



THE GREENBELT BULLETIN

Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014

On June 3, 2013, the City Council approved a \$24.9 million budget for fiscal year (FY) 2014 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014). In approving the budget, the Council reduced the proposed tax increase from two (2) cents to one and a half (1.5) cents. Since the budget's introduction in late March, the Council held ten (10) work sessions and two (2) public hearings to review and obtain public comment on it.

For the past five years, since FY 2009, the city's budgets have remained in a narrow range of \$24.4 million to \$25.3 million in recognition of and in response to the national and international recessions. Keeping the budget essentially flat has been made possible by the Council and City staff finding over \$2.5 million in savings and cost reductions in city expenses during this period.

Though the adopted budget includes a tax rate increase, most property owners will see a lower tax bill due to the lower assessments in effect starting July 1. Property in Greenbelt was reassessed in 2012 by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The reassessment lowered property values for taxation purposes by an average of 20 to 40% depending on property type.

While there are signs that the national and world-wide economies are improving, it will be a few years before these improvements are evident in Greenbelt. Because real property won't be reassessed for three years and property taxes comprise the largest portion of city revenues (63.6%), any revenue growth due to improvements in the overall economy will have a limited impact on the city. Nevertheless, Greenbelt remains on solid financial

footing for the coming years.

In adopting the budget, the Council was able to provide funds for a volunteer coordinator in conjunction with the Volunteer Maryland program, provide an additional \$1,000 to College Park Meals on Wheels which serves the Greenbelt community, and allocate \$1,000 to the Chesapeake Education Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) and \$1,000 to alight dance theater.



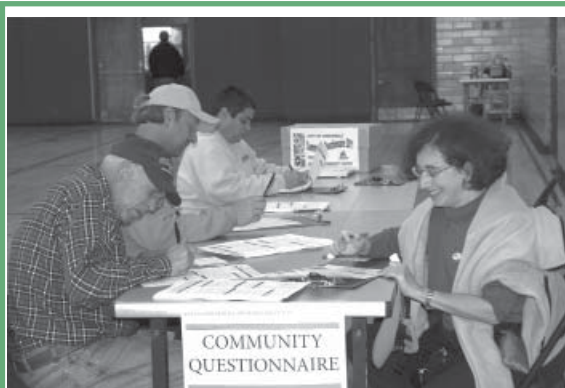
Property Taxes	Other Taxes	Service Charges	Lic. & Permits	Other Agen.	Fines	Misc. & Transfers
63.6¢	14.0¢	8.6¢	5.8¢	4.4¢	2.8¢	0.8¢

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General Govt.	Planning & C.D.	Public Safety	Public Works	Gbelt CARES	Recreation & Parks	Misc. & NonDept	Fund Transfers
10.7¢	3.5¢	41.0¢	12.0¢	3.6¢	20.1¢	5.3¢	3.8¢



CITY COUNCIL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2013

In accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter, a regular election will be held in the City of Greenbelt on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, to elect the seven members of the City Council.

NOMINATION FOR MEMBER OF COUNCIL

Any qualified voter of the City may be nominated for the office of Member of Council upon filing a nomination petition with the City Clerk (signed by not fewer than 50 Greenbelt resident voters), a written acceptance of the nomination, and other statements that

are required by the City Charter or by law. Required forms and information are available in the City Clerk's office, 25 Crescent Road, beginning Monday, August 19, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM MONDAY, AUGUST 19, THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013.

For additional information, contact Cindy Murray, City Clerk, at 301-474-8000, or e-mail cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT

The State of Maryland has a program to help homeowners deal with large assessment increases on their principal residence. It is called the Homestead Property Tax Credit. The Homestead Credit limits the increase in taxable assessments each year to a fixed percentage. Every county and municipality in Maryland is required to limit taxable assessment increases to 10% or less each year. Greenbelt's is 10% and Prince George's County's is 2%. The Homestead Credit does not limit the market value of a property. It limits the percentage increase of a property's assessment for taxation purposes.

Example

Assume that your old assessment was \$100,000 and that your new phased-in assessment for the 1st year is \$120,000. For Greenbelt tax purposes, an increase of 10% would result in an assessment of \$110,000. The difference between \$120,000 (the new assessment) and \$110,000 (the taxable value under the Homestead program) is \$10,000. The tax credit would apply to the taxes due on the \$10,000. If the tax rate was \$0.80 per \$100 of assessed value, the tax credit would be \$80 ($\$10,000 / 100 * \0.80).

Beginning in 2007, homeowners were required to apply for the Homestead Tax Credit. This is a one-time application, not an annual one. The deadline for applying this year has been extended to December 30, 2013. If you want to apply or want to check on your eligibility, contact the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation at 1-866-650-8783 or email them at homestead@dat.state.md.us.



CITY ELECTION INFORMATION

ELECTION CLERKS NEEDED

The City of Greenbelt Board of Elections is seeking several residents who would be willing to serve as election officials on November 5, 2013, from 6 a.m. until about 9 p.m. Clerks must also attend a training session on November 4 from 7:00 p.m. until about 9 p.m.

This is a rewarding experience for anyone who is interested in the political process and would like to play an active role in the local election. There is a stipend of \$135, plus a training payment of \$25.

There is also a need for additional clerks to assist in the counting of absentee ballots. This job would entail working for two or three hours in the late afternoon/early evening of November 5. No preliminary training is necessary. The pay for absentee ballot clerks is \$35.

To apply, please visit the City offices to submit an application or contact Cindy Murray, City Clerk, at 301-474-8000 or cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov to request a form. You may also print out the form from the www.greenbeltmd.gov.



RECYCLING IN GREENBELT

Did you know that Greenbelt's recycling rate for the year 2012 was 56 percent? That means that of all the materials that could have gone into the landfill, only 44% did!

We landfilled 1,586 tons/yr and we diverted 1,995 tons. That is a good thing since the landfill charges us \$59/ton in tipping fees, and we receive money back from the materials we recycle. This is a win-win situation for our economy and for the environment.

Our recycling goal for 2015 is 64%! We need your help to continue to divert from the landfill as many materials as we can. Have you tried composting? Did you know that 20 to 50% of the weight that goes to the landfill comes from food scraps and things we can compost? Also, remember to take re-usable items to a thrift store or to the American Rescue Workers donation truck that comes to the Municipal parking lot every second and fourth Saturday of the month. Call in large pieces of metal and appliances so they can be recycled. Don't forget our quarterly Electronics Recycling events; they happen on the fourth Saturday of the month in January, April, July and October. If you ever have a recycling question, do not hesitate to call/email Luisa Robles at 240-542-2153/lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov.



Reminder - Residents can use the University of Maryland Shuttle Service

Through a partnership between the City and the University of Maryland, which began a year ago, Greenbelt residents can use the University of Maryland shuttle service (Shuttle UM). Information on routes and schedules is available on the University's website, www.transportation.umd.edu/shuttle.

Residents interested in using the shuttle must purchase an annual pass (\$10) which is available at the Aquatic and Fitness Center, 101 Centerway, and at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Once you have the pass, there is no fare to use Shuttle UM. Pass holders can ride any Shuttle UM route. Those who purchased a pass a year ago need to renew their annual pass.

New Plans Presented to Council

The City's Advisory Planning Board (APB) and Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES) have recently submitted significant reports to the City Council.



APB has completed a **Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan** "which intends to guide improvements in the conditions for walking and cycling throughout the city." The APB's work on this plan began in 2008

and was aided by the work of the Toole Design Group, a transportation planning group. The report makes recommendations which will inform priority setting and capital projects for making Greenbelt even more walkable and bike-able.



GreenACES has prepared a **Sustainability Plan Framework** to guide City efforts in being more sustainable both within city operations and community-wide. As GreenACES states, the framework, developed over several years of work, "should

be viewed as a map to chart a course for sustainability, realizing sustainability is an ever moving target."

Both reports note that Greenbelt's original planners envisioned and created a walk-able and bike-able community with its walkway system and underpasses and one that included "sustainable" characteristics such as the "greenbelt" and community gardens. Both reports are available on the City's website, www.greenbeltmd.gov. Public comment is welcome!

VOTER REGISTRATION

Greenbelt residents are reminded that to participate in the 2013 City Council election—whether as a voter, a candidate for City Council, or a signer of a petition for a candidate—you must be registered to vote in Prince George's County.

To register to vote in Prince George's County, you must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be at least 16 years of age (you may register to vote at 16 but cannot vote until at least 18 years of age by the date of the election)
- Be domiciled within the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt as of the date of registration
- Not be under guardianship for mental disability
- Not have been convicted of a felony or, if you have, you have completed serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment, including any term of parole or probation for the conviction.

For information about registering to vote in Prince George's County, call 301-430-8020. Voter registration forms may be picked up at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, or obtained through the City website, www.greenbeltmd.gov. All forms must be received by the County Board of Elections in Upper Marlboro no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2013.

If you are already registered to vote in Prince George's but have moved or changed your name since the last election, you must complete a Voter Registration Application to have this information changed.

For additional information, contact Cindy Murray, City Clerk, at 301-474-8000 or cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov.

Greenbelt's New Interactive Website

The city's website, www.greenbeltmd.gov, just underwent a 4 month re-design process by CivicPlus, a leading government website provider. Greenbelt won the re-design through the annual Extreme Website Makeover Contest sponsored by the company. During the contest, citizens and others were invited to share their thoughts on what they would like to see in their municipal website through on-line surveys.



The website now has additional calendars, archives of publications, board and committee minutes, council minutes and agendas and open government features.

Through the new CivicPlus website, citizens and their local government will be better able to communicate, monitor, report, and stay connected through some of the new featured modules:

- **NOTIFY ME** allows residents to sign up to be notified when certain new items are added to the site, such as the latest police report, recreation activity guide, job postings, news flashes, Council minutes, agendas, board and committee minutes or calendar events.
- **FACILITIES CENTER** is a quick access area for all of Greenbelt's Recreational Facilities and more.
- **ARCHIVE CENTER** allows you to access past budgets, minutes, city publications and more.
- **VIDEO STREAMING** allows you to view Council Meetings live and on demand.
- **AGENDA CENTER** will allow you to view the upcoming Council Meeting Agenda prior to the meeting and access the background documents.

The site will incorporate other modules over time which will add additional functionality. With the new website, the City of Greenbelt will be able to increase its community engagement and enhance communication with its residents.

Postal Customer



59th LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

**Friday, August 30 -
Monday, September 2**

Enjoy an entertaining weekend with family and friends. Join the

Recreation Department for youth activities, strategy games, craft day or register your Adult Men's Softball Team in the Annual Labor Day Tournament. Stay tuned to the *Greenbelt News Review* for the weekend schedule of events, time and location.

POOCH PLUNGE

A swim/splash party for you and your canine pal!

Saturday, September 7, 10:00am-2:00pm

Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (Outdoor Pool)

One dog per handler; handlers must be age 18 or above.

No charge for handlers; nominal fee per dog.

Limited to 75 dogs. Spectators welcome!

Pre-register at the Animal Control booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

ARTFUL AFTERNOON – PUPPETRY!

Sunday, October 6, 1:00pm-4:00pm

Location: Greenbelt Community Center

Most activities free! Beautiful artistry and low-tech magic will delight viewers of all ages. Enjoy a series of short works by Alex Vernon and Sarah Olmsted Thomas, along with other local artists. Performance at 3pm. ALSO... enjoy a free craft workshop, 1-3pm, and an open house with the Community Center's Artists in Residence, 1-4pm. Visit the Art Gallery and the Greenbelt Museum local history exhibit and tour the Museum's historic house (\$3 or free with membership), 1-5pm. For more information: ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Judith "J" Davis - jdavis@greenbeltmd.gov, Mayor Pro Tem Emmett V. Jordan - ejordan@greenbeltmd.gov, and Council Members: Konrad Herling, - kherling@greenbeltmd.gov, Leta Mach-Imach@greenbeltmd.gov, Silke I. Pope- spope@greenbeltmd.gov, Edward V. J. Putens-eputens@greenbeltmd.gov, and Rodney Roberts -rroberts@greenbeltmd.gov

FALL FEST

Saturday, October 19, 2:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Schrom Hills Park

The Recreation Department will be joining forces with the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments to host our annual Fall Fest. Make plans now to stroll over to Schrom Hills Park and join us for hay rides, games, amusements, pumpkin patch, live music, and art activities. Plans are still developing and more information will be available as the event nears.

COSTUME CONTEST & PARADE

Friday, October 25, Registration 4:00pm-4:30pm

The Parade will start at 4:30pm sharp!

Location: Roosevelt Center - in the grassy area in front of Curves.

Come dressed in your finest Halloween costume! Prizes will be awarded to contestants with the most innovative costume in their age group. There will also be a category for the best family and best pet. Refreshments and a performance by comedy juggler and circus performer, Michael Rosman, will follow the parade. Rosman has appeared on David Letterman, Jay Leno and the Wendy Williams Show. In the event of inclement weather, call the weather hotline at 301-474-0646 for an updated event status. **FREE**

CITY OF GREENBELT PHONE NUMBERS

City Offices.....	301-474-8000
Planning & Comm. Development	301-345-5417
Animal Control	301-474-6124
Public Works.....	301-474-8004
Recycling	301-474-8308
Greenbelt Connection	301-474-4100
Greenbelt CARES	301-345-6660
Police Non-Emergency.....	301-474-7200
Police Emergency.....	301-474-5454
Recreation Department	301-397-2200
Rec. Weather Line	301-474-0646
Community Center	301-397-2208
Aquatic & Fitness Center.....	301-397-2204
Springhill Lake Recreation Center.....	301-397-2212