



# THE GREENBELT BULLETIN

## FY 2011 BUDGET PREVIEW



Work has begun on preparing a budget for city operations for fiscal year (FY) 2011 (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011). The continuing slow economy, the decline in real estate values, and a drastic reduction in State pass through revenues will make this budget the most

challenging in years.

The city's budget for the current fiscal year as adopted last June is \$25.8 million. At this time, it is estimated that actual revenues will be almost \$1 million dollars less at \$24.9 million and will remain at that level next year. A cut of \$530,000 in State pass-through revenues (\$450,000 in Highway User revenues and \$80,000 in Police Aid) has been the primary cause of the drop in revenues this year.

Further, because most experts say the economy will be slow to recover to prior levels and real estate property will not be assessed again for three years, city revenues will likely be stagnant for the next three years. While inflation has been low, some costs for providing city services will continue to increase just as they do for each of you. In FY 2011, these will include health insurance, utilities and motor fuel costs.

On a positive note, the city's fund balance is in good shape. It stands at \$2.25 million as of June 30, 2009, which is 9% of expenditures. (The city seeks to keep an amount equal to 10% of expenditures as its fund balance.) Also, the current year's budget was adopted with a number of savings which will help us fund services in the coming year.

In order to maintain its services, the city is looking for savings wherever possible. A few positions that have become vacant this year are not being filled. At least 2 of these positions will be eliminated in the coming budget.

The City Manager will present a Proposed FY 2011 Budget to the City Council on Monday, April 8, 2010. The public will have the opportunity to comment throughout the months of April and May at various work sessions and two public hearings. Dates for these meetings will be advertised in the Greenbelt News Review; Greenbelt CityLink, the city's website ([www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)); and on channels 71 and 21 of the Comcast and Verizon cable systems, respectively. The Proposed Budget will be available at Greenbelt CityLink after it is presented to City Council. Comments about it are encouraged and can be sent to [info@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:info@greenbeltmd.gov).

**KEEP IT AT HOME! When filling out your State Income Tax this year, please make sure to specify GREENBELT as your local government. This will assure that a portion of your taxes stays in Greenbelt.**

## HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT APPLICATION

If you own residential property in Greenbelt, in the past few weeks, you should have received your property's Assessment Notice. Notices for Greenbelt Homes, Inc., were also sent out for the first time this year.



Included with the assessment notice was an Application for Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility. The State of Maryland now requires owners of residential property to file this application in order to qualify for a Homestead Tax Credit. This credit limits the amount of assessment increase on which a homeowner actually pays taxes.

The application is a one-time application. **Even if your assessment dropped, homeowners are urged to file the application, since it will be on record for any future increases.** If you have a question, call the State Department of Assessments and Taxation toll free at 1-866-650-8783.

You may file this form on line. Visit [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us) and click on the Homestead Tax Eligibility Application link.

### 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 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 POLICE EARN REACCREDITATION



This past fall, the Greenbelt Police Department was granted unconditional reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The overall purpose of CALEA's Accreditation Programs is to improve a department's delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards developed by public safety practitioners, which cover a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.

In April, 2009, a team of CALEA assessors conducted an on-site review of the Greenbelt Police Department. Later in the year, at the CALEA annual conference, a team of CALEA commissioners reviewed the on-site report with four Greenbelt police commanders. The commissioners praised the

Greenbelt Police Department for meeting all applicable standards and 92% of the other-than-mandatory standards.

The Greenbelt Police Department, which first achieved accreditation in 2006, was notified of its reaccreditation on November 21, 2009, in a letter to Chief James Craze. In its letter, CALEA commended the Greenbelt Police Department for demonstrating commitment to professional law enforcement in policy and practice.



### ATTENTION GREENBELT CAREGIVERS:

The GAIL Program is working towards organizing a more comprehensive network of support and education for caregivers and their care recipients in the Greenbelt area. To kick-start this initiative, we would like to invite you, as a caregiver, to participate

in a short survey. Your feedback is very important for us to develop the right services and resources for you as a caregiver. Visit the Senior Programs section of Greenbelt CityLink at [www.greenbeltnmd.gov/seniors](http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/seniors) to participate.



## EARTH HOUR 2010

**Saturday, March 27th at 8:30pm**

On Earth Hour, hundreds of millions of people, organizations, corporations and governments around the world will come together to make a bold statement about their concern for climate

change by doing something quite simple—turning their lights and other non-essential electronics off for one hour.

Participation is easy. By flipping off your lights on March 27th at 8:30 pm, local time you will be making the switch to a cleaner, more secure nation and prosperous America.

**VISIT [WWW.MYEARTHHOUR.ORG](http://WWW.MYEARTHHOUR.ORG) TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND FIND OUT OTHER WAYS THAT YOU CAN JOIN THE EARTH HOUR MOVEMENT!**

**Help out the Greenbelt community - complete your Census 2010 Questionnaire!**

United States  
**Census  
2010**

### *Did you know that Census Data are...?*

...used by the Federal Government to allocate more than \$400 billion to states and communities every year

...used to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives

...used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals and other community facilities

...used to determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts

**THE CENSUS IS A COUNT OF EVERYONE RESIDING IN THE UNITED STATES — CITIZENS AND NON-CITIZENS.**

### ***The 2010 Census Questionnaire is Easy, Important and Safe.***

- With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.
- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

**JOBS WITH THE CENSUS ARE AVAILABLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**



For more information about the 2010 Census, visit [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).

IT'S IN OUR HANDS

# GREEN STEPS

Stepping Together Towards a Sustainable Society



## EARTH DAY & ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 2010

**Saturday, April 24 from 10:00am-2:00pm**

The Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) and the Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) will be hosting their Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations from 10:00am - 12 noon at Buddy Attick Park. Join members of each committee in installing a rain garden, planting native plants, and addressing erosion and storm water quality issues. Members of the Advisory Committee on Trees will celebrate Arbor Day with a tree planting at 12:00 noon, and reforesting an area of woods by the Public Works building. A Nature Tour of Buddy Attick Park will start at 12:15pm, and a self-guided tree tour will be available to participants.

## PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

**Saturday, April 24**

**10:00am-2:00pm**

**555 Crescent Road**

Come out to the Public Works Facility to enjoy demonstrations, tours AND hot dogs & light refreshments. The one-year old facility incorporates many green features, from its geo-thermal heating and cooling system, efficient lighting, and the incorporation of recycled products. Bring the family and learn more about it.

**For more information about these events, call 301-474- 8004.**

## 75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE



Be a part of planning the City of Greenbelt's celebration of its 75th Anniversary, occurring in 2012. Applications are being accepted from residents interested in serving on this volunteer planning committee. Applications are available on the City website, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), or at the City Office Building, 25 Crescent Road. Interviews for this committee are ongoing.

## ACCESSIBLE GREENBELT GRANTS



The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) Program announces the Accessible Greenbelt grants program for 2010. To further fair housing, Greenbelt has been awarded funds to offer qualified City residents a number of home

accessibility modifications to enable seniors and disabled adults in need to remain in their homes as long as possible. Examples include railings, grab bars, portable metal ramps, shower chairs and more.

This program is open to Greenbelt residents age 62 years and older or disabled (as determined by a Social Security disability Award or Disability Pension Award) with an annual income below \$44,800 for a single person household or \$51,200 for a two person household. Proof of assets and monthly income will be required. Applications will be evaluated based on financial and demonstrated needs. The equipment awarded to each household will be determined based on the number of applicants, funds available, priority, and individual need. Applications will be considered on a first come, first served basis. Please call Julia Frank or Christal Parker Batey at 301-345-6660 for more information or for an application and informational brochure. Applications are due by Wednesday, March 31, 2010, at 4:00pm.



## LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPING

**Saturday, March 13 from**

**10:00am-2:00pm at the Greenbelt Community Center-15 Crescent Road**

Spring is just around the bend. Go green this spring and create a sustainable landscape in your backyard. The City of Greenbelt has partnered with the University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners and the Anne Arundel County Watershed Stewards Academy to bring you the very best experts in the field.

Learn about everything and anything you will need to know about sustainable landscaping in this FREE community forum. Topics include composting, choosing native plants, rain barrels, and more.

Register in advance by calling 301-397-2208 or by going to Greenbelt CityLink at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) and registering through ReLink. There is NO COST to register. Do not miss this opportunity to learn from the experts!

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

# Postal Customer

## **INFORMATION PLEASE!** *KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH THE CITY OF GREENBELT*

No matter where you live within the City of Greenbelt, be it the center of the City, Greenbelt East or Empirian Village, you and your community are a vital and important part of Greenbelt. The City wants to hear from you, but mainly, we want to keep you informed about all of the services, programs, and activities that are available to you. In order to reach the greatest number of its residents, the City of Greenbelt provides a wide variety of informational resources. Try visiting or using these resources—you will be surprised by what you may learn.

**GREENBELT CITYLINK:** Located at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov), CityLink is the city's official government website. It provides over 1,000 pages of information and links to services provided by all city departments. The site also includes a connection to the city's video streaming site which gives you live access to the Greenbelt Municipal Access Television station and to a large video library of Council Meetings and other programming.

**GREENBELT MUNICIPAL ACCESS: VERIZON 21 AND COMCAST 71:** Greenbelt's own Municipal Access Television Channels which broadcast City Council Meetings live, Ask the Expert programs, summer children's plays, Labor Day programming, informational programming, and a 24 hour bulletin board listing city events and programs. Don't have cable or FiOS? Access the channel streaming from the city's website!

**CITY INFORMATION:** Every week, in the *Greenbelt News Review*, the City of Greenbelt publishes an ad listing upcoming events, Council Agendas, and other timely information. Coverage of city issues is also provided to the *Greenbelt Gazette*.

**FACEBOOK:** Become a fan of the City of Greenbelt Page on Facebook. Follow the link from Greenbelt CityLink or do a search from Facebook. Stay in touch with the lighter side of Greenbelt, view pictures from recent events, give us your opinions, and get up to date announcements!

**GREENBELT ALERT:** Text based emergency communications system for Greenbelt residents. City officials will use it to send out important messages to e-mail accounts, cell phones, pagers and other wireless devices in case of a possible emergency. Visit <http://alert.greenbeltmd.gov> for more information or to sign up for this free, voluntary service (provider text costs may apply).

**TWITTER:** Follow the City of Greenbelt through Twitter. Updates can be received via the web or on your mobile device.

**GREENBELT ACTION CENTER:** Request services through the Greenbelt Action Center. You will receive a reply and status reports. Search through Frequently Asked Questions and see if your issue has already been addressed.

**CRIMEREPORTS.COM:** The Greenbelt Police Department participates in this service that tracks criminal activity by area. Residents can put in an address and learn if there has been any crime and what type. You can even sign up to have alerts sent to your e-mail.

**PUBLICATIONS:** The City of Greenbelt publishes several publications, some of which are mailed quarterly right to your home.

**Recreation Brochure:** A quarterly newsletter listing all of the many classes available right here in Greenbelt. Whether it is fitness, arts, swimming, seniors, events...it is all included here. If you haven't discovered it yet, check it out. Classes and facilities are all available to residents at a reduced rate. If you have friends that don't live in Greenbelt but would like to take a class, let them know the classes are still a great deal! Registration for most classes is available on-line through ReLink at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/remlink.htm](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation/remlink.htm).

**The Greenbelt Bulletin** is also published quarterly and mailed out to all residents. This publication covers a wide variety of informational topics for residents. Suggestions for articles are always welcome.

The **GAIL Guide** is a quarterly brochure mailed out to clients of the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program. The helpful information included in this publication pertains to seniors, disabled and those needing services. For information on the GAIL Guide call 240-542-2012.

**PERSON TO PERSON:** If you still can't find the information that you need, pick up the phone and call the City! Phone numbers are listed on the front cover. City staff will do its best to get you an answer!