



# THE GREENBELT BULLETIN

## VOTING SYSTEM REFORM UPDATE

For the past year, the Greenbelt City Council and community have been undertaking a review of the city's voting practices. This effort began when a letter was received in March 2008 from the Prince George's chapter of the NAACP and the State of Maryland office of the ACLU. The letter pointed out that while the Greenbelt community was quite diverse racially, the City Council was not, and the groups were concerned about this situation, raising the possibility of pursuing litigation.

In the ensuing months, the City Council has held numerous meetings including nine (9) public ones where comments were solicited on the matter. The first three (3) meetings sought general public comment on the matter. The second three (3) meetings followed a statement by the Council suggesting consideration of moving the city's election date from the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of odd number years to the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November of even numbered years. Such a change would place city elections on the same day as state and

federal elections. This change was put forth as a way to increase the turnout at city elections because turnout at state and federal elections is much higher than city elections, especially in Precincts 8 and 13. The final three (3) meetings have just concluded. They were held to receive public comment on a proposal to expand the Council from the current five (5) members to seven (7).

The City Council intends to discuss these proposals as well as others such as early voting and same day registration at its May 26, 2009, meeting. At that meeting, it is expected the Council will give direction to city staff to draft the necessary amendments to the City Charter to enable one or more proposals to be implemented in time for the coming November 3, 2009 election. Changing the way a community votes is obviously a significant change. Interested residents are welcome to attend the upcoming Council meetings and can follow the action at Greenbelt CityLink, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).



## GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND 2009

### Eleanor Roosevelt Returns to Greenbelt!

Greenbelt!

The city in conjunction with the Maryland Humanities Council and the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum is pleased to welcome the former first lady as played by historic interpreter performer Suzan King.

The performance is part of the 2009 Maryland Humanities Council Chataqua series entitled Rights and Reformers. The "real" Mrs. Roosevelt visited Greenbelt frequently while her husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was president. She was so beloved by the town that the city led the effort to have Eleanor Roosevelt High School named for her, rather than her husband. Mrs. Roosevelt will appear as part of the city's Artful Afternoon program on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at 2 pm in the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd.

The first weekend in June of each year is celebrated as Greenbelt Day weekend, a celebration of the founding of our National Historic Landmark community. While each year is special, this year's celebration is particularly so - Eleanor Roosevelt is returning to

Other Greenbelt Day weekend events include the rebuilding of a playground on Ora Glen Drive in Windsor Green on Saturday, June 6, starting at 9:00am. The project is a community build playground and volunteers are needed. If you need more details, please contact the city's Public Works Department at 301-474-8004.

On Sunday, June 7, the city's Artful Afternoon program includes an art project for children and adults at 1 pm in the Community Center. Also at 1 pm, there will be a new citizen naturalization ceremony in the Community Center gym. Approximately 50 new citizens will be sworn in. Finally, following Mrs. Roosevelt, the Greenbelt Concert Band will be performing in the Community Center.

There are many other Greenbelt Day weekend events including a Greenbelt Baseball game at McDonald Field. For more details, check the *Greenbelt News Review*, google Greenbelt CityLink, or check the city website, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

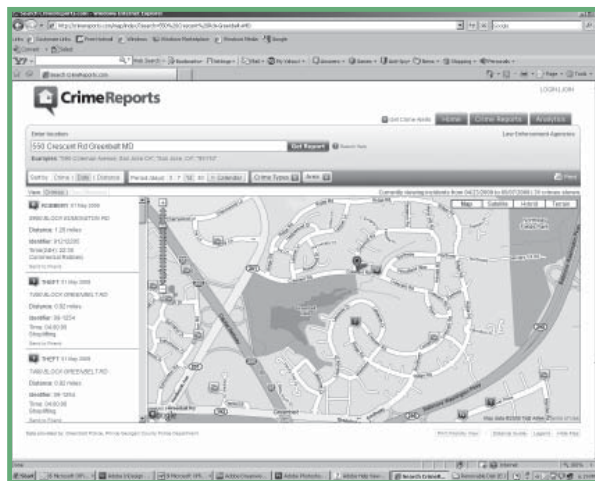
**It's easy to find city information!  
Google GREENBELT CITYLINK  
([www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)) for city departments,  
services, events, and information.**

## CRIME REPORTS HELPS TO KEEP CITIZENS INFORMED

The City of Greenbelt Police Department recently entered a partnership with CrimeReports.com. This service helps to keep citizens informed about crime in their neighborhoods. CrimeReports is an interactive system that allows citizens to type in any address in Greenbelt and see if there has been any recent crime nearby. Citizens may also sign up for alerts and receive automatic e-mails if any crime occurs near their home.

CrimeReports is a very easy to use system that allows law enforcement agencies to communicate with the community. The information is updated nightly and the system identifies the date, time, location, event type and incident number of reported crimes. Event location information is provided at the block or intersection level.

Greenbelt joins many other local governments who are using this program such as Prince George's County, Montgomery County, Bowie, Hyattsville and more. To access CrimeReports, visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).



CrimeReports is another service that the city has incorporated into its goal of making city government more accessible to all. Other interactive features currently being used by the city, which are all accessible through Greenbelt CityLink include:

- **Greenbelt Alert:** A text based emergency alert system for residents. Register to get alerts.
- **Greenbelt ReLink:** Register for most city recreation classes and programs on-line.
- **Greenbelt Action Center:** Ask Questions, Request Services, or Browse Frequently Asked Question.
- **Video Streaming:** Keep up on City Council issues and watch other city programming on demand.
- **Parking Ticket Payment:** Visit the Greenbelt Police area of Greenbelt CityLink to pay tickets on-line.
- **Greenbelt FaceBook Page:** Quick announcements and events from the City of Greenbelt
- **On-Line Subscriptions:** Have city publications emailed to you directly.

**Future plans for Greenbelt CityLink at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) will include many more of these interactive features!**



### A New Friend Awaits You at the GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER!

If you don't know by now, the City of Greenbelt runs a small animal shelter located behind the Police Station at 550-A Crescent Road. Many Greenbelt residents have found new friends at this facility. The animals are well cared for by a professional and loving staff that helps to get them ready to be wonderful pets!

Caring for Greenbelt's lost and homeless pets is costly. The Greenbelt Animal Shelter, a no kill facility, always welcomes monetary and pet supply donations. Volunteers are also needed.

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter has open visitation and adoption days on Wednesdays from 4pm-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm. Come out and see if one of our pets chooses you as their new friend! Greenbelt Animal Control is also available for emergencies and questions at 301-474-6124.



### July Fourth Fanfare!

*Celebrate Independence Day with friends and neighbors at Buddy Attick Park!  
Bring a picnic, Walk the lake trail, Enjoy the playground.*

- ▶ Free kids' craft tent, 3:00pm-6:00pm
- ▶ Greenbelt Concert Band, 6:15pm
- ▶ Community Drum Circle, 7:30pm-9:00pm
- ▶ FIREWORKS around 9:00pm

Please be sure to observe all posted parking regulations. Alcohol and personal fireworks (including sparklers) are NOT permitted in the park.

In case of inclement weather, call the **WEATHER AND INFORMATION HOTLINE** about schedule adjustments: 301-474-0646.

## 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  
Police Non-Emergency  
.....301-474-7200  
Police Emergency.....301-474-5454  
Greenbelt CARES.....301-345-6660  
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



## COOL OFF! SHAPE UP!... at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center



Find relief from another hot DC summer by visiting the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center (GAFC). Located at 101 Centerway, GAFC is one of the best deals in town. Reasonable Summer Memberships are available for both residents and non-residents at one of the lowest prices in the area. GAFC memberships offer you an added value in that it also allows you access to the indoor pool and the fitness center! If you don't feel that you will use a summer's worth of fun at the pool, Daily Admission is also available.

In addition to membership, the GAFC offers all levels of Children's Swimming Classes, and Adult Swimming and Fitness Classes. This summer, classes will be available during 3 different sessions with an additional Saturday session for Children's Classes. Download the Recreation Brochure from Greenbelt CityLink at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) for class listings and registration information or call 301-397-2200 to request a brochure be mailed to you.

Enjoy FAMILY NIGHTS at the GAFC on Friday, June 19th, July 17th and August 14th from 8pm-10pm. Bring your pool toys and the whole family for an evening of fun! Admittance is \$3.00 for an entire family plus one dollar for each additional non-family member.

Any way you look at it, the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center is THE place to be for cool Summer fun. For more information call 301-397-2204.

## SUPPORT GREENBELT BUSINESSES-SHOP LOCALLY



Photo by Karl Gary

Greenbelt is fortunate to have a variety of shopping opportunities – Beltway Plaza, Roosevelt Center and Greenway Center – each within walking distance of many residents. These centers provide many of the goods and services each of us needs on a daily or weekly basis, as well as the special items we need from time to time and there are many reasons for us to support them.

1. Community Well-Being – Local businesses build strong neighborhoods by sustaining communities, linking neighbors and contributing more to local causes.
2. Jobs – When you shop local, you simultaneously create jobs right here in Greenbelt.
3. Environmental Sustainability – Stores in your community help sustain a vibrant, compact and walkable town which reduces sprawl and automobile use.

4. You may meet a friend – when you shop in town you may meet your neighbor who you haven't seen for a while.
5. Shop and eat in Greenbelt or we both go hungry!

With Spring here, the Greenbelt Farmer's Market has opened! Enjoy local produce available on Sundays from 10am-2pm at the Roosevelt Center parking lot until November 22, 2009.

# Postal Customer

## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL COMES TO GREENBELT



The City of Greenbelt wants to make biking and walking to school safer and more appealing to local children. To reach this goal, the city is looking for suggestions from residents and school leaders. Your input can help us acquire grant money for programs that will be the most effective for our community. The National Safe Routes to Schools grant will fund a wide variety of projects including the construction of crosswalks and sidewalks, new bicycle racks, and safety education programs for children. If you have an idea, please send it to Amy Hofstra at [ahofstra@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ahofstra@greenbeltmd.gov) or call (301) 345-5417. When we improve safety, we enable and encourage more children to walk or bike to school; reducing traffic, minimizing air pollution, and improving children's health.



**DTV IS COMING JUNE  
12TH! DO NOT GET  
CAUGHT UNPREPARED!  
FOR MORE  
INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.DTV.GOV](http://WWW.DTV.GOV)**



## LIMITED SUMMER CAMP OPENINGS!



**Don't get caught being bored with nothing to do this summer. Greenbelt Summer Camps still have some openings left! Download a Summer Camps Brochure at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/camps\\_2009.pdf](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/camps_2009.pdf) for camp descriptions. Hurry, Summer vacation is just a couple of weeks away! For more information on camp openings, or to have a camp brochure mailed to you, call 301-397-2200.**

### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL

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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).