



# THE GREENBELT BULLETIN

## City Council Reviews its Goals for the Upcoming Term



Photo by Sharon Natoli

Front Row: Rodney Roberts, Mayor Emmett Jordan, Mayor Pro Tem J Davis  
Back Row: Edward Putens, Leta Mach, Konrad Herling and Silke Pope

The City Council has eight Visioning Goals which help it set city policy. These goals were first established in 2009 following a community-wide visioning activity attended by over 100 Greenbelt citizens. They were amended in 2012 following a second community visioning activity. The goals and their description are listed below.

With the City Council just beginning a new two year term, the Council felt this was a good opportunity to seek your feedback on the goals and whether they are the "right" goals for the next couple years. Please take a few moments to read and consider the Visioning Goals for Greenbelt and provide your thoughts. You can respond by writing in the comments section on the back page or by going to the City's website, Greenbelt CityLink, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), and completing the Visioning Goals survey. Thank you for your support of our fine community!

### 1. ENHANCE THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Since its beginning in 1937, Greenbelt has benefited from a strong sense of community. The presence of an active and involved citizenry, citizen-oriented cooperatives and the design of the community all contributed to the strong sense of community that exists today. It is important to nurture this sense of community throughout all of Greenbelt for it to remain a special place to live, work, and play.



### 2. PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Businesses contribute to Greenbelt's vitality. The City should promote economic development to maintain it as a thriving place.

### 3. IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Transportation within a community and easy accessibility to it are keys to creating and maintaining a livable community.



### 4. MAINTAIN GREENBELT AS AN ENVIRONMENTALLY PROACTIVE COMMUNITY

We are all stewards of the environment. Greenbelt, as a community, must do its share to minimize its impact on the environment.

### 5. IMPROVE AND ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY

A safe community makes for a place where people want to live, work, learn, and play.



### 6. PRESERVE GREENBELT'S LEGACY AS A PLANNED COMMUNITY

Greenbelt is an important part of this country's history and a model for community planning. It is vital that it continue to thrive for future generations.



### 7. PROMOTE QUALITY OF LIFE PROGRAMS FOR ALL CITIZENS

The original planners of Greenbelt recognized that the arts and recreation are a vital part of a community's fabric and of value to its residents.

### 8. PROVIDE EXCELLENT CONSTITUENT SERVICES

Greenbelt citizens are served by many agencies in their daily lives, from government to utilities to communications companies. When problems arise, city assistance may be needed to "cut through" the bureaucracy.

## Greenbelt's Presence on Social Media Expands Options to Stay Informed

The City of Greenbelt has expanded its Internet and Social Media presence in order to provide residents with a variety of ways to be engaged and informed. In addition to the traditional ways that the city communicates via newsletters, flyers, press releases, the city website and cable television, it has expanded its social media presence to reach the growing number of residents that stay informed using their mobile devices and tablets. Realizing that there are so many more options on how people stay informed, the city wants to make sure that all residents can stay informed in a manner that is convenient to them. The following are some of the additional ways in which you can do so:



### Greenbelt CityLink - [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov):

The City launched a new website this past July and has been increasing citizen engagement by implementing some of its interactive features. When

you register with the site, you can use these features to stay informed without needing to check in daily.

Through the site's "Notify Me" module, you can choose from a variety of topics on which you can be kept informed whenever information has been added. These include Council Meetings, Agendas, Minutes, Boards and Committees, City Events, Crime Reports, Recreation Activity Guides, City Publications, Job Postings and much more. The notifications are sent via email/text messages and you can subscribe and unsubscribe to topics at will. Please keep in mind that your mobile device charges may apply.

In addition to the "Notify Me" feature, many of the important documents and information that citizens want are in the "Open Government" area of the website. Can't find what you are looking for? Try using the "I'm looking for..." search bar which is found at the top of every page. This powerful search tool does a great job of helping you find what you are looking for. The new site is an evolving project with more and more citizen engagement modules being added as time goes on. If you feel that we have

left something out, let us know by emailing [bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov).



### Facebook - [www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt](http://www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt):

Greenbelt has had a presence on Facebook for over 4 years. Greenbelt's Facebook page serves as an excellent way to share emergency information, list events, and share pictures

from Greenbelt's numerous activities. It is also an excellent way for citizens to interact with postings and to see what is going on in our community.



### Twitter - [www.twitter.com/CityofGreenbelt](http://www.twitter.com/CityofGreenbelt):

Follow the City of Greenbelt @CityofGreenbelt for updated, quick announcements.



### YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/user/bjpalau>:

The city's YouTube channel was established to post fun videos created by kids and informational PSA's. Video introductions of each City Council candidate were also posted at this site. City

Council meetings and other events shown on the city's **Municipal Access Cable Channel** can be watched live and on demand at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv).



### Pinterest - [www.pinterest.com/cgreenbelt](http://www.pinterest.com/cgreenbelt):

Created through the desire to share green ideas and fitness information, the City has started a Pinterest page. This page is in its developmental stages, but offers great

ideas on Energy Efficiency, Gardening, Repurposed Art, Healthy Eating, Snow Days and more. Greenbelt and its residents have always been ecologically minded and environmentally responsible. Also, in November 2013, the City became a Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) City. The Pinterest page will work support these initiatives.

Make sure to check out these sites, in addition to the City's more traditional outlets, to stay in touch and engaged to your community.



### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ASSISTANCE

Have you been overwhelmed with trying to enroll in the Affordable Care Act Insurance Plan? Do you still need to sign up for insurance or do you have additional questions about the plans and insurance for you or a family member? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you may want to attend the Affordable Care Act Event on Thursday, February 13, 2014, or Thursday, February 20, 2014, from 4-8 pm at the

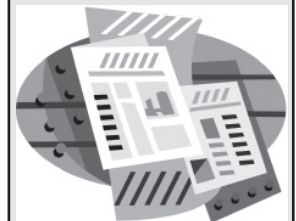
Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road in the Council Chambers. You will receive one-on-one assistance from Maryland Certified Navigators to explore your healthcare options. Please bring with you the following documentation:

- Proof of Maryland Residency (driver's license)**
- Citizenship or legal resident information (passport)**
- Proof of income (pay stub or 2012 taxes)**

Please call the Community Clinic Affordable Care Act Hotline to schedule an appointment and select your date at 240-839-5810. If there is a good response to this event, two additional dates can be scheduled in March. This event is sponsored and coordinated by the City of Greenbelt in conjunction with Community Clinic, Inc.

### NEWSLETTER INPUT

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).



## COLD WEATHER SAFETY

This winter is proving to be one of the coldest in a long time. Check out these tips provided by the American Red Cross on how to stay safe in the cold weather.



1. Wear layers of lightweight clothing to stay warm. Gloves and a hat will help prevent losing your body heat.
2. Don't forget your pets - bring them indoors. If they can't come inside, make sure they have enough shelter to keep them warm and that they can get to unfrozen water.
3. Protect your pipes - run water, even at a trickle, to help prevent your pipes from freezing. Open the kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals out of the reach of children. Keep the garage doors closed if there are water lines in the garage.
4. Keep the thermostat at the same temperature day and night. Your heating bill may be a little higher, but you could avoid a more costly repair job if your pipes freeze and burst.
5. If you are using a space heater, place it on a level, hard surface and keep anything flammable at least three feet away - things such as paper, clothing, bedding, curtains or rugs.
6. Turn off space heaters and make sure fireplace embers are out before leaving the room or going to bed.
7. Never use a stove or oven to heat your home.
8. If you are using a fireplace, use a glass or metal fire screen large enough to catch sparks and rolling logs.
9. Use generators correctly - never operate a generator inside the home, including in the basement or garage.
10. Don't hook a generator up to the home's wiring. The safest thing to do is to connect the equipment you want to power directly to the outlets on the generator.

## Snow Removal Quick Tips

- Have your snow removal tools handy.
- If you have a driveway, use it. This protects your car from salt spray, snow removal trucks, and in icy snow conditions, other skidding cars.
- When shoveling the opening of your driveway, throw the snow off to the side or downstream. Do not throw it into the road - it will only be redeposited when the snowplow comes around again.
- Dress warmly to prevent cold injuries, such as frostbite and, in severe cases, hypothermia (loss of body-heat).
- Snow shoveling is hard work. The upper body work can be a strain on the cardiovascular system. Take breaks as needed.



## PEPCO RELIABILITY PROJECT UPDATE



Over the past year and a half, Pepco has been working in the City to upgrade its infrastructure and greatly improve the reliability of its system. The project has in-

cluded major tree trimming and removal, replacement of poles and wires, and installing advanced control systems that allow the electric system to identify problems and perform switching automatically. This technology will automatically isolate failed pieces of equipment and restore most of the affected customers within minutes of the failure.

Pepco is now in the final stages of the project. Power lines which will no longer be needed, will be removed, including many which are in Buddy Attick Park. Old, unneeded poles will be removed. For this to be done, a transfer of power and rearranging of the feeders needs to be completed. Pepco will be holding off on this work until the weather improves. They want to make sure that there is no power loss to any of its customers during the cold weather. Once all of the transfers and removals are done, a final tree trimming stage will take place. This will be necessary due to changes in wire heights and adjustments in the field.

Considering the magnitude of this project, there have been very few complaints throughout the process. The City looks forward to a much more reliable and upgraded electrical system upon its completion.



## WINTER COLD WEATHER ENERGY EFFICIENCY

1. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windows that leak air.
2. Make sure all heating vents are open and unblocked by furniture or other items. This will ensure that the air is evenly distributed throughout one's home.
3. Close the damper on your fireplace. A chimney functions as a large open window that draws warm air out of the room and creates a draft.
4. Install a programmable thermostat to help lower utility bills and manage heating systems.
5. Wear warm clothing, set your thermostat to 68°F or lower, and set the thermostat on your water heater to 120°F to save energy.
6. Clean or replace filters on furnaces every other month.
7. Keep the draperies and shades on windows open during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home and close them at night to keep the heat in.
8. Have your heating system serviced regularly.



# Postal Customer

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The City of Greenbelt is a very active community and special events, meetings, activities, classes and more happen all year long. Don't miss these events and the opportunity to enjoy your community. City events are listed in the Calendar section of Greenbelt CityLink, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), in the *News Review*, and posted on many of the city's social media sites.

## COUNCIL GOALS FEEDBACK:

Participate in your community, become engaged and have a say in the future of Greenbelt. After reviewing the current Council goals outlined on the front page of this newsletter, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Write them here, and mail or bring them to the Municipal Building at 25 Crescent Road, or submit them through [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).


### LOVE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER!

Visit the Greenbelt Animal Shelter at 550A Crescent Road, behind the Greenbelt Police Station.



Open visitations are Wednesdays from 4pm-7pm and on Saturdays from 9am-12pm. Please call 301-474-6124 or 240-508-7533 if you have any questions or would like to arrange for a private visit. See all the pets and what they have been up to on the Greenbelt Animal Shelter's Facebook page.

**Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter) to see our pets on Petfinders.**

#### WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!

The shelter is looking for bedding, wet cat food, dry dog food, dish soap, detergent, paper plates, bleach and more. Donations can be dropped off in front of the shelter or call the number listed above.

## CITY OF GREENBELT PHONE NUMBERS

City Offices .....	301-474-8000	Police Non-Emergency .....	301-474-7200
FAX .....	301-441-8248	Police Emergency .....	301-474-5454
Planning & Comm. Development .....	301-345-5417	Recreation Dept .....	301-397-2200
Animal Control .....	301-474-6124	Rec. Weather Line .....	301-474-0646
Public Works.....	301-474-8004	Community Center.....	301-397-2208
Recycling .....	301-474-8308	Aquatic & Fitness Center .....	301-397-2204
Greenbelt Connection .....	301-474-4100	Springhill Lake Recreation Center.....	301-397-2212
Greenbelt CARES .....	301-345-6660	City Website: <a href="http://www.greenbeltmd.gov">www.greenbeltmd.gov</a>	

**GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor Emmett V. Jordan - [ejordan@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:ejordan@greenbeltmd.gov), Mayor Pro Tem Judith "J" Davis- [jdavis@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jdavis@greenbeltmd.gov), Konrad Herling - [kherling@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kherling@greenbeltmd.gov), Leta Mach - [lmach@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:lmach@greenbeltmd.gov), Silke I. Pope- [spope@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:spope@greenbeltmd.gov), Edward V. J. Putens - [eputens@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:eputens@greenbeltmd.gov), and Rodney Roberts - [rroberts@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rroberts@greenbeltmd.gov)