



THE GREENBELT BULLETIN

FY 2012 BUDGET PROPOSED

On March 28, the City Manager presented a Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 which begins July 1, 2011, and ends June 30, 2012. The proposed expenditure budget totals \$25.4 million and the revenue side totals \$25.7 million, with no change in the tax rate. It is being recommended the additional \$300,000 in revenue be put in to the city's fund balance ("rainy day fund").

Generally, this budget continues to deal with the difficult economic climate caused by the recession, the downturn in the housing market, and reductions in revenues received from the State of Maryland. The budget supports existing city services and makes progress on Council's Visioning Goals with one fewer position than this year. Over the past three years, six positions have been eliminated in order to reduce city expenses. These savings have allowed the city to avoid any layoffs or furloughs of city staff.

One key proposal in the budget addresses a way in which to fund some badly needed, but unfunded, capital projects. These include the renovation of the Old Greenbelt movie theater, repairing the dam and dredging Greenbelt Lake, and replacing the Aquatic and Fitness Center roof. It is proposed that the city refinance its existing debt which will save \$400,000 with some of the savings used towards these projects. It is also proposed that the City Council consider placing a bond referendum on the election ballot in November for the financing of these projects.

One revenue-producing proposal in the budget is that the city consider installing one or more speed cameras.



General Govt.	Planning & C.D.	Public Safety	Public Works	Gbelt CARES	Recreation & Parks	Misc. & NonDept	Fund Transfers
10.3¢	4.2¢	39.4¢	11.7¢	3.4¢	19.8¢	7.4¢	3.8¢

This would be explored as a partnership with other local governments in cooperation with Howard County. This budget also realizes the savings of \$100,000 in lower electrical costs as a result of a contract negotiated with Clean Currents. Beginning July 1, the city will purchase all of its electricity through Clean Currents at a per KWH charge that is 15% lower than what is currently being paid. Also, all of the electricity will have WIND credits which will substantially reduce the city's carbon footprint!

Key projects for the coming year will include celebrating the city's 75th anniversary (see attached article), continuing to work on plans for the future use of the existing Greenbelt Middle School, and planting 100 trees to continue the recovery from the tree damage of the past 18 months.

The Proposed Budget is on the city's website, Greenbelt CityLink at www.greenbeltmd.gov. The City Council is holding nine public work sessions to review the budget as well as two public hearings on April 26 and May 23. Your input and support are always appreciated.

CITY OF GREENBELT INFORMATION STATION

The City of Greenbelt has added another feature to Greenbelt CityLink which will help citizens keep informed. Residents can now choose to sign up to have a variety of publications and notifications from the City of Greenbelt sent directly to them via e-mail. Information Station is accessible through the home page of Greenbelt CityLink at www.greenbeltmd.gov "Keeping In Touch" or you can go to the sign up page directly at www.greenbeltmd.gov/information_station.

Visit the page and sign up to receive the notifications that you would like. At anytime, you will be able to unsubscribe to any group at any time.



Also, remember to "Like" the City of Greenbelt on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt for other updates on city activities.

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 Dept	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

KEEP IT AT HOME! When filling out your State Income Tax this year, please make sure to specify GREENBELT as your local government. This will assure that a portion of your taxes stays in Greenbelt.

GREENBELT MIDDLE SCHOOL TASK FORCE SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT



The Greenbelt Middle School Task Force (GMSTF) was established to “develop ideas and concepts for the re-utilization of the Middle School.” This is similar to the process that the city used in 1989 when the Greenbelt (Elementary) Center School

was converted into the now widely used Greenbelt Community Center in historic Greenbelt.

Greenbelt has an opportunity to consider the re-use of another school building to provide a wealth of community services in the Greenbelt West/Franklin Park community. The Greenbelt Middle School building is almost 70% larger than the Greenbelt Community Center and includes the historic Greenbelt High School built in 1937.

GMSTF usually meets the second Thursday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Meetings are open to the public.

GMSTF will hold three public hearings in May:

- **Wednesday, May 4th** - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Greenbriar Condominiums, 7600 Hanover Parkway in the Terrace Room.
- **Tuesday, May 10th** - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- **Thursday, May 19th** - 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Springhill Lake Elementary School, 6060 Springhill Dr.

The Task Force expects to send an interim report to the City Council by June and a final report in the fall.

For further information, contact Joe McNeal, Assistant Director of Recreation and the Task Force staff liaison, at 301-397-2200 or jmcneal@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT METRO AREA AND MD 193 CORRIDOR SECTOR PLAN AND SECTIONAL MAP AMENDMENT

A public information meeting was recently held by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and Greenbelt’s Planning Department to present an upcoming sector plan and sectional (zoning) map amendment focused on the Greenbelt Metrorail Station and Greenbelt Road/MD 193 Corridor.

Residents, business owners, and elected officials rolled up their sleeves, identified key issues that must be addressed by this plan, and set the stage for the work to come.

When done, the sector plan will guide the long-term growth and revitalization of the Metro Station area and Greenbelt Road corridor. The plan will address land use, transportation networks, environmental infrastructure, public facili-

ties, economic development, and other quality of life issues. The municipalities of Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, and College Park are all included, continuing their long tradition of cooperation to ensure a bright future for all residents, workers, and visitors.

M-NCPPC staff expects formal initiation of the sector plan in May, 2011. An intense series of workshops, meetings, and briefings will ensure broad participation in the preparation of the plan’s recommendations. Everyone with interest in the past, present, and future of the Greenbelt Metro Station and the MD 193 Corridor is encouraged to participate in this exciting initiative.

More information may be found at www.pgplanning.org/Greenbelt.htm, or by contacting the project manager, Chad Williams, LEED AP BD+C, at 301-952-3171 or by e-mail at chad.williams@ppd.mncppc.org.



75TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING WELL UNDERWAY

The year 2012 will mark Greenbelt’s 75th anniversary. The 75th Anniversary Committee has been hard at work since April 2010 planning events, programs, and activities for the year long celebration. One of the committee’s agreed upon goals is not only to

commemorate the past but also to celebrate the city’s current diversity and to look towards the future. To achieve that goal, events which will appeal to a wide variety of ages and interests are being planned in all areas of the city.

One of the committee’s first activities was a logo contest. Judy McCord, the winner, is a former Greenbelt resident, whose mother still resides here. The committee liked how she combined historical elements, such as the vintage typewriter font, with the suggestion of environmental awareness represented by the heart tree. It felt that her logo best captured Greenbelt today. The tag line, “Community, Culture, Cooperation,” further celebrates what makes Greenbelt unique.

The committee also distributed a survey seeking feedback from the community regarding potential anniversary activities. Based on those survey responses and an extensive visioning exercise, the committee began sifting through the many suggestions and proposals and has formulated an initial calendar for the year. Some of the events currently being planned include an Artful Afternoon kick-off event in January 2012, a symposium in April 2012 which will explore sustaining Greenbelt’s legacy, and a series of events in October 2012 which will culminate in a gala dinner dance.

The committee has formed nine subcommittees which are tasked with everything from planning the symposium and gala to product development. If you are interested in helping or for more information, contact Megan Searing Young, staff liaison, at 301-507-6582 or museum@greenbeltmd.gov. You may also contact Committee Chair Dave Mills at 301-504-1200 or greenbelt75@gmail.com.



GREEN STEPS

Stepping Together Towards a Sustainable Society



GREENBELT REDUCES ITS ELECTRICITY COSTS AND ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT THROUGH CLEAN CURRENTS

The city has switched its electricity provider to Clean Currents. Clean Currents is a local wind power provider that sells Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). The purchase of RECs directly supports renewable energy development in the United States. Not only that, Clean Currents works with Washington Gas Energy Services (WGES) to negotiate the lowest rates for energy. This program allows the city to reduce its carbon footprint and save money!

Although the Mid-Atlantic area lacks the wind farms to support wind energy in the area, the purchase of RECs effectively offsets the city's carbon footprint for the year. Between the City of Greenbelt and the City of Hyattsville (which has also switched to Clean Currents), the annual amount of carbon dioxide being removed from the atmosphere is equal to 8,873,000 pounds or like taking 770 automobiles off the road.

Residents of Greenbelt can also jump on the Clean Currents bandwagon. It is easy to do and can save you money. The switch is almost invisible, as you will still get a bill from PEPCO, which will still provide the electrons to your house and service you in case of an outage. In addition, Clean Currents will make a donation back to the community when you enter "Greener in Greenbelt" when you sign up. For more information about the Clean Currents program visit, <https://www.cleancurrents.com/index.php/Greener-in-Greenbelt>. For questions or to register by phone contact Residential Customer Service, gogreen@cleancurrents.com or 301-754-0430 ext. 3.



CITY OF GREENBELT QUARTERLY PESTICIDE REPORT

On January 1, 2011, the city officially ceased all use of cosmetic landscape chemicals. This includes the use of any synthetic-based fertilizers.

On March 12, 2011 the city hosted the annual Sustainable Gardening Forum at the Community Center. Speakers were from Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (a non-profit organization dedicated to the health of all who share the Chesapeake watershed), Watershed Stewards Academy, the return of a speaker from the Humane Wildlife Services (requested back by popular demand), and a representative from Greenbelt Public Works. The presentations included mitigating problem wildlife, permaculture and square foot gardening, gardening with nature, and rain harvesting. There was a smaller but very enthusiastic crowd of attendees this year.

A pesticide and fertilizer survey of Greenbelt citizens has been written and it is hoped to have it distributed via SurveyMonkey.com in the near future. The survey includes questions that will provide information about why citizens use or don't use cosmetic landscape chemicals. We also hope to determine the barriers that prevent citizens from discontinuing the use of chemicals that are environmentally damaging.

SAVE THE DATE!

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center will celebrate its 20th anniversary on September 28th, 2011. There will be a variety of special events the weekend before (September 24th & 25th), and we will offer daily admission at the 1991 rates from September 24th -28th.

Residents: Adult - \$2.50, Child - \$1.25, Senior - \$1.25
Non-Residents: Adult - \$3.00, Child - \$1.75, Senior - \$1.75

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS!
DOWNLOAD THE GREENBELT RECREATION SUMMER CAMP
BROCHURE AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/RECREATION**



CAMP PINE TREE CAMP YOGO CIRCUS CAMP

**REGISTER FOR
SUMMER CAMP TODAY!**

For more information call,
301.397.2200

www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation

CREATIVE KIDS CAMP ENCORE



KINDER CAMP CREATIVE KIDS GREENBELT YOUTH CIRCUS

KINDER CAMP CAMP PINE TREE CAMP YOGO CAMP ENCORE

Postal Customer

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bring your family and friends out to enjoy these events brought to you by the City of Greenbelt!



Saturday, April 16th

**10:00am-2:00pm: EARTH DAY/
ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION**

Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway

Join the members of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability and the Advisory Committee on Trees in planting a rain garden, native plants, and addressing erosion and storm water quality issues. Tree planting at noon to replace trees lost in last year's storms. Nature tour and more. Info: 301-474-8004

10:00am-2:00pm: PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE, 555 Crescent Road. Come out to the Public Works Facility and enjoy tours, demonstration, climb on trucks and have a hot dog! Info: 301-474-8004

2:00pm-6:00pm: CELEBRATION OF SPRING

Springhill Lake Recreation Ctr., 6101 Cherrywood Lane
Bring the family and enjoy entertainment, make and take arts projects, games, refreshments and more in this community celebration. Weather info line 301-474-0646.

Saturday, April 23rd

10:00am sharp: ANNUAL EGG HUNT, Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road. Children ages 18 months through 6th grade, bring your basket and help the Bunny find the eggs that he and his helpers have hidden. Please call the weather hotline at 301-474-0646 the morning of the hunt for updated event status.

Friday, April 29th

**10:00am-2:00pm: FREE SENIOR LEGAL CLINIC
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road**

The GAIL Program, the Prince George's County Area Agency on Aging, and the Prince George's County Bar Association will provide free legal assistance in the preparation of living wills, advanced directives and powers of attorney documents. Lawyers will be volunteering their time to assist clients in preparing documents in one on one

sessions and answer any questions. Appointments will be required, please contact Stephanie Shoul to schedule an appointment 301-474-8000 ext. 3002.

Saturday, April 30th

**9:00am-12:00 noon: ELECTRONICS RECYCLING,
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road**

City residents can recycle old and/or unwanted computers and other electronic items. Accepted items include: TVs, CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptop computers, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, wires and power cords, fax machines, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players and more. Info at www.greenbeltmd.gov/public_works/Electronics_Recycling.php

9:00am-12:00 noon: SHREDDING DAY, Roosevelt Center Parking lot. Bring your sensitive documents to be shredded for free. Sponsored by the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union

Saturday, May 7th

**10:00am-3:00pm, 8TH ANNUAL ANIMAL CARE EXPO,
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road**

Bring your family, bring your friends, but most importantly, bring your pet to Greenbelt Animal Control's annual animal care event. Demonstrations, entertainment, informational tables, vendors, rabies clinic, food and fun! All is geared towards the health and well-being of your pet!

Saturday, May 21st

**11:00am-3:00pm: BABY BOOMER AND BEYOND EXPO
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road**

If you are you planning on staying in Greenbelt for retirement and beyond, the Baby Boomer and Beyond Expo is for you. There will be resources available from a variety of vendors, giveaways, break out sessions on Reverse Mortgages, Hoarding, Fitness Over 50, Benefits for Veterans, and free Rita's Italian Ice for attendees 50+ and more. Come out and gain vital information and have a great afternoon.