

Letters to the Editor



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

Pumpkin carvers get ready for the walk.

Great Pumpkin Walk

I wanted to drop a short note thanking the organizers and volunteers of the annual Greenbelt Pumpkin Walk for putting on a very enjoyable event this past Saturday night. Thanks also to those who offered up their time and effort in transporting, carving and staging the pumpkins along the trail. The uniquely carved, illuminated pumpkins placed along the path made for a nice family Halloween-themed evening right here in the neighborhood.

I did, however, want to suggest that, in advance of next year's event, the "Northway Fields" section of Northway be closed to vehicular traffic. I and at least a dozen other parents and families were shocked to see numerous vehicles traveling up and down the dark narrow roadway. The section of Northway leading to the dumps is unpaved, unmarked, and unlit; factors, that when combined with young children and moving vehicles, create a significant safety hazard to pedestrian traffic attempting to reach the Pumpkin Walk trailhead. I'm not quite sure why people weren't instructed to park along the city streets and walk to the event. Allowing vehicular traffic of any kind after dark without a designated pedestrian walkway or other traffic control measures is short sighted to say the least.

Brandon Cole

It Takes a Village

We would like to thank the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival planning committee members who powered this year's incredibly successful festival: Susan Barnett, Jeannie Bellina, Allison Smith Bolten, Toby Delrahim, Paul Downs, Matt Holland, Damien Ossi and Lore Rosenthal. We would also like to recognize Dave Cockerham as super volunteer who pitched in at every step of the festival weekend. Because of these fine folks, we were able to bring back the highly-popular community carving party in

Roosevelt Center, host a Nature Hike to share the wonder of our forest, expand the Pumpkin Walk to include more than 40 "branded pumpkins" from Greenbelt community groups and businesses among our 250 plus jack o'lanterns, spook-ify this year's walk with more performers than ever, recycle pumpkins for composting across our community and food for people and farm animals and conduct a sunrise hike on the 11th anniversary of council's decision to establish the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. And we're not done yet. We hope you will join us for the first-ever Greasy Pumpkin on November 1 at the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center.

We also want to thank Greenbelters and their families who turned out to donate their time, trucks and muscles to make the Pumpkin Walk come off without a hitch. No small task. People of all ages and backgrounds came together to create the most inclusive Pumpkin Walk ever—including our very own Mayor Emmett Jordan. Our thanks go to Michael Hartman, Kristi Fletcher, Jean Newcomb, the extended Novick family, John and Ob Stith, the McElhennys, the Waters family, the Gaycken-McGrath family, Amy Knesel, Bernard Kelly, Erin Gatewood and Craig Roberts, the Wesley-Hunt family, the Marcavitch family, the Jenkins family, Sheila Maffay-Tuthill, Becky Roper, Cub Scout Pack 202 and Girl Scout Troop 5859. A special pumpkin thank you is extended to councilmember Rodney Roberts and his wife Tara for continuing the annual tradition of serving free hot chocolate to all pumpkin walkers.

We must also thank our sponsors including Maryland Milestones, CHEARS, Beltway Plaza Mall, the Mid-Atlantic Hiking

Group, the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket, members of the New Deal Café and Chef Karim, along with generous donations from Jim and Celia Craze and J Davis. And finally, we thank Val Elliott who served as a strong link with the Greenbelt Forest Preserve Advisory Board to foster stronger communication to create the most low-impact Pumpkin Walk and leave only magical memories behind in our community forest.

Until next year and Thank Goodness It's Forested.

Melissa Ann Ehrenreich
Volunteer Organizer
Greenbelt Pumpkin Walk
Festival

Sustainability?

The article in October 9 News Review, "Greenbelt Receives Sustainable Award," listed the many commendable actions and achievements Greenbelt has undertaken to receive an award for moving the City of Greenbelt in a more sustainable direction.

One of the listed items mentioned was, "The Greenbelt Forest Preserve has protected 225 acres of woodlands..." Citizens need to know that it would be more accurate to state that the Forest Preserve (FP) has now been reduced to about 223 acres. This has occurred over the past two years.

In November of 2012 about a half-acre of wooded area of the FP was cut and removed behind Hamilton Place. This was in Area C of the south tract. This has often been referred to as the unauthorized clearing.

In February of this year estimates are that slightly over one acre of FP was clear cut (including over 90 trees with diameters ranging from 3" up to 20") to provide eight-foot-wide buffer spaces around the community gardens in three different locations (Henry's Hollow, Hamilton Gardens and Gardenway garden plot areas). This occurred in parts of Area C and D of the FP.

And this fall about one-half acre was clear cut from the 10-acre Belle Point FP area to make way for a new playground.

Two acres you say? That's not much. Well, here a little, there a little. In and around Greenbelt and especially throughout the county we are losing parcels of wooded areas to development and human needs. Greenbelt may be inching slowly towards a more green and sustainable future, as the article says, but somewhat less so with respect to preserving and protecting our forests, woodlands and wetlands for their own sake.

Bob Snyder

Grin Belt



"Witch bird has the best costume . . .
for the Greenbelt voters to decide."

Investment Club Seeks Members

The Goddard Investment Club, a group of amateur investors who discuss and invest in stocks, is seeking new members. The club meets the second Monday of the month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The next meeting will be held Monday, November 10.

For more information email jdea@hotmail.com.

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Greenbelt News Review

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Proofers Needed for the News Review

How do your Wednesday evenings look?

Can you spare an hour once or twice a month from 7 to 8 p.m.? Your community newspaper needs two or three volunteers to join the staff as proofreaders. You get to choose how often you proof.

No experience needed. (No homework!)

Call Sue at 301-474-2219 for information and to sign up.

Correction

The photograph from the Franklin Park Day event in last week's paper misidentified the woman beside Barbara Havekost. She is Carolyn Lambright-Davis, a resident of Franklin Park.