

# Letters to the Editor

## Beijing and Facebook

Some folks say that Facebook is a poor substitute for "real life" connections. But sometimes, it helps make them.

It started with a simple posting on the Greenbelters Facebook page: a customer at the Beijing looked around when he was dining one recent evening and noticed that the room was rather empty. "Their business is taking a real hit from the theater renovation," he noted in his posting. Many folks chimed in, with much discussion around the relative merits of a few of the local Chinese food restaurants but a consensus did seem to emerge: it would be a shame to see the Beijing go out of business because the theater's temporary closing had apparently pulled away some of its customer base.

And with that, one poster suggested that the group get together for dinner to support the Beijing. It was decided that they would meet Wednesday, October 8 for an evening of food, fortunes and friendship. The group included Lawrence Phelps, Maureen Wheeler, Diane Fishburne, Brett Fishburne, Svetlana Bunina, Christina Kavanagh, Angelo Parisi, Angie Parisi, Janice Wolf, Sheila Maffay-Tuthill and me. Some of the members knew each other already, but many did not, so it was a great way to have some face time after Facebook.

It was also a reminder that what makes the Greenbelt community so great is its individuals. And it takes individuals to keep our local businesses thriving. Let's try to remember our neighbors at Roosevelt Center, particularly while the theater remains closed, so that we can continue to enjoy their presence in our community.

Julie Winters

## Pumpkin Walk Carvers Wanted

For 26 years, the Pumpkin Walk has helped bring our community into the forest and has known many variations. This year, our goal is to put as much of the Greenbelt community into our community forest as we can so we can all appreciate the value of this special place. In just one week, we will be reviving popular past aspects of the Pumpkin Walk by hosting a community carving party in Roosevelt Center on October 24 with music and free pumpkins, hosting a nature walk during daylight hours on October 25 led by plant and wildlife biologists, and inviting more mischievous creatures onto the trail on the evening of October 25 to join the infamous Goatman. The walk, however, will remain family friendly.

We are also adding new concepts to make this the most inclusive walk ever. This year we are challenging at least 50 different Greenbelt groups, businesses, and city departments to carve a pumpkin to place on the walk to illuminate our community spirit. We are almost half way there and look forward to more groups and businesses stepping up to participate!

And finally, we have strengthened communication with the Forest Preserve Advisory Board and the City's Planning and Com-

munity Development Department to provide stronger educational programming, particularly on our Facebook page. This is especially important because the Pumpkin Walk's roots are about inspiring community members to care and protect our forest. Greenbelters are invited to join us for a full series of events happening all around our community for the next several weekends that involve pumpkins, forests and fun here in Greenbelt to make this the most fantastic Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival yet! Find us on Facebook at the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival page, so you can follow along and learn about the fun to come!

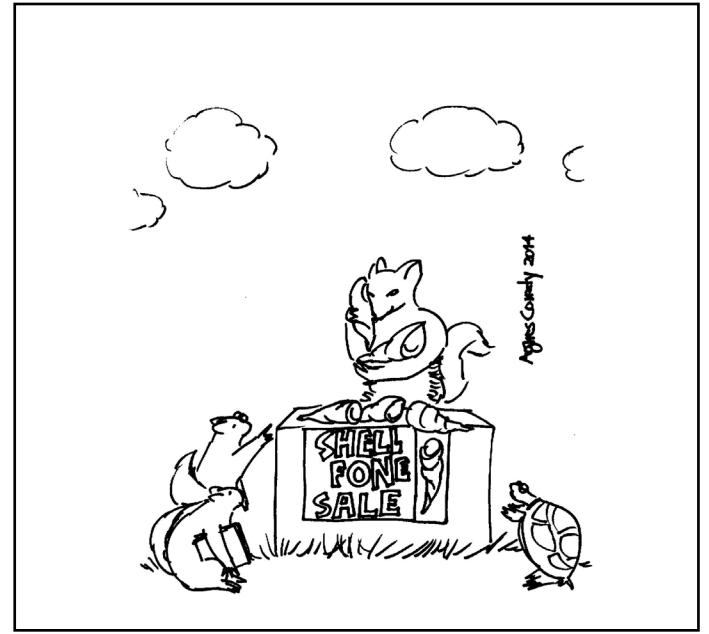
Melissa Ehrenreich  
Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival  
Volunteer Organizer

## Thanks

Thanks to all the talented Greenbelters who shared their treasures with the community at the Labor Day Festival Retro Town Fair 2014. We will be back next year and are discussing a few new categories including Gigantic Vegetable and Jewelry. One Retro Town Fair-goer even suggested a Dog Treat category. Thanks to all the judges, volunteers, attendees and the hardworking Public Works employees for the tables and chairs. See you next year at the Retro Town Fair.

Megan Young  
Greenbelt Museum Curator

## Grin Belt



"Dad, I guess I wasn't very clear when I asked you for a phone . . . ."

## Star Party Planned For Saturday Night

The public is invited to a star party Saturday evening, October 18, hosted by the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt at the City of Greenbelt Observatory, Northway field. Usually, in addition to the telescope in the observatory, some members set up personal telescopes and binoculars for the enjoyment of all. Observing will begin as soon as it is dark enough, probably around 7:30 p.m.

## Mowatt UMC Holds Spaghetti Dinner

On Saturday, October 18 from 5 to 7 p.m., Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will hold a spaghetti dinner. Proceeds will go to restoring the steeple, which now leaks rain into the sanctuary. It is hoped that the community will come together, share a meal and fellowship and help fix the roof. The church is located at 40 Ridge Road. Call 301-474-9410 for further information.

## Greenbelt News Review 2014 Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, October 26, 2:00 pm

Greenbelt Youth Center, Multi-purpose Room

Business Meeting and Election of Board Members

## 2014 GREENBELT PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

Putting the community in our community forest!

### COMMUNITY CARVE-OFF:

October 24th 5-9PM

Roosevelt Center

Join your neighbors to carve hundreds of pumpkins to place on the Pumpkin Walk while listening to local Greenbelt bands!

### NATURE HIKE:

October 25th 10-11:30AM

Greenbelt Forest Preserve (Northway & Ridge)

Learn about the wonders of our forest from forest and wildlife biologists and learn the history of our forest.

### PUMPKIN WALK:

October 25th 5-30-9PM

Greenbelt Forest Preserve (Northway & Ridge)

Become a part of a 26 year tradition--The Greenbelt Pumpkin Walk!

Take a walk through our community forest lit by hundreds of pumpkins carved by Greenbelters. Meet Goatman and other mischievous creatures in the woods! Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and hot cider while you revel in the magic of the forest!

THIS EVENT IS ENTIRELY FREE THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS!



Questions? Email [pumpkinwalk@gmail.com](mailto:pumpkinwalk@gmail.com) or call (301) 345-1346

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## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

301-474-4131 • FAX 301-474-5880

email: [newsreview@verizon.net](mailto:newsreview@verizon.net)

website: [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

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News Editor: Elaine Skolnik 301-598-1805

Assistant to the Editor: Eileen Farnham 301-513-0482

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Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624

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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.

## Corrections

In last week's issue, the city ad gave the correct date of Thursday, October 23 for the School Board candidates' forum. The What Goes On box had the correct date but the wrong day of the week.

In the October 9 News Review, the article headed Senior Open Forum on page 13 should have noted that Councilmember Judith Davis was present.

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