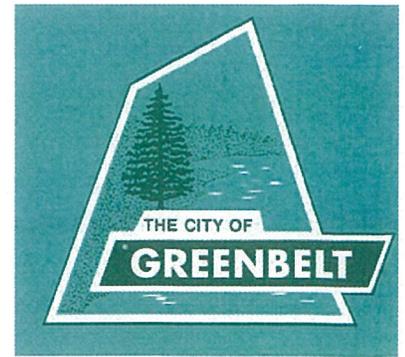


# CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION

99 CENTERWAY, GREENBELT, MARYLAND 20770



**Julianna J. McHale**  
Director

**TO:** Mayor Jordan and the Greenbelt City Council  
**FROM:** Senior Citizens Advisory Committee  
**RE:** Open Forum of September 26, 2015  
**DATE:** February 23, 2016

Attached is the Senior Citizens' Advisory Committee's report from the Senior Citizen Open Forum held September 26, 2015.

We felt the 2015 Open Forum went well. *Traffic Issues, Safety and Connectivity* were the major topic areas. As you will see in the attached report, these primary areas of interest are identified with the specific issues under each heading.

The SCAC feels that it is unnecessary to hold a work session this year, but some follow-up response in regards to the report recommendations would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betty Timer".

Betty Timer  
Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Chair, November, 2015 - October 2016

**A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

Administration: (301) 397-2200 FAX: (301) 397-2203 Youth Center: (301) 397-2200  
Aquatic and Fitness Center: (301) 397-2204 Springhill Lake Recreation Center: (301) 397-2212 Community Center: (301) 397-2208  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)



## Senior Citizens Advisory Committee

### ANNUAL OPEN FORUM REPORT TO COUNCIL

Held September 26, 2015

Attendance 29

(Boxwood: 3; GHI: 11, Greenbriar: 4, Greenbrook Estates: 1, Greenspring: 1, Lakes-Greenbelt Village: 1, Lakewood: 1, Woodland Hills: 1)

### POSITIVE COMMENTS:

- Greenbelt is Great
- Friendly people
- Fellowship
- Creativity
- Intelligence
- Volunteerism
- News Review
- Greenbelt Nursery School
- GIVES
- CARES/GAIL
- Recreation Department
- Recreation Centers
- Lots of Programs
- City staff that listens
- Playgrounds
- Safe walkways
- Environment
- Greenbelt Theater
- Affordable Greenbelt Aquatics and Fitness Center
- I'll never move!

The above positive comments were made during the Annual Senior Citizens' Open Forum on September 26, 2015. During the Forum announcements from Christal Batey of the GAIL program and Karen Haseley from the Recreation Department were made. The issues below were raised and discussed. From these issues, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee identified four categories: 1) Traffic Issues; 2) Safety; 3) Connectivity and 4) Other Requests. These categories are listed below with the issues raised at the forum listed underneath each item. The italicized text is information that was given or discussed at the forum.

### TRAFFIC ISSUES

1. There are visual impediments on:
  - a. Gardenway exiting the parking garages.
  - b. 7 Court Ridge exiting the garages.
  - c. 7 Crescent exiting the garages.
  - d. Difficulty exiting from Spring Manor Drive to Hanover Parkway.
2. Traffic on Lastner Lane is excessive. Request for a more accurate survey of issue.
3. Vehicles do NOT stop at Southway and Ridge Road stop sign, especially early in the morning.
4. The intersection at the American Legion is difficult to exit safely.

## SAFETY

1. The Neighborhood Watch program in Greenbelt (Center City) needs to be fortified.
2. A new dog watch program is in the process of becoming a reality. That means dog walkers are asked to be alert to crimes and notify authorities.
3. There was a question about how and where to discard old medicines. Can the City provide such a program here?
  - a. *Police Department? Hyattsville has a place to drop off medications annually.*
  - b. *Need to be certified to receive drugs (Registration & License)*
  - c. *Check that medications do not leak into grounds*
  - d. *Meds do expire and need to be safely discarded*
4. The Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center is in need of grab bars and floor mats in the shower rooms. Also a blood pressure monitor was requested.
  - a. *Grab bars are set to be installed at the GAFC during the renovations.*

## CONNECTIVITY

1. Need to get neighborhoods working together.
2. Organizations need to coordinate events to prevent scheduling conflicts.
3. Walking and biking paths should not cross major highways.

## OTHER REQUESTS

1. Another dog park is needed in Center City.
2. \*See Post Script below.

## **SCAC Recommendations:**

1. The traffic issues need to be investigated/studied.
2. Safety item #3: Investigate the possibility of Greenbelt participating in the annual Drug Take Back Day, possibly with the help of the Police Department and/or CoOp Pharmacy.
3. SCAC would like updates on the above items by May 2016.

## POST SCRIPT

After the Open Forum meeting was finished, there was an informal discussion amongst some audience members and Senior Citizen Advisory Committee members regarding the need for additional senior housing in Greenbelt. It was suggested that Greenbelt should consider implementing a senior housing stipulation, similar to Bowie's, (new housing construction must include 20% of units for senior housing) whenever new housing developments are approved. The SCAC strongly recommends Council take this under consideration.