



# THE GREENBELT BULLETIN



## ELECTION 2009-A HISTORIC FIRST

The next city election will occur this November and it will include a historic first. The election will be Tuesday, November 3, 2009, between the hours of 7:00 am and 8:00 pm. At stake will be all five current City Council seats and two new additional seats approved on June 22, 2009, for a total of seven at-large City Council seats. From its inception seventy two years ago, the Greenbelt City Council has always consisted of five members. The expansion to seven members acknowledges the complex work that is involved in leading the Greenbelt community, but it is also an effort to expand the representation of the diversity of interests that comprise the Greenbelt community.

**EARLY VOTING:** Another first for this election will be the opportunity for registered voters to vote early.

Registered voters wishing to vote prior to November 3 can do so starting Saturday, October 17 and ending Friday, October 30, at any of the early voting locations and times listed below.

LOCATION	DATES	TIMES
SCHROM HILLS PARK CLUBHOUSE 6915 Hanover Parkway	Saturday, October 17	9:00 am to 1:00 pm
	Sunday, October 18	11:00 am to 2:00 pm
SPRINGHILL LAKE RECREATION CENTER 6101 Cherrywood Lane	Saturday, October 24	9:00am-1:00pm
	Sunday, October 25	11:00am-2:00pm
GREENBELT MUNICIPAL BUILDING 25 Crescent Road	Mondays-Fridays October 19 through 30	9:00am-5:00pm
	Tuesdays October 19 through 30	9:00am-8:00 pm

**CANDIDACY:** If you think you might be interested in running for City Council, please contact the City Clerk, Cindy Murray, for information. The deadline for filing to run for Council is September 21, 2009.

**VOTER REGISTRATION:** If you need to register to vote, are unsure whether you are registered to vote, or need to change you address, make sure to contact the Prince George's County Board of Elections at 301-430-8020 or check their website at [www.co.pg.md.us](http://www.co.pg.md.us).

**TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE, AS A GREENBELT RESIDENT, WITH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BY OCTOBER 5, 2009!**

## Visioning Update...

Among the hundreds of comments raised in the Community Visioning sessions held in early 2008 were many comments on matters that were already being worked on by the city, are outside the city's jurisdiction, or just seeking information about city services or activities. These comments have been researched and responded to. The responses are available on the city's website, Greenbelt CityLink at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), under the heading "Administration-Visioning". A written copy of the responses can also be obtained by contacting the City Manager's Office at 301-474-8000.



Updates on the city's Visioning work will be provided from time to time in this newsletter. The next update will be on the progress made on the goals set by City Council in March 2009. That update will occur in about six months.



# PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

In December 2007, the Greenbelt City Council approved a property tax credit program in recognition of the increasing burden of property taxes on people of limited or fixed incomes. In order to make applying for the credit as simple as possible, the City's program "piggybacks" on the existing State of Maryland tax credit program. In other words, a property owner automatically qualifies for the Greenbelt credit if they file a State of Maryland application and are approved. The City's credit is equal to 25 percent of the State's credit.

Qualifications for the program are based on one's income, the value of one's property, and one's net worth. Property owners with a gross household income of \$60,000 or less are encouraged to check into the tax credit program. Information and an application are available from the State of Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation and its website at [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us).

If you have any questions about the City's program, contact Jeff Williams, City Treasurer, at 301-474-1552 or [jwilliams@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jwilliams@greenbeltmd.gov).

## *Ride the Greenbelt Connection, Convenient, Affordable, and Now 7 Days a Week!*

The Greenbelt Connection has now expanded its service to 7 days per week. The Connection, the City's Dial-a-Ride Service, is an affordable way to get door to door service to Greenbelt shopping, dining, events, doctor's appointments and more! Schedule your ride by calling

**301-474-4100**

Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:30pm

Saturdays 9:00am-5:00pm

Sundays 9:00am-4:00pm

**One Way Rates:**

\$1.00 Citizens with Disabilities

\$1.00 Senior Citizens and Children 6-18

\$2.00 Other Citizens



The City of Greenbelt is now providing Greenbelt Connection service on Saturdays and has expanded its Sunday hours. Make use of this expanded service to get what you need done over the weekend!

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



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL
Judith "J" Davis, Mayor <a href="mailto:jdavis@greenbeltmd.gov">jdavis@greenbeltmd.gov</a>
Rodney Roberts, Mayor Pro Tem <a href="mailto:rroberts@greenbeltmd.gov">rroberts@greenbeltmd.gov</a>
Edward Putens, Council Member <a href="mailto:eputens@greenbeltmd.gov">eputens@greenbeltmd.gov</a>
Konrad Herling, Council Member <a href="mailto:kherling@greenbeltmd.gov">kherling@greenbeltmd.gov</a>
Leta Mach, Council Member <a href="mailto:lmach@greenbeltmd.gov">lmach@greenbeltmd.gov</a>

## MORE ELECTION FAQ's

**1. I recently moved to Greenbelt and am registered to vote with Prince George's County. Can I vote in this upcoming election?** You can only vote in the city election if the address that you have registered to vote with is your Greenbelt address. Please make sure to fill out a "Change of Voter Registration Data" form by Monday, October 5, which you can get at the City Offices or from the Prince George's County Board of Elections.

**2. What are my voting options?** A. You can vote at your polling location (listed at Greenbelt CityLink) on Tuesday, November 3rd from 7am-8pm. B. You can vote by absentee ballot by requesting a form from the City Offices between Wednesday, October 14th and noon on Monday, November 2nd. C. You can take advantage of any of the early voting opportunities listed on the front page of this brochure.

**3. I am considering running for City Council. How do I go about it?** A. You must be at least 18 years of age. B. You must be a Greenbelt resident and registered to vote as a Greenbelt resident with Prince George's County. C. Pick up a Candidate's Packet from the Greenbelt City Offices during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from August 17th-September 21st. September 21st is the deadline to file your nomination petition and forms. These forms must be notarized. Any questions that you may have about the process can be answered by the City Clerk when you pick up your packet. D. As part of these forms, a petition signed by at least 50 REGISTERED GREENBELT VOTERS MUST BE SUBMITTED. E. You must comply with all City Election laws.

**4. What is the deadline to register to vote or to change my address with the Prince George's County Board of Elections?** The last day to register to vote in Election 2009 is Monday, October 5th.

VISIT GREENBELT CITYLINK AT [WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV) FOR INFORMATION ON ELECTION ISSUES, CITY GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CITY CODE, BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, AND MORE!

## Greenbelt Designated as a Playful City Once Again



For the 3rd year in a row, the City of Greenbelt has been recognized by KaBOOM!, a non-profit national organization, as a Playful City USA. As a 2009 Playful City, Greenbelt has demonstrated creative commitments to the cause of play.

This year, Greenbelt was specially recognized for its efforts to reach out to the Empirian Village neighborhood through its "Backpack to Health Campaign." Through this campaign, bi-lingual monthly calendars and other information is sent home via children's school backpacks. The calendar lists events being held in the neighborhood that help people become better educated about living a healthy life.

The City also sponsors a year round "Be Happy, Be Healthy" program. Through this program, activities and events are scheduled throughout the year that engage City residents and employees in physical activity. The campaign also reaches out to seniors at Green Ridge House by offering a personal trainer to visit and work with the seniors on the facility's new fitness equipment.

This fall the "Be Happy, Be Healthy" program will be holding a

### GREENBELT COMMUNITY PLAY DAY

Sunday, October 11, 1:00pm-8:00pm, Greenbelt Youth Center and Surrounding Area, FREE!

Join your neighbors for a day of fun-filled activities. Activities planned include a 5K run, tennis, kickball, horseshoes, relay races, and much more. There will also be several inflatables for both children and adults to enjoy. Best of all, the Greenbelt Community Play Day is FREE and there will be giveaways throughout the event. So get your family and friends together and join us for this wonderful opportunity to Get Active Greenbelt. More details will be available as the date nears. For more information, contact the Greenbelt Recreation Department at 301-397-2200.

The KaBOOM! vision is a great place to play within walking distance of every child. Playful City USA communities serve as role models for other communities and prove that enhancing children's well-being by increasing the opportunity for play is an attainable goal for every community.

## Postal Customer

# GREEN STEPS

Stepping Together Towards a Sustainable Society

One only needs to look out of a window to see how much the citizens of Greenbelt value the environment. The tall, green trees and quiet, shaded parks are one example. Same for the many neighbors you will find strolling around Greenbelt Lake or sampling local produce at the farmers' market on any given weekend.

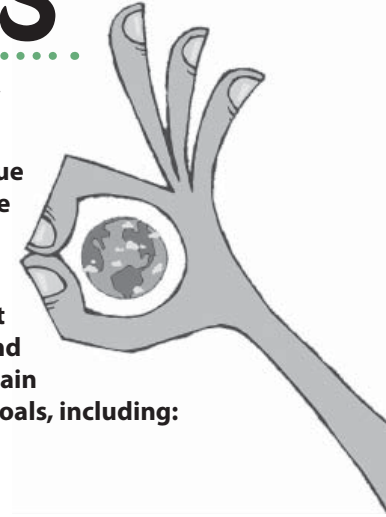
In early 2008, the City Council conducted a series of Visioning Sessions with Greenbelt residents to determine the issues that are most important to the community and establish a set of goals to be achieved in the near future. One Vision was to "Maintain Greenbelt as an Environmentally Proactive Community" with a number of specific goals, including:

- Increasing the city's recycling rate to 55%,
- Expanding the city's fleet of alternative fuel vehicles, and
- Reducing the city's Carbon Footprint

The city has already put in place programs to meet those goals and is constantly looking for new, innovative ways to strengthen its commitment to sustainability. The compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station and the geothermal Public Works facility both make Greenbelt a regional leader in state-of-the-art green technology. The city is also preparing to implement a set of energy efficiency policies for municipal employees and is working on a comprehensive Sustainability Strategy for the city.

Most important, however, the city is launching a campaign to help the citizens of Greenbelt join the effort. Over the next year, the Greenbelt Bulletin will run a series of articles highlighting facts about pressing environmental issues—from global climate change to local water quality concerns—and providing tips and resources to help people become more sustainable at home.

The ecological challenges facing our planet are very big. But we can meet those challenges if we all take our own green steps. The City of Greenbelt is taking the first steps, and we encourage all of you to follow this series closely beginning with the next issue of "Green Steps" and the Greenbelt Bulletin.



The City of Greenbelt now has a Facebook page. Follow the link from Greenbelt Citylink at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) and become a fan of the Greenbelt Page. Stay in touch with the lighter side of Greenbelt, view pictures from recent events, give us your opinions, and get up to date announcements! See you there!

**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).