



# THE GREENBELT BULLETIN



## FY 2010 BUDGET PREVIEW

As the nation faces an economic crisis, the City of Greenbelt is preparing to present a conservative budget that focuses on maintaining existing services, looks for cost savings,

and will not look to add any new programs that could substantially increase costs. In the City of Greenbelt, and other Maryland municipalities, the current crisis has not had the same negative impact as the State and County have experienced. The main reason is that much of the City's revenue comes from property taxes with a limited exposure to other revenues which fluctuate based on the economy, such as Income and Gas Taxes.

On a positive note, midway through FY 2009 (the current fiscal year), the city's fund balance is in good shape as it has built back up from a low point in 2004. The current fund balance now stands at \$2.4 million or 10% of expenditures. The fiscal year started off positively with revenues ahead of schedule and savings being realized due to lower insurance and salary costs.

The bad news in revenues are that the City has a large tax repayment on a major commercial property due to a revised assessment and that Income Tax revenues are tracking lower than anticipated. Another revenue decrease that will affect the budget is Gas Taxes, which are lower due to slower car sales and decreased gasoline usage.

In order to maintain the services for its citizens that Greenbelters are accustomed to, the City is looking for savings wherever possible. One approved new position has been put on hold while some existing positions will remain vacant for now. Savings will also be realized by reduced fuel costs and insurance premiums.

The City Manager will present the Proposed FY 2010 Budget to City Council on Monday, March 23rd. The public will have the opportunity to comment throughout the months of April and May at the various Work Sessions. Two public hearings on the budget will also be held. Meeting dates will be advertised in the *Greenbelt News Review* and at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). The Proposed Budget document will be available for download at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) after it is presented to City Council.

## GREENBELT MUNICIPAL ACCESS NOW STREAMING LIVE!

Now information about the City of Greenbelt, upcoming events, services, live City Council meetings, and video on-demand are available right from the city's website at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). The City of Greenbelt has contracted with Granicus, Inc., a webcasting company, to provide 24/7 access to City Council Meetings and other Greenbelt Municipal Access Television programming. This step allows all citizens, even those that do not subscribe to Comcast or Verizon, to access Greenbelt Municipal Access, the city's informational television channel.

On March 9, 2009, City Council meetings became available for live viewing via the internet. Prior to this date, citizens could only watch on Comcast Channel 71 or on Verizon 21. This also allows anyone with access to the Internet to be able to view the channel, whereas Channels 71 and 21 are only available in Greenbelt.

In addition, City Council Meetings are recorded and cross referenced with the agenda. They become part of an on-demand library of meetings that will be available for viewing at anytime. Also, in the future, many programs such as Ask the Expert, Labor Day Programming, concerts, and more will also become part of the on-demand library.

Visit Greenbelt CityLink at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)  
for city government, departments, services, events, and information.

## CITY SERVICES 101: AN ABRIDGED GUIDE



The City of Greenbelt prides itself on the many services that it provides to its residents. The following is a summary of the City Departments, what they do, and how to contact them.

**Greenbelt City Council** - The Council sets the overall direction and policies of the city. They meet in public regular sessions the second and fourth Mondays of the month, as well as in numerous public work sessions throughout the year. The Council sets policy, adopts the City budget annually and enacts City ordinances and resolutions. Messages for the Council may be left at 301-474-8000 or by e-mail. The e-mail addresses are listed on the back page of the bulletin. The mailing address for Council is 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

**City Manager's Office** - 25 Crescent Road, 301-474-8000, Fax 301-441-8248, [Info@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:Info@greenbeltmd.gov). The City Manager oversees all of the other City Departments and carries out City Council's objectives. The Assistant City Manager works on many different special projects such as keeping the Council informed about pertinent County and State Legislation; helping to prepare the City Budget; and working on homeland security issues, to name a few. The City Clerk is the official record keeper for the City Council. She also schedules their meetings, recruits advisory boards and committees members, and helps to create the Agenda. The Public Information and Communications Coordinator is responsible for keeping citizens informed about city services and programs through the use of the Municipal Access Television Channel (Comcast 71 & Verizon 21), the website [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), newsletters, newspaper articles and other publications. The City Manager's office staff responds to citizens' requests and provides support to City Staff.

**Administrative Services** - 25 Crescent Road, 301-474-1552. Includes Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. The Finance Office is responsible for collecting and managing city funds, paying all of the city's bills, and maintaining all financial records. Citizens and businesses may pay their Waste Collection and Personal Property Tax bills either by mailing them or in person at the Finance window. Paper yard waste bags and Greenbelt history books may also be purchased at the finance window. A limited service Post Office is offered Tuesdays – Saturdays,

from 10am-2pm at the city's Finance window. Human Resources works with the departments to hire all city personnel. They maintain a Job Hotline at 301-474-1872 and post job openings at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). Information Technology is responsible for maintaining and managing the City's computer systems and infrastructure. They work with all city departments to help them meet their technological needs.

**Public Works** - 555 Crescent Road, 301-474-8004. This Department is the maintenance department for the City of Greenbelt. It is responsible for waste collection, recycling, building maintenance, custodial services, playground, parks & ballfield maintenance, horticulture, street maintenance, leaf collection, yard waste, snow removal, special event set-up, and city fleet maintenance. Public Works also operates the City's Dial-a-Ride service, the Greenbelt Connection. To arrange a ride on the Greenbelt Connection, call 301-474-4100.

**Police** - 550 Crescent Road, Non-Emergency: 301-474-7200, Emergency: 301-474-5454, Fax: 301-507-6520, Records: 301-507-6550. The department provides around the clock protection for Greenbelt's citizens. It is a Nationally Accredited Agency with 54 sworn officers and additional support staff. Services of the Police Department include patrol, communications, bike patrol, traffic control, canine unit, criminal investigation, crime prevention, a narcotics task force, and two school resource officers. Residents may pay red light and parking tickets, pick up police reports, and reclaim lost and found items at the Police Department. The department also publishes a weekly activity report that is posted at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) and participates in [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

**Planning and Community Development** - 15 Crescent Road, Suite 200, 301-345-5417. This Department is responsible for providing planning guidance for all physical growth in the city. It is also responsible for maintaining the quality of the city's infrastructure through Community Development. Other services provided by this Department are parking enforcement and animal control. At this office, citizens may file complaints concerning the condition of rental properties, parking, and noise ordinance violations, apply and pay for city permits for construction, building,

and electrical work, apply for dog park permits, and inquire about adopting pets. Greenbelt Animal Control operates a shelter located behind the Police Department at 550-A Crescent Road. Open visitation days at the shelter are Wednesdays from 4pm-7pm and Saturdays from 9am-

12pm. Animal Control can be reached at 301-474-6124.



**Recreation** - 99 Centerway, 301-397-2200. This Department provides extensive recreation services and facilities to the residents of Greenbelt and the surrounding area. Recreation holds many different special and holiday events annually. They also offer an extensive number

of classes for all ages including pre-school classes, arts classes, and fitness classes. Information about classes and events can be found in the Recreation quarterly brochure. The Department also operates the following facilities: the Youth Center, the Community Center, the Aquatic and Fitness Center, the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, and

a Skate Park. In addition, the city also provides over 500 acres of parkland including Buddy Attick Park/Greenbelt Lake, Schrom Hills Park, Braden Field and numerous playgrounds. Greenbelt uses all of these facilities to offer a diverse Spring and Summer Day Camp Program with a wide variety of programs and classes for children to choose from. Registration for these programs is going on now. Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/camps\\_2009.pdf](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/camps_2009.pdf) to download the brochure.

**Greenbelt CARES** - 25 Crescent Road, 301-345-6660. Greenbelt CARES offers individual counseling by appointment and group family counseling on Wednesday evenings. CARES has Crisis Intervention Counselors that work closely with the Greenbelt Police Department. Through Vocational/Educational services, the city offers GED, tutoring, babysitting courses and a tutoring camp. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) Program provides information, referral, and advocacy to enable seniors to remain in their homes. It also offers other social programs such as food bank distributions and the Governor's WellMobile.

*For more information on City Government, Services and Events, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)*



## GOVERNOR'S WELLMOBILE

As part of the City of Greenbelt's "Backpack to Heath Campaign," the Governor's WellMobile will be stationed at Springhill Lake Elementary School, 6060 Springhill Drive, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month from 9am-3pm. Through this program, eligible residents can be seen by nurse practitioners for Sick Visits, Physical Exams, Blood Pressure and Vision Screenings, Pap Smears, Prostate Screenings and more. Social and outreach workers will also be able to provide referrals for primary care providers and doctors, emergency services, and may assist with applications for insurance and other governmental assistance.

You are eligible for services if you:

- Do not have medical insurance
- Are not covered by Medicare or Medicaid
- Have insurance with limited coverage or a high deductible
- Do not qualify for other state and federal health care programs.

**For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-866-228-9668**



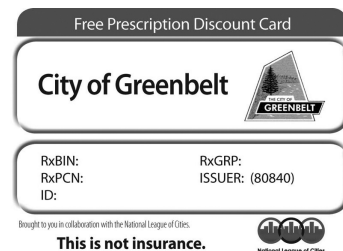
## PRESCRIPTION DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

The City of Greenbelt has a new program to offer savings on prescription drugs to residents who are without health insurance, a traditional benefits plan, or have prescriptions that are not covered by insurance.

The Prescription Discount Card is made available to residents by the City of Greenbelt in collaboration with the National League of Cities (NLC) and is made possible through the city's membership in NLC.

The card is FREE to all Greenbelt residents, regardless of age, income or existing health insurance. By using this card, you may save an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies.

To discover the savings and learn more about the program, visit <http://www2.caremark.com/nlc>. Residents may pick up a card at the following locations: Greenbelt Library, Greenbelt Municipal Building, Greenbelt Youth Center, Greenbelt Community Center, GHI Business Office, Greenbriar Business Office, and Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center. For more information, call toll free: 1-888-620-1749.





# GREEN EVENTS FOR THE SPRING

Spring is right around the corner! It is time to end your winter hibernation and come out and enjoy these "green" events with your friends and neighbors.

## NEW GREEN WORKSHOPS!

The Department of Public Works will offer a series of workshops to help you do more for the environment. Topics will include composting, rain barrels, rain gardens, and much more.

The first workshop will be "Landscaping with Water Quality in Mind" on Saturday, March 14th at 1:00pm at the Greenbelt Community Center. Learn about the use of compost for fertilizer, utilizing natural products in your garden and other sustainable garden practices.

The second workshop will be held during the Earth Day event being held on April 25th at the Youth

Center. During this workshop, you will see first hand how to build and plant a successful rain garden. Free instructions and plants will be available to help you get started back at home.

Information on other upcoming workshops will be available at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

## CELEBRATION OF SPRING

Saturday, April 18th from 10am-2pm at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Shake off the cold days of winter and spring into action. Entertainment, make and take art activities, moon-bounces, games and refreshments.

## EARTH DAY & ARBOR DAY

Saturday, April 25th from 10am-12pm. Celebrate Earth Day outside the Youth Center with members of the Green Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Help restore and install

a rain garden, plant native plants, and address erosion and storm water quality issues. At noon, join the Advisory Committee on Trees in a tree planting to commemorate Arbor Day. At 12:15pm, take a tree tour of large and unusual trees throughout the city.

## PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 25th from 10am-2pm Experience the long awaited new Public Works facility featuring many "green" elements. Join the City Council for a ribbon cutting ceremony, demonstrations, tours, and refreshments. Bring the family out to enjoy this popular event.

## EARTH HOUR

Saturday, March 28, 2009 from 8:30pm-9:30pm

Turn off your lights for one hour to help make a global statement of concern about climate change and to demonstrate your commitment to finding solutions. Info:[www.earthhourus.org](http://www.earthhourus.org)

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

Judith F. Davis, Mayor  
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Rodney Roberts, Mayor Pro Tem  
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**NEWSLETTER INPUT:** The Greenbelt Bulletin is published by the City of Greenbelt, City Manager's Office, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

We want your story ideas! Please let us know if there are any topics that you would like to see covered in the Greenbelt Bulletin. Please refer all questions, comments or suggestions about this newsletter to Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator, 240-542-2026 or [bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov).

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25 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770**

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