and elderly individuals. Vehicles must have handicapped or elderly individuals onboard in order to use this lot. Handicapped tags and/or placards will not necessarily be required nor will they guarantee a parking space.

Temporary "No Parking" signs will be posted on the streets surrounding the park. Vehicles

See FIREWORKS, page 10

What Goes On

Saturday, July 4

6:15 p.m., Greenbelt Concert Band at Buddy Attick Park Bandstand

7:30 to 9 p.m., Drumming at Bandstand Dusk (9 p.m.) Fireworks

Monday and Tuesday, July 6 and 7 – Registration for Session II Swimming Lessons for Residents and Passholders, Aquatic Center.

Monday, July 6

8 p.m., Council Worksession, Municipal Building

Tuesday, July 7

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mini GED Course Municipal Building.

1 to 3 p.m., GED I and GED II

Wednesday, July 8

8 p.m., Council Worksession, Community Center

Tuesday, July 14

7 to 9 p.m., Follow-up Public Meeting on Plans for Greenbelt Middle School, Greenbelt Middle School Multipurpose Room

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

VOL. 72, No. 49

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

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Voters to Elect 7-Member City Council on Tue., Nov. 3

by James Giese

On November 3, voters in Greenbelt will decide who will be the members of the next Greenbelt City Council. For the first time in the city's 72-year history, residents will choose members of a seven-member council, two more than in previous elections.

Nine residents have filed as candidates for the seven seats and, for the first time, more than one black candidate is seeking office. While black residents have earlier sought election, none have succeeded. If one or more is elected this time, it will be another first in Greenbelt.

Increase in size of council is one of several actions taken by the current city council (whose term ends November 3) responding to concerns raised over the city election process by the Prince George's chapters of the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union. Council had also been advised that the U.S. Justice Department was looking at the city's election process as a possible violation of the Civil Rights Act because of under representation of minorities on council.

Besides amending the city charter to provide for seven members, council initiated an early voting procedure, making it easier for residents to vote early or vote by absentee ballot. They also worked harder to publicize the election, encouraging residents in all parts of the city to register to vote. Council decided not to change the time of the election to coincide with county, state and federal elections or to elect some or all councilmembers

from districts.

Because of these changes, many Greenbelters may have already voted. Registered voters could vote at the Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse in Greenbelt East on October 17 and 18. Early voting was also available in Greenbelt West at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center on October 24 and 25. Residents could also vote at the Municipal Building in the center of the city and can continue to do so from 9 to 5 p.m. weekdays through tomorrow, October 30.

According to Greenbelt City Clerk Cindy Murray 235 persons voted early as of 3 p.m. Monday, October 26. Of these, 70 voted at the Schrom Hills Park clubhouse, 31 voted at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and the rest at the Municipal Building.

By precincts, 73 residents voted early from precinct 3 (Old Greenbelt), 55 from precinct 6 (North End), 18 from precinct 8 (Greenbelt West), 15 from precinct 13 (north Greenbelt East) and 74 from precinct 18 (south Greenbelt East).

Polling Places

Also for the first time, there will be five polling places for the city election. Following the example of the County Board of Elections for the general elections, the city divided Greenbelt East into two precincts using county boundary lines for precincts 13 (north) and 18 (south).

The city uses only two of the polling places used by the county

See ELECTION, page 11

Candidates from All Parts Of City; Take Bus to Vote

by Mary Moien

This year there are candidates for Greenbelt City Council from all segments of the city. Konrad Herling, Kelly Ivy, Leta Mach, Silke Pope and Rodney Roberts all reside in the Center City. Judith Davis, Emmett Jordan and Ed Putens live in Greenbelt East and Che Sayles lives in Greenbelt West.

The current councilmembers have served together for three terms.

Davis, in office for eight terms, is currently mayor. She is the first person residing in Greenbelt East to serve as mayor. Roberts is serving his ninth term on council and is currently mayor pro tem. Putens has served the longest of the current council, now in his 14th term. Herling and Mach are both completing their third terms.

Transportation to Polls

The Greenbelt Connection will transport voters free of charge to

and from the polls next Tuesday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Call 301-474-4100 for a ride. The bus will also make pickups at Green Ridge House at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Voter Eligibility

For verification of eligibility to vote or for other election information, residents may visit the city clerk's office at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, telephone 301-474-8000 or use Maryland Relay (711).

Election Results

The results of the election will be posted on the city cable channel, Comcast Channel 71. Results may also be found on the city web site at www.greenbeltmd.gov. The results will be posted late on Election Day evening, upon receipt and verification of the precinct tallies by the Greenbelt Board of Elections. Election results will also appear in this newspaper.

More Election Information Inside
For Precinct Map, see page 18
For Candidate Bios, see pages 8-9
For Candidate Expenses, see page 15

Your Vote
IS
Your Voice
☑☑☑☑☑

Council Clarifies Write-in Votes

by Barbara Hopkins

At the regular meeting of the Greenbelt city council on October 26, City Solicitor Robert Manzi clarified the nature of write-in votes for the city council election.

Bonnie Brant wanted to vote for one candidate and then enter that candidate's name six times as write-in votes, so she effectively could cast seven votes for one candidate. Cindy Murray, city clerk, provided Section 31 of the city charter that says "all members of council shall be elected at large." Manzi explained that Brant's request would amount to cumulative voting, which council had considered and rejected. He said that by specifying "at large" voting the charter did not permit cumulative voting. Write-in votes, he said, were historically for a person not listed on the ballot.

Voting as Brant had desired, Manzi said, would mean six of her votes would be invalidated and not be counted.

Absentee Voting

To vote absentee, a qualified voter must fill out an application form received from the city clerk. The application form can be requested by telephone at 301-474-8000, by letter including full name (City Clerk, 25 Crescent Road), by email at cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov or printed from the website at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov>.

Applications to obtain an absentee ballot must be received by the city clerk no later than noon Monday, November 2. The completed ballot must be received by the city clerk no later than 6 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2009. Whether mailing an executed ballot or hand delivering or placing it in the locked drop box at the east door of the Municipal Building, the ballot must arrive by 6 p.m. on Election Day.

Five-member City Council Ends with Remembrances

by Barbara Hopkins

The current Greenbelt City Council held its last regular meeting on Monday, October 26. The Greenbelt City Charter prohibits the current council from taking any action subsequent to the election. The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be the first for the new council who will be elected on Tuesday, November 3. Councilmembers closed with remarks and reminiscences on their past two years in office.

Mayor Judith Davis gave the first opportunity for comments to Councilmember Rodney Roberts. He said it had been a "fairly decent" two years, "considering what council had to work with." He wished the new council luck.

Councilmember Konrad Herling said of his six years on council that the last two had been

"the most interesting," with many opportunities for learning. He listed efforts to develop an environmental sustainability plan for the city and acting on transportation issues among the highlights of this term.

Herling noted the importance of the visioning process in gathering citizen input for the city's goals, calling the process beneficial in building community. He said achieving the city's goals will be a challenge with reduced revenue. He thanked Greenbelt citizens present for the opportunity of serving and also thanked city staff as well as an important part of the team.

Councilmember Edward Putens noted that being on the council is

See COUNCIL, page 11

Sewage Overflow Dilemma Resolved with Council Aid

by Jon Aerts

To the residents of Greenbelt: Should your tub drain become queasy and start spitting up water, don't count on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) to bail you out of the fix or so says local resident Janice Chiddo of her long-running battle with both raw sewage and the Commission.

Chiddo's long-running sewage pipe dispute dilemma may not be uncommon. For her, the battle began on May 15 as she and neighbor Randolph Williams arrived home to find their finished basements plastered with smelly water and sewage. "I couldn't believe it!" says Chiddo of her Mathews Street home. "It was unreal."

And that was just the beginning.

As previously reported by the

News Review in July, Chiddo and Williams first requested council assistance with the mounting mess during a June 22 meeting, at which time Chiddo complained of conflicting information given by the company.

Different Answers

"The WSSC was giving neighbors different answers on exactly what would and would not be covered for damages," Chiddo later said of the dilemma. From there, things deteriorated. Days churned into weeks and then months, as the two neighbors began to voice their complaints but got nowhere with what they viewed as dithering and slippery responses from WSSC customer care agents. According to Williams, the representatives only

See SEWAGE, page 22

What Goes On

Friday, October 30

4 to 4:30 p.m., Registration for Halloween Parade, Grassy Area in Front of Curves. Parade begins at 4:30 p.m.

6:30-8:30 p.m., Hallowsscream Karaoke, Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Saturday, October 31

1 to 5 p.m., Fall Fest, Schrom Hills Park

6 to 8 p.m., Trick or Treating

Monday, November 2

7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES) Meeting, Community Center, Room 114

Tuesday, November 3

7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Polls Open (see City ad on page 5)

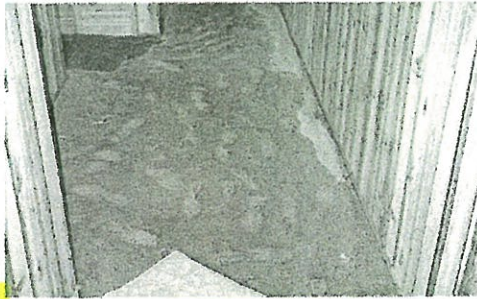
Wednesday, November 4

7:30 p.m., Community Relations Advisory Board Meeting, Community Center, Room 103 (Discussion of City Wide Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan)

Thursday, November 5

7:30 p.m., GDC and GHI Board Meeting, GHI Board Room

SEWAGE continued from page 1



Hallway in Janice Chiddo's basement showing how soggy her pink carpets got.

added to the stress and confusion. "They were tearing us neighbors apart!" he shouted during a candid follow-up meeting on October 7 at the Greenbelt Community Center.

Williams presented a number of 8 x 11 photographs as evidence of the water damage and subsequent ooze. "My basement was completely under water," he said of the controversy. "And they said they weren't responsible." As the photos circulated around the makeshift conference table, the reality hit home as councilmembers, public works experts and a cast of WSSC representatives reviewed the inescapable mess.

"I'm not exactly sure what the WSSC inspectors were looking at," said Chiddo in explaining the lack of concern or care for the neighbors involved. Like Williams, Chiddo was armed with her own set of photos of water-logged carpets and soiled property. "And I'm not going away until we have some kind of restitution for all of this mess," she added.

Confusion

In response, Customer Care Chief Rudy Chow apologized for the subsequent confusion over the matter, along with his own fractured defense for the response of his WSSC staff. "We can't really explain what happened here," said Chow, pointing to a color-coded graphic and depictions of the pipes in question. In short, according to Chow, the Mathew Street inspectors couldn't conclude the exact source of the problem - despite ongoing tests and system evaluations.

While the October 7 resolution was slow in coming - 145 days after the initial May complaints - the WSSC had policies to follow which included offering Williams \$10,300 in damages (only hours prior to the October 7 meeting) and nothing for Chiddo.

According to WSSC policy, the firm cannot compensate customers who have previously "engaged"

with their own homeowners insurance. In other words, 'zippo' for Chiddo. In fact, Chiddo was the big loser - paying a \$1,000 deductible for contacting her insurance company, while Williams was offered compensation for all damages. To this, Councilmember Edward Putens posed the question to Chow of the WSSC: "Would you want your family to be put through all of this?" he asked.

Still Not Sure

Another WSSC representative, who up until that point hadn't uttered a word, responded: "Yes, but we're still not sure of what exactly caused the—"

"There's something wrong with your system!" Putens shot back. Apparently this wasn't the first time Mathew Street homes smelled of sewage.

A fuming Putens put Chow on the spot. "Everything here happened at the same time - the exact same time," he said of the May 15 incident. "So don't get me into court, because I can prove it." With that, Chow and the WSSC blinked, offering Chiddo a \$1,000 reimbursement for the deductible she paid to Liberty Mutual.

Following the heated exchange and settlement, WSSC director of community relations Jim Neustadt again emphasized the commission's commitment to quality customer care service and recent additions made to their own customer care team. Meanwhile, last Thursday - 159 days following Chiddo's initial complaint - she received that \$1,000 check courtesy of the WSSC.

"Were it not for the councilman, I'm almost certain there would have been no compensation," concluded Chiddo in a follow up interview. "I just wanted someone to communicate with me, to not leave me hanging... was that too much to ask?"

Gingerbread House Contest for Bakers

Get ready to pre-heat the oven, pull out the cookie sheet and pastry bag and enter the 10th Annual Gingerbread House Contest and Show sponsored by Darnall's Chance House Museum. The contest is divided into two categories, adult and child (ages 8 to 16). Judges will award ribbons for first, second and third place and honorable mention in each category. Ribbons for the most creative will also be presented. The Viewer's Choice Awards, which are given to one adult and one child entry, will be selected by viewer voting and each winning entry will receive a \$250 gift card.

Entry forms and a registration fee are due by Friday, November 6. Gingerbread houses must be delivered to Darnall's Chance House Museum, 14800 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro on Sunday, November 22 between noon and 4 p.m. Houses will remain on display until December 13. To receive an entry form, call 301-952-8010, TTY 301-3402 or go to www.pg parks.com.



GREENBELT SERVICE CENTER
Auto Repairs & Road Service
 A.S.E. Certified Technicians
 Maryland State Inspections
 161 CENTERWAY
 ROAD GREENBELT,
 (301) 474-8348



GASCH'S
 Funeral Home, P.A.

Visit us on the web:
www.gaschs.com

301-927-6100

4739 Baltimore Avenue • Hyattsville, MD 20781

Audubon Society Free Bird Walks

The Prince George's Audubon Society sponsors Mid-week Fall Bird Walks on the Luther Goldman Birding Trail. Take guided bird walks around Lake Artemesia on Thursdays, November 5 and 19 at 3 p.m. to look for migrating and resident songbirds, waterfowl and other bird flyovers on the Luther Goldman Birding Trail. This paved walk loops around the 38-acre lake and alongside Indian Creek. Meet at the parking lot at Berwyn Rd. and Balew Avenue in Berwyn Heights. The walk is for beginners and experts. Binoculars are suggested. No reservations are needed for this free event.

For more information call 301-459-3375.

Continental Movers

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

RE-ELECT

ED
PUTENS

John Winfrey, Treasurer

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

AMERICAN REALTY, INC.

4-C Plateau Place
 3 Bedroom Frame
 REDUCED
 \$149,900

 5 Woodland Way
 RARE FIND-GHI
 Single Family
 Garage/Basement
 New carpet, fresh
 paint, screened
 porch, separate dining
 room, large living
 room, new stove,
 new refrigerator
 REDUCED
 \$235,000

 5-C Gardenway
 2 Bedroom Frame
 Wide Floor Plan
 \$129,900

 23-B Ridge Road
 3 Bedroom
 Block/Vinyl Siding
 Pergo floors, carpeting,
 new appliances
 \$184,900



Jeannie Smith
 Realtor/Salesperson, GRI
 Cell: 301-442-9019
 O: 800-346-1117 x106
 Branch Office:
 115 Centerway
 Greenbelt, MD

Not a TRICK -
 but a TREAT!

BRING AN OFFER
 2 BR Block 1 + 1/2 Baths
 Ideal location. This block home
 features 2 BRs AND 1.5 baths!
 PLUS: vinyl siding, superb fenced
 yard, newer paint. 5-F Eastway

Tim Uber
 Realtor - Salesperson
 O: 301-441-9511

301-802-2452

Long & Foster
 Real Estate, Inc.

Need a Flu Shot? Just walk in!

Secure Medical Care is open 7 days a week -
 no appointment needed.

Mon-Fri, 8 am to 8 pm;
 Weekends & Holidays, 10 am to 6 pm

Our on-site lab, x-ray, & pharmacy make your visit quick and convenient!



Secure Medical Care
 Here when you need us.

10452 Baltimore Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705 (1/2 mile north of IKEA)
www.securemedicalcare.com (301) 441-3355



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.

Stolen Vehicles

A black 2000 Jeep Cherokee with MD tags was stolen from 100 block Westway on December 19 and recovered by the Laurel City Police on December 21 with no arrests made.

A gray 2003 Dodge van with MD tags was stolen from 8100 block Lakecrest Drive on December 19.

There was an attempted theft of auto in the 7800 block Hanover Parkway on December 22.

Recoveries

A maroon 2004 Ford Explorer stolen from the 7000 block of Hanover Parkway was recovered in the 7500 block Mandan Road on December 18 with no arrests made.

A black 1999 Ford Crown Victoria reported stolen through Prince George's County Police was recovered December 20 in the 6000 block Springhill Drive with no arrests made.

A green 1998 Jeep Cherokee with MD tags reported stolen through Prince George's County Police was recovered December 21 in the 7900 block Mandan Road with no arrests made.

A gray 2000 Dodge Stratus with MI tags stolen from the 8100 block Lakecrest Drive was recovered in the 100 block Westway December 21 with no arrests made.

Vandalism

A car door lock was damaged December 21 in the 8000 block Mandan Road.

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.

Stars Delight Viewers Finally At Rainfree Star Party Here

by Martha Gay and Craig Levin

After months of cloudy weekends, the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) was finally able to offer a star party Saturday, November 7. Ten people, ranging in age from "over 65" to about 3, attended. In the observatory Jupiter was the first target willingly offering its moons and cloud bands for all to see. Subsequent targets included the Andromeda Galaxy. At a distance of 2.9 million light years, it is the Milky Way's closest neighbor. Even in the severely light-polluted skies of Greenbelt two bright planetary nebulae, the Dumbbell and the Ring, could be found. These were formed when stars exploded, ejecting a shell of hot plasma. The final target in the observatory was a globular cluster, Messier 15, which has many thousands of stars in its tightly-packed core.

In addition to the observatory guests could view objects through four telescopes brought by ASG members and through one pair of binoculars. Star parties offer an excellent opportunity for folks to become familiar with types of optics. In particular, many people are amazed that one doesn't need a telescope to see wonder sights. Some objects are best viewed with binoculars.

Friday night, ASG helped out its sister Goddard club at a special event for over 40 students and parents from the Southwest Baltimore Charter School. The students brought a degree of knowledge and enthusiasm which inspired all who participated. Most of the same favorite objects were targeted. Solar observing was also featured. Regrettably, the bus was leaving as the moon rose.

There is an urgent need!

**GIVE BLOOD,
GIVE LIFE**

Wednesday, January 13, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.,
USDA, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue,
Beltville

Saturday, January 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.,
Wells Ice Rink, 5211 Paint Branch Parkway,
College Park

Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE

Nobel Winner Tells Story of Universe

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center presents "The Story of the Universe" as told by NASA scientist and 2006 Nobel laureate Dr. John Mather. In this new web interactive Mather discusses his beginnings on a farm in New Jersey, what it was like to win the coveted Nobel Prize in physics and how he feels about his work on the James Webb Space Telescope.

Members of the Goddard multimedia team created a web video browser that provides viewers with a virtual seat in the lecture hall. Listen in as Mather presents a history lesson spanning more than 13 billion years about the formation of the universe, galaxies, stars, planets and life. The story also describes the accomplishments of modern astronomy pioneers Galileo Galilei, Edwin Hubble and Albert Einstein, whose discoveries lent support to the Big Bang theory.

This is no typical lecture. Through the use of video chapter navigation, the listener is in control. Jump from topics like "The Center of the Universe" or "How Did We Get Here?" to "Dark Matter/Dark Energy" and others. The interactive includes supporting materials and links to related sites. See the lecture at www.nasa.gov/externalflash/mather/.

Taken from story by Dewayne Washington, Goddard Space Flight Center, for www.nasa.gov.

LIBRARY

continued from page 1

city will powerscrub and/or strip the floor, the memo states.

FOGM Issues

In the meantime FOGM members will have cleared the room, removing all current display items for storage. FOGM will retain use of a closet during the period of the agreement and may also be permitted to "exhibit vintage photographs" and other materials, the memo states.

The redecoration process will begin after January 15 and is to be completed before the library moves into the space.

During the five months only limited library services will be available. A book hold pick-up and public computer access to library system holdings will be offered, as well as librarian assistance.

According to the memorandum, the hours of use of the library will fall within the normal hours for the Community Center facility – from Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Currently library hours are more restricted.)

The city memo also requires the presence of library staff whenever the library facility is open. An information sign will also be posted outside Room 110. The city will be responsible for heating and air conditioning of the space.

To longtime Greenbelters, seeking library assistance in the Community Center will recall old times before the current library was built. While the structure still served as an elementary school, a large room near the east entrance was set aside as the public library. The late Frances Herling, mother of Councilmember Konrad Herling, served as librarian and she and her husband, Albert, advocated strongly for the larger facility.

TOP TEN continued from page 1

lines as the basis for new right-of-way lines or to use utility pole locations. With councilmembers not in agreement as to what to do and questions of who will pay costs to resolve the problem, further consideration was deferred to the new year.

Empirian Village Fire

Empirian Village residents endured another fire this year when an electrical malfunction caused a three-alarm blaze on October 17. Nine people, including a firefighter, were injured and 168 were displaced. Two buildings were damaged.

The community of Greenbelt responded with an outpouring of support. Families displaced were moved into empty units at the complex. Excess donations were distributed to local families in need.

Sewer Backup

At a June 22 city council meeting homeowners from the Greenbrook Estates neighborhood sought assistance regarding a May 15 simultaneous sewer backup in the basements of their homes. They complained that WSSC's response was "very poor" and compensation for damages not forthcoming.

After the July 29 council meeting, when WSSC continued to disavow responsibility, the city manager sought a meeting with senior WSSC officials.

On October 7 WSSC offered \$10,300 in damages to one homeowner hours before a scheduled meeting and nothing to another, stating it could not compensate customers who have previously "engaged" with their own homeowners insurance. After a heated exchange between Councilmember Edward Putens and WSSC staff, WSSC offered the aforementioned homeowner reimbursement of the \$1,000 deductible paid.

Greenbelters at Inauguration

After supporting Barack Obama's election in 2008, many Greenbelters turned out on a cold and windy day to attend his January 20 inauguration. Nine Greenbelt police officers provided crowd assistance at the parade while the remainder were assigned in and around the Greenbelt Metro station and at local inaugural events. Mayor Judith Davis got to her assigned blue-ticket place early but could not see over the tall heads in front of her, enjoying instead the sounds of the event and the joyful exuberance of her neighbors in the crowd. The Navy Sea Chanters including Bill Edwards sang the National Anthem and watched from above at the Capitol. Ty Robbins was Michelle Obama's stand-in for the ABC-televised Neighborhood Ball. Sandra and David Lange rode a special MARC train, Cynthia Cummings bicycled, Frank DeBernardo and Mike and Tim Mullaney took Metro to watch the event on Jumbotrons on the mall far from the Capitol. Kelly Ivy talked with both Obama and Vice President-elect Joseph Biden while working the special Amtrak train bringing the Obamas and the Bidens to Baltimore before the inauguration. Most Greenbelters watched on TV in the warmth of their homes or at special gatherings such as those held at the New Deal Café or Green Ridge House.

Changes to Bus Routes

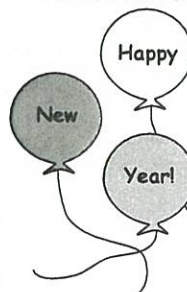
In the spring Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) proposed changes to area bus routes, some of which would affect accessibility to public transportation for Greenbelt residents. The Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-Greenbelt) responded by meeting with WMATA staff, local and county elected officials and staff to work up a transit plan. In August, TRU-Greenbelt members met with county transit planners in a public meeting to suggest changes that would improve the bus system with riders' needs in mind.

Utopia Film Festival

This year's fifth annual Utopia Film Festival in October, sponsored by Greenbelt Access Television (GATE), drew more than 50 submissions from around the world. Among those shown were short works by Greenbelt children in GAVA/GATE classes and a documentary, "Green Towns U.S.A.: A New Deal," that brings up-to-date the stories of the three greenbelt towns and drew a large crowd to the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Another popular film was "Signs of the Times" about the origin of baseball hand signals to assist an early deaf player. Several film makers attended to discuss their work.

To Greenbelt Friends & Neighbors

May 2010 Be
Peaceful
Productive
&
Prosperous



Leta and Darrell Mach