

**Advisory Committee on Trees (ACT) Minutes
submitted by Ethel Dutky**

**March 24, 2010 Meeting between ACT
and the Labor Day Festival Committee:**

ACT met with the Labor Day Festival Committee on March 24, 2010 at 8 p.m. to discuss damage to trees (located in the mall area between the Library and the Community Center) by movement of vehicles and placement of Carnival Rides in the root zone of large specimen trees.

The Labor Day Committee chair Linda Ivy invited the ACT members to discuss the ACT Report submitted to Greenbelt City Council (Report #2010-1, dated Jan. 15, 2010) regarding concerns about damage to trees (located in the mall area between the Library and the Community Center) by movement of vehicles and placement of Carnival rides in the root zone of large specimen trees.

ACT members Charles Jackman (chair), Robert Trumbule and Ethel Dutky, and Lesley Riddle (City liaison) attended the meeting. ACT explained concerns about the damage to tree roots through compaction of soil and physical damage to woody roots which can result in decline of the large trees. Decline is expressed by dieback of branches. Root damage can eventually kill the tree. Dead branches are very dangerous, so declining trees require much more maintenance to remove weak, diseased, damaged or dead limbs to prevent injury to people or property. Lesley Riddle explained practices used by Public Works crews to repair damage from compaction such as vertical mulching and aeration. The group went outside to view the mall area and the specific trees of most concern to ACT.

After a lively discussion we reached consensus on the following points:

- 1 - The Labor Day Festival values the trees and does not want to harm them.
- 2 - Tree protection zones will be put in place around the large trees to prevent vehicles and equipment from being placed on the sensitive root areas.
- 3 - Public Works will move one or two recently planted Memorial trees which block access across open turf areas. This will allow access to the mall without driving across root zones.
- 4 - ACT will work with the Labor Day Festival Committee to prepare regulations for the Carnival staff to observe to protect the trees. These regulations will be similar to those prepared by ACT and the GHI Horticulturist to protect community trees during the replacement of water lines throughout the city by WSSC. Most communities have such regulations.
- 5 - Public Works will continue maintenance of the mall area, including periodic vertical mulching, aeration, and safety pruning.