



# THE GREENBELT BULLETIN

## Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015



General Govt. & C.D.	Planning & Safety	Public Safety	Public Works	Obert CARES	Recreation & Parks	Misc. & NonDept	Fund Transfers
10.8¢	3.6¢	40.0¢	12.4¢	3.7¢	20.1¢	5.1¢	4.3¢

### REVENUES

(10) work sessions and two (2) public hearings to review and obtain public comment on it.

Since FY 2009, the city's budgets have remained in a narrow range of \$24.4 million to \$25.3 million due to the slowness of the national economy following the 2008 recession. The Council and City staff have been able to keep the budget flat by identifying over \$2.7 million in savings and cost reductions in city expenses during this period.

Though the adopted budget includes a 3/4's of a cent tax rate increase, tax bills for most property owners will be lower compared to two years ago due to the lower assessments which took effect last year. Property in Greenbelt was reassessed in 2012 by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation. The reassessment lowered property values for taxation purposes by an average of 20 to 40% depending on property type.

In spite of facing difficult fiscal times over the past six years, Greenbelt remains on solid financial footing. There are clear signs that the economy in the region and in

On June 4, 2014, the City Council approved a \$25.3 million budget for fiscal year (FY) 2015 (July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015). Since the introduction of a proposed budget in late March, the Council held ten

Greenbelt is improving. Housing prices are increasing, employment is growing and new homes are being built south of the Greenbelt Metro Station. In addition, the Greenbelt Metro Station area continues to be considered as a possible location for a new headquarters for the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A location decision is anticipated within a year.

The coming fiscal year will see some notable accomplishments, such as the completion of Phase 1 of the Greenbelt Theater renovation, making pedestrian safety improvements in front of the Springhill Lake Elementary School, installing a new playground adjacent to the Belle Point neighborhood and creation of an economic development strategy for the city.



Property Taxes	Other Taxes	Service Charges	Lic. & Permits	Other Agen.	Fines	Misc. & Transfers
63.6¢	13.8¢	8.5¢	6.2¢	4.3¢	2.8¢	1.8¢

### EXPENDITURES

In adopting the budget, the Council provided funds to support a number of community groups including the Greenbelt Swim Team, the Greenbelt Arts Center and the Golden Age Club

as well as increasing grant funds to the city's Advisory Committee on Education for Greenbelt schools.

The full adopted budget is available on the city website, Greenbelt CityLink, at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

## GREENBELT ALERTS-SIGN UP NOW FOR GREENBELT'S NEW EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM!

Being forewarned about dangerous weather, a neighborhood evacuation, a road closure or other emergency has never been easier than with Greenbelt Alerts. Now alerts are available by text, email, cell phone, home land line, work phone, instant messaging or fax. YOU choose the methods by which you would like to be alerted!

The new GREENBELT ALERTS system takes the place of the old system by Roam Secure and offers updated features. The new system is connected to automatic weather alerts which monitor the area at all times. It allows you to pick the devices on which you would like to be alerted and the order in which you would like them to be alerted. Once you have actually seen the alert on one of your devices, you can verify that you have seen the alert. You may also choose the type of alerts you would like to receive and even block out times where you would like incoming alerts blocked. In the case of an extreme emergency, the system allows authorities to alert entire neighborhoods through their land lines whether they have subscribed or not.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for this new system. If you had signed up for the old system, you will need to sign up once again for the new GREENBELT ALERTS system. The alert system is FREE, but if your provider charges extra for messaging, those charges may apply.

Register now at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/alerts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/alerts)





## Transportation Spotlight: Greenbelt's Dial-A-Ride Connection & other Modes of Transport

Whether by bus, car, bike, train, or foot, Greenbelt residents have many transportation options available to them. At the most local level, the dial-a-ride Greenbelt Connection is a 12-passenger, wheelchair accessible van that operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To arrange for transportation with the Connection, residents should register at least 24 hours in advance for pick-up by calling 301-474-4100. For senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and children (6-18 years), the fare is \$1 each way. For all other citizens, the fare is \$2 each way. The Greenbelt Connection does not operate on holidays observed by the city.

Greenbelt residents can also make use of the many walking and biking paths in and around town. A hiker/biker trail map is available at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2379>.

Other modes of transport for residents include:

### **BY TAXI ...BY BUS...BY TRAIN**

#### **Call-A-Cab: 301-883-5656**

Call-A-Cab is a transportation assistance program that provides mobility at a reduced cost for County seniors (age 60+) and/or County persons with disabilities. This program allows eligible residents to purchase coupon books that can be used to pay for rides with participating cab companies when Metrobus, Metrorail, and/or Call-A-Bus are not available. Senior and/or disabled residents may purchase up to 14 \$20 coupon books in a six-month period at \$10 per book.

#### **METROBUS: 202-637-7000**

[www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)

Greenbelt is served by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) regional bus system, with many stops serving the area. WMATA's online Trip Planner enables you to see what routes serve your destination, schedules and travel time.

#### **TheBUS: 301-324-2877**

[www.goprincegeorgescounty.com](http://www.goprincegeorgescounty.com)

TheBUS Transit Service operates 30 routes in Prince George's County including Greenbelt with service Monday-Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Adult fare is \$1.25. Seniors, children, and disabled ride free.

#### **Call-A-Bus: 301-499-8603**

Call-A-Bus is a demand response curb-to-curb service. Hours of service are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Reservations can be made up to fourteen (14) days in advance by calling 301-499-8603 between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

#### **MetroAccess**

[www.wmata.com/accessibility/metroaccess\\_service/](http://www.wmata.com/accessibility/metroaccess_service/)

MetroAccess is a shared ride transportation service for people who are unable to use fixed-route public transit, due to a disability. "Shared ride" means that multiple passengers may ride together in the same vehicle.

The service provides daily trips throughout the metropolitan region, including the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. Rides are offered in the same service areas and during the same hours of operation as Metrorail and Metrobus. MetroAccess is a service of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), and is the region's complementary paratransit service offered in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### **University of Maryland Shuttle Service**

Through a partnership with the University of Maryland, Greenbelt residents can use the University of Maryland shuttle service (Shuttle UM).

Residents interested in using the shuttle must purchase an annual pass (\$10) which is available at the Aquatic and Fitness Center, Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Once you have the pass, there is no fare to use Shuttle UM. Pass holders can ride any Shuttle UM route.

#### **MetroRail**

[www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)

Greenbelt has its own stop on the Green Line of the WMATA Metrorail System. Route, schedule and destination information is available online through Trip Planner, and Metro Alerts include information on out-of-service elevators and other advisory information.

#### **MARC: 1-866-RIDE-MTA**

[mta.maryland.gov/content/transit-information](http://mta.maryland.gov/content/transit-information)

Located at the Greenbelt Metro station, the MARC (Maryland Area Regional Commuter) Train provides links to downtown Baltimore and Washington, DC.

#### **AMTRAK: 1-800-USA-RAIL**

[www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

With stops at both Washington, DC's Union Station and New Carrollton Metro Station, Amtrak provides long-distance rail service from Washington and Baltimore to the northeast corridor and nationwide. Union Station is also on the Metrorail Red Line.

**Shuttle-UM**

**RENEW YOUR PASS TODAY!**

You can renew your pass at the following locations\*:

- Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center
- Greenbelt Youth Center
- Springhill Lake Recreation Center

\* Contact the Greenbelt Recreation Department at 301-397-2200 for each facility's hours of operation. Passes are \$10 each. This fee can be waived in cases of economic hardship. Only Greenbelt residents and City employees are eligible to obtain these passes. Residents seeking a pass must show proof of residency (State issued photo ID or current lease with a valid Greenbelt address).

[www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html](http://www.transportation.umd.edu/schedules.html)

# The Importance of Mulching Correctly



Mulching can make a big difference in the success of your landscape. Mulch conserves soil moisture, allows you to water less often, reduces erosion, keeps down weeds, keeps plant roots cool, provides winter protection, and makes your yard more attractive.

For flowers, trees and shrubs, spread mulch evenly on the entire bed to a depth of 2 to 3 inches. For trees and shrubs that are in lawn areas, mulch a wide ring (extending from 3 to 6 feet out from the trunk) around each plant. Never pile mulch against the tree trunk. This common, but misguided practice, damages the trunk or stems of the tree or shrub. Keep the mulch at least 1 inch away from the trunk.

Because organic mulch decomposes you may need to replenish the mulch seasonally. When doing so, never let mulch build up to depths greater than 3 inches. Remove some of the old mulch to keep it below that level.



*Do spread mulch evenly on the entire bed to a depth of 2 to 3 inches.*



*Don't pile mulch against the tree trunk or let it build up to a depth more than 3 inches. This could be damaging to the tree trunk. No volcanos!*



## Prince George's County Rain Check Rebate:

The Chesapeake Bay Trust and Prince George's County are partnering on the Rain Check Rebate Program that offers incentives to homeowners, businesses, and others to install

practices that will improve stormwater runoff quality, reduce runoff quantity, and improve local streams and rivers. Both residential and commercial properties are eligible for these rebates.

Deadline: Rolling application

For questions contact Grant Manager: Natalia Sanchez, 410-974-2941, ext. 114

## Got block Styrofoam?

Greenbelt Public Works has been taking your expanded polystyrene #6 white blocks of styrofoam, at the electronics recycling events. (We don't take cups, plates, trays, egg cartons, or peanuts). The place where we take this material is in Crofton, MD and they have strict guidelines as to how to deliver it. We have to break the blocks down into small pieces, about 3 inches long/wide, and bag them in large, clear plastic bags.

Some people have expressed interest in breaking down their own blocks and bringing us the full bags whenever convenient for them (during our working hours). So now we are asking people, if they have multiple blocks to recycle, to please pick up a large, clear bag from Public Works, and bring it back to Public Works full of the broken down pieces of block Styrofoam whenever they can. This will save space for those storing blocks and will make it more convenient to deliver since they won't have to wait for an electronics recycling event.

Remember that peanuts can be taken to UPS and Mail Boxes etc. stores for reuse. However, cups, plates and egg cartons go to the landfill, so be mindful when purchasing products.

**Thank you for recycling!**



Follow the City of Greenbelt on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt](http://www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt)  
and on Twitter @cityofgreenbelt  
Visit Greenbelt CityLink at  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)



# Postal Customer

## 60<sup>th</sup> LABOR DAY FESTIVAL

**Friday, August 29- Monday, September 1**

Enjoy an entertaining weekend with family and friends. Join the Recreation Department for youth activities, strategy games, craft day or register your Adult Men's Softball Team in the Annual Labor Day Tournament. Stay tuned to the *Greenbelt News Review* for the weekend schedule of events, time and location.

## POOCH PLUNGE-10th Anniversary

**A swim/splash party for you and your canine pal!**

**Saturday, September 6, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**(Rain Date Sunday, September 7)**

**Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (Outdoor Pool)**

One dog per handler; handlers must be age 18 or above. No charge for handlers; nominal fee per dog. Limited to 75 dogs. Spectators welcome! Pre-register at the Animal Control booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

## MOONLIT MOVIES

Bring a blanket and join you friends and neighbors for an evening of outdoor cinema fun under the stars! FREE movies shown on the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center front lawn, 101 Centerway.

Saturday, August 16 at 8:30 p.m. **The Muppet Movie**

Saturday, September 6 at 8:00 p.m. **Singin' in the Rain**

Saturday, September 20 at 8:00 p.m.

**Ernest and Celestine**

Saturday, October 4 at 7:30pm: **Up**

**For more information call the Greenbelt Recreation office at 301-397-2200. In case of inclement weather, movie will be moved to the Greenbelt Youth Center, 99 Centerway.**

**GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL:** Mayor Emmett V. Jordan - ejordan@greenbeltmd.gov, Mayor Pro Tem Judith "J" Davis - jdavis@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

## FALL FEST

**Saturday, October 18, 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.**

**Location: Schrom Hills Park**

The Recreation Department will be joining forces with the Public Works, Police and Fire Departments to host our annual Fall Fest. Make plans now to stroll over to Schrom Hills Park and join us for hay rides, games, amusements, a pumpkin patch, live music, and art activities. Plans are still developing and more information will be available as the event nears.

## COSTUME CONTEST & PARADE

**Thursday, October 30, Registration 4:00pm-4:30pm**

**The Parade will start at 4:30pm sharp!**

**Location: Roosevelt Center - in the grassy area in front of Curves.**

Come dressed in your finest Halloween costume! Prizes will be awarded to contestants with the most innovative costume in their age group. There will also be a category for the best family and best pet. Refreshments and a performance by comedy juggler and circus performer, Michael Rosman, will follow the parade. Rosman has appeared on David Letterman, Jay Leno and the Wendy Williams Show. In the event of inclement weather, call the weather hotline at 301-474-0646 for an updated event status. **FREE**

## CITY OF GREENBELT PHONE NUMBERS

City Administrative 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/Youth Center .....	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