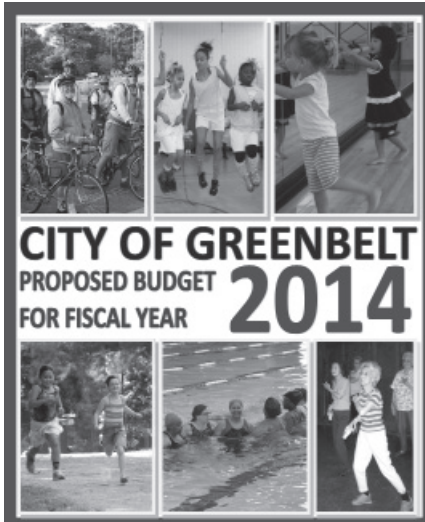




THE GREENBELT BULLETIN



PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014

A Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 (July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014) was presented to the City Council on Wednesday, March 27, 2013. This budget continues to deal with impacts from the recession of the past few years which include declining property

values and a slowing overall economy. All real property in Greenbelt was reassessed by the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation in calendar year 2012. By Maryland law, property is valued every three years which sets the property values for taxation purposes for the next three fiscal years (2014, 2015 and 2016).

Given recent market conditions, the results of the 2012 reassessment showed the total value of real property in Greenbelt had dropped 12% from the previous year from \$2.04 billion to \$1.8 billion. On average, single family homes and townhomes were 21% lower, condominiums were 40% lower, and commercial (offices and retail) were down 8%. The only class of property showing an increase was apartments (up 11%). The reduction in assessments translates to a \$1.5 million reduction in property tax revenues. Like most local governments, Greenbelt relies heavily on the property tax for the bulk of its revenue (56%).

On a more positive note, there are other revenues which indicate the economy of Greenbelt businesses is improving. Corporate property taxes are estimated 14% higher, income tax receipts are up 9%, and hotel/motel taxes are up 13% compared to recent lows three years ago. Also, Governor O'Malley's budget includes over \$200,000 in ad-

ditional Highway User revenue and \$90,000 in more Police Aid.

The Proposed Budget totals almost \$24.9 million (\$24,869,400), \$92,200 lower than the current year and at about the same level as five years ago (FY 2009). It proposes a 2 cent tax increase to \$0.81 per \$100 of assessed value. Even with the proposed tax rate increase, the average city tax bill will be \$356 lower than this year. The savings will be even larger when the County, State and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission taxes are calculated.

The budget supports existing services with the elimination of 1 vacant position (Since FY 2009, almost 7 positions have been eliminated) and some new initiatives. Examples of the new initiatives include a new, more interactive website, improving accessibility at bus stops in the city, setting a goal of reducing energy consumption by 15% by 2015, and installing traffic calming in front of Springhill Lake Elementary School as part of a Safe Routes to School grant.

To help balance the budget, a number of savings, cuts and reductions have been suggested. These include refinancing pension liability (save \$100,000), purchasing just 5 police cars (save \$70,000), and eliminating 1 vacant position (\$60,000). These savings are added to the \$1.9 million in savings made in prior years. This has enabled the city to provide its services over the past 4 years without having to layoff or furlough employees.

The City Council will hold 10 public work sessions and 2 public hearings through May 28 with budget adoption scheduled for June 3, 2013. All these meetings are open to the public. A copy of the budget is available on the city's website, Greenbelt CityLink, www.greenbeltmd.gov.

See page 3 for budget cost savings that have been made over the past several years.



HELP RESTORE THE OLD GREENBELT THEATRE!

VOTE FOR "GREENBELT THEATRE"

Follow link at www.PartnersinPreservation.com

APRIL 25-MAY 10

**The City of Greenbelt is competing with 24 other historic sites for a \$100,000 grant from Partners in Preservation
Vote daily, vote often, tell your friends!**

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt and on Twitter @cityofgreenbelt#greenbelttheater. Look for special events related to this campaign.



GREENBELT DAY WEEKEND

Happy 76th Anniversary Greenbelt! Celebrate the occasion by enjoying the many amenities that Greenbelt has to offer including our parks, pools, historic walking tour, special activities, local eateries and much more. Enjoy!

YOUTH SPRINT TRIATHLON Ages 8-15

Saturday, June 1 at the Youth Center, 9am-12 noon

Race day registration begins at 9:00am. Race begins at 10:00am. The race will begin with a 40 meter swim at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center outdoor pool. After the swim, children will get on their

bikes and ride through a marked off-road course suitable for mountain, bmx and hybrid bicycles only. The race will conclude with a 1 mile run on the Greenbelt Lake path. All participants will receive a medal. Awards will be given to the top finishers in each age group (8-15 years). \$10 registration fee

ESTATE PLANNING WITH A HEART: THE FAMILY LOVE LETTER

Saturday, June 1 at the Greenbelt Community Center (Room 201) from 1-3pm: Lorie Scheibel presents this practical, sensitive workshop which helps you centralize financial, legal and personal information so family and friends can take care of you and know how you would like end-of-life issues handled.

GREENBELT BASEBALL-MAJOR LEAGUE ALL STAR GAME: Sunday, June 2 at 10am at McDonald Field

U.S. NATURALIZATION CEREMONY: Sunday, June 2 at 1pm, Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd. Help provide a warm welcome to new United States citizens!

ARTFUL AFTERNOON

Sunday, June 2, 1-4pm, all ages welcome.
Greenbelt Community Center

1-3pm: Hands-on crafts: Make a puzzle, or puzzling abstract art! **Youth animation showcase:** Works by GAVA/GATE students

1-4pm: Artists in Residence studio open house and sale

3pm: Mayor's **Greenbelt Day Weekend** address and **Greenbelt Concert Band** performance

1pm-5pm: Visit the **Greenbelt Museum 75th Anniversary** exhibit and the **Art Gallery.** Greenbelt Museum historic house tours (10-B Crescent Rd; \$3 or free with membership)



NEW AGE REQUIREMENTS AT THE AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER

Effective May 25, 2013, the following Rules & Regulations will go into effect at the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center:

- Children 11 years of age and under entering the facility must be within sight and accompanied by a responsible person 16 years of age or older in appropriate swim attire. (Children 12 years of age and over are allowed to enter by themselves)
- Non-swimmers and all children 5 years of age and under in the water must be directly supervised by a responsible person 16 years of age or older in appropriate swim attire.
- Use of the baby pool (outdoor) shall be limited to children 5 years of age and under with their parent or a responsible person 16 years of age or older in appropriate swim attire.

www.greenbeltmd.gov/GAFC

UPCOMING GREEN EVENTS!

Electronics Recycling: Saturday, April 27 from 9am-12noon at the Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road. Recycle old or unwanted computers and other electronic items. For information on acceptable materials, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov or call 240-542-2153.

Shredding Day: Saturday, May 4 from 9am-noon in the Roosevelt Center parking lot behind the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union, 112 Centerway. Only 5 file boxes or bags per person. Must be present for shredding. Personal records only (no business). No contaminants accepted. Info: 240-542-2153.



Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook at www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt and on twitter @cityofgreenbelt
Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov for city information and events.

Cuts/Savings in previous budgets (FY 2009 – 2013)

Over the past several years, the City of Greenbelt has met some tough budgeting challenges. Below is a list of cost savings and cuts that have been made throughout that time in order to present a balanced budget. The FY 2014 Proposed Budget may be downloaded from www.greenbeltmd.gov/proposed_budget.



A. Savings

1. Eliminate three Public Works positions	\$195,000
2. Reduce debt set aside.....	20,300
3. Cut Membership and Training Cost 10% Across the Board	20,000
4. Lower Prescription Costs.....	48,000
5. Payment for Police computer system due to Congressman Hoyer's grant	120,000
6. Eliminate Capital Projects Manager position - (Salary - \$52,000 & Benefits - \$18,000).....	70,000
7. Reduced costs for County Institutional Network	25,000
8. Police Cadet position (Salary - \$24,300 & Benefits - \$8,000)	32,300
9. Public Info position (1/2 year)	30,000
10. Street Maintenance – Base repair – funded in Capital Projects Fund	10,000
11. Traffic Control – Signs and paints	7,000
12. Community Development – engineering services	15,000
13. Elimination of IT Consultant	40,000
14. Miscellaneous costs in Planning & Comm. Dev.....	2,500
15. Police vehicle repairs	17,000
16. Reduced testing costs for police officers	13,000
17. Other small reductions in Public Safety	10,000
18. Not fund Other Services in Public Works Administration	15,000
19. No purchase of concrete grinding blades	1,500
20. Improved recycling – lower tipping tonnages	3,000
21. Reduce consultant use in Social Services from 3 times per month to 2	6,000
22. Reduce Recreation administrative costs	2,200
23. Refinance General Obligation Debt.....	460,000
24. Renegotiated Electricity Contract	100,000
25. Purchased 5 Police vehicles, down from 8	70,000
26. Lower Banking Fees.....	20,000
27. Lower Attorney Fees	15,000
28. Eliminate Assist. Director - Comm. Dev.	108,000
29. Held Building Maintenance Supervisor vacant.....	50,000
Total Savings	\$1,525,800

B. Programmatic Reductions

1. Close Post Office Operation	\$20,000
2. Switch the Recreation quarterly brochure to electronic	20,000
3. Close Pool at 10 pm Monday thru Friday and 9 pm on weekends	8,000
4. Eliminate New Year program	10,000
5. Reduce Contribution to Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.....	28,000
6. Reduce Contribution to Greenbelt Access Television	10,400
7. Beltway Plaza partnership overtime	60,000
8. Building Paint and Carpet Allowance	15,000
9. Community Center – Reduce Part-time staff	1,800
Total Programmatic Reductions	\$173,200

C. Employee Compensation

1. Not fund Leave Buyback	\$70,000
2. Reduce Deferred Compensation Contribution from 10% to 7.5%	200,000
3. No step increase for CBA instead of deferred comp. payment being reduced.....	60,000
4. Raised employee share of health insurance to 20%.....	60,000
Total Compensation Reductions	\$390,000

D. Taxpayer Impacts

1. Raise tax rate 4/10ths cent to fund the Property Tax Credit	\$80,000
Total Taxpayer Impacts	\$80,000

Total Cuts/Savings **\$2,169,000**



BIKE TO WORK DAY 2013

Friday, May 17, 6:30am-8:30am

Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center parking lot, 101 Centerway

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 10,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 60+ pit stops in the region. Refreshments will

be provided to registered participants arriving by bike. Register at biketoworkmetrodc.org. Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn-Reno, 240-542-2053.

SAVE THE DATE...CITY ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2013
FOR ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN INFORMATION VISIT GREENBELTMD.GOV

City of Greenbelt
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Pre-Sorted Standard
US Postage Paid
Greenbelt, MD 20770
Permit #1830

Postal Customer



FAMILY SWIM NIGHTS AT THE GREENBELT AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER

Fridays, June 21, July 19 and August 16 from 8-10pm

\$3.00 per family (including passholders) plus \$1.00 per non-family member guest (limit: 3 guests per family) Family Swim Night is designed to give families an opportunity to spend an evening together in a recreational atmosphere. Bring your pool toys for an evening of fun! Each family must include at least one adult. Check with the pool for details.

HAVE YOU VISITED THE GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER LATELY?

550-A Crescent Road
(behind Police Station)

Give us a call 301-474-6124. Come out and visit all of the available pets!

The shelter is open on Wednesdays from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm or by appointment. See all our pets on Facebook!



Special Program Through May 11!

BARTER FOR BARKS: DONATE TO ADOPT

Donate your time, dog biscuits, cat litter, animal food or any amount of monetary donation to take home a new best friend. You must qualify as an adopter prior to the animal going home. This includes an application, signing a contract and agreeing to a home check.

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

SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS



The Greenbelt Recreation Department offers a variety of camp programs to keep your child active this summer.

For more information on the various camp options, please view the 2013 Camp Brochure at http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/Camps_2013.pdf or call 301-397-2200.

Visual artists: Apply now through May 6 for studio space at the Greenbelt Community Center.

24-hr access through the Recreation Department's juried Artist in Residence Program. New residencies begin July 1. Application available at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts, or write to ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov. Open to both residents and non-residents of Greenbelt.

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