



March 2011

Dear Friends:

The Prince George's County Council has been sworn in for over 90 days. On that day, each of us promised to improve OUR government. As Chair, I committed to lead a Council that would provide a more transparent government – one that empowers citizens and provides far-reaching levels of access never before available to the public. We committed to work in partnership with the County Executive to make a great County...Even Greater.

As you know, I believe it is important that YOU as constituents remain as informed as possible about the Prince George's County Council. Because of this, I am proud to announce that the new Prince George's County Council FY 2012 Budget web page has been launched! You may access the page by visiting www.princegeorgescountymd.gov.

This web page is part of the ongoing Council initiative to communicate Council actions and processes openly and effectively with County residents, and aims to promote even greater public participation in the Council's budget review and adoption process. Current features include Quick Guide to Understanding the Council's Budget Process (PPT presentation); Budget Calendar Dates; Committee Work Sessions; Press Releases; Additional Budget Resources linking viewers to helpful budget sites; and a Comments section. You may consider the web page a useful tool to share with constituents and other stakeholders during this budget season, as it provides quick and easy access to an abundance of information about the County's FY 2012 Budget. I ask that you mark your calendars to attend a number of upcoming important public hearings that will be held by the Prince George's County Council concerning the budget*.

- **April 12, 2011, 1:30 pm** - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
- **April 26, 2011, 6:30 pm** - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission & Community Development Block Grant
- **May 2, 2011 & May 11, 2011, 7:00 pm** - County Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program; Board of Education & Constant Yield Tax Rate

All public hearings will be held at the County Administration Building, Council Hearing Room on the 1st floor, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. Those wishing to testify at the budget hearings are urged to telephone the office of the Clerk of the Council, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, at (301) 952-3600, TDD-(301) 925-5167. Free parking and shuttle bus service is available at the Prince George's

Equestrian Center parking lots.

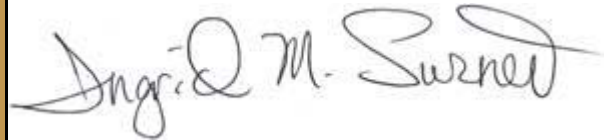
The County Council is pledged to make the budget process more open, inclusive, and participatory. The Council wants to increase public understanding of the budget review process and the Council's role in approving the budget.

On February 28, 2011, the Prince George's County Council hosted a Budget Town Hall Meeting at the Prince George's Community College. The County Council Budget Town Hall Meeting featured a presentation on the Council's budget review process; important budget calendar dates including public hearings; and was an opportunity for the Council to hear from citizens.

On **Tuesday, April 5, 2011**, at 6:30 pm., the Council will host its second Council Community Meeting, at the Bowie Senior Center to hear from members of the community and give residents the opportunity to attend a meeting that is normally held during business hours. The topic will be Healthy Communities – A Prince George's Health System Update. The Bowie Senior Center is located at 14900 Health Ctr. Dr., Bowie, MD 20716.

As always, please enjoy this month's E-News as you should find some updates about things happening in our community and some interesting events for you and your family to participate in. If you have information that you would like to be included in future newsletters that will be beneficial to other residents, please email the information to arpannell@co.pg.md.us.

Working for YOU!



Ingrid M. Turner

[News You can Use!!!](#)

Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner host Tax Assessment Forum

Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner hosted a Tax Assessment Forum in partnership with the City of Bowie on February 24, 2011, where she along with City of Bowie Manager, Mr. David J. Deutsch spoke to residents, civic groups, and neighborhood organizations, about the importance of the tax assessments process.

The *Tax Assessment Forum* featured a presentation by Mr. Joseph Hensley, Supervisor of

Assessments, State Department of Assessments and Taxation and Ms. Linda Allen, Treasury Manager, Prince George's County Office of Finance. Mr. Hensley and Ms. Allen provided specific information to the guest regarding property tax reassessments, Homestead caps with regard to the assessments and the projected outlook of county taxes in the future. Residents had the opportunity to ask questions, express viewpoints, and share their concerns.

For Additional information, please contact Mr. Altmann Pannell, Constituent Services Aide, at 301-9523094, or arpannell@co.pg.md.us.



Greenbelt Metro Area and 193 Corridor Sector Plan and Map Amendment

On Wednesday, March 2, 2011, staff from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and the City of Greenbelt Planning Department hosted a public information gathering meeting to inform an upcoming sector plan and sectional (zoning) map amendment focused on the Greenbelt Green Line Metrorail station and Greenbelt Road/MD 193 Corridor.

Approximately 50 people gathered in the multipurpose room of the Greenbelt Community Center to discuss their hopes, concerns, and vision for their community. The Chairperson of the Prince George's County Council Ingrid M. Turner, and Mayor Judith Davis of the City of Greenbelt, welcomed attendees and asked for their dedication and collaboration for this important planning effort. Residents, business owners, and elected officials then rolled up their sleeves, informing staff of key issues that must be addressed by this plan and setting the stage for the work to come.

The Greenbelt Metro Area and MD 193 Corridor Sector Plan and Sectional Map Amendment (SMA) will guide the long-term growth and revitalization of one of the most historic communities in Prince



Council Chair Turner continues to visit District 4 elementary schools to stress the importance of reading through the Read 4 Success program. During her visit on Friday, February 25, 2011 to Rockledge Elementary School, Council Chair Turner read from the books, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, by Ronald Dahl to Mrs. Beamon's third grade classes and Frindle by Andrew Clements to Mrs. Price's fourth grade classes. As part of this program, she provided each student with a copy of the book.

George's County. The plan will address land use, transportation networks, environmental infrastructure, public facilities, economic development, and other quality of life issues. The municipalities of Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, and College Park look to continuing their long tradition of cooperation to ensure a bright future for all residents, workers, and visitors.

M-NCPPC staff expects formal initiation of the sector plan and SMA in May, 2011. An intense series of workshops, meetings, and briefings will ensure broad participation in the preparation of the plan's recommendations. Everyone with interest in the past, present, and future of the Greenbelt Metro Station and MD 193 Corridor is encouraged to participate in this exciting initiative.

Additional information may be found on the project website at www.pgplanning.org/Greenbelt.htm, or by contacting the project manager, Chad Williams, at 301-952-3171 or by e-mail at chad.williams@ppd.mncppc.org.

Prince George's County 'My Home' Program

Now is an exciting time to buy a home in Prince George's County. First time home buyers can take advantage of the County's *My Home* program, in which buyers can receive down payment and closing costs assistance when purchasing a property in Prince George's County. The *My Home* website outlines specific guidelines for the homebuyer, realtors and lenders as well as the necessary steps families must take in order to qualify.

Prince George's County has always been a great place to experience the American dream of homeownership. We are committed to helping families realize this dream. For more information please visit the *My Home* website at: www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/MyHOME or call 301.883.5456.



On February 9, 2011, the "AP Report to the Nation" announced that Eleanor Roosevelt High School students excelled in four different academic areas – biology, chemistry, English language and composition and English literature and composition

Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, Nancy S. Grasmick, visited ERHS to congratulate the students for this prestigious accomplishment. She along with a number of other school officials and AP officers spoke to the students to congratulate them.

Foreclosure Prevention Workshop

A free Foreclosure Prevention Workshop in Prince George's County will feature a special credit recovery session for homeowners who have gone through foreclosure. The workshop will be held on **Saturday, March 26, 2011**, at Suitland High School, 5200 Silver Hill Road, in Forestville, Maryland, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Main sessions of the workshop will provide opportunities for distressed homeowners to meet with their lenders and also gain advice on their options from certified housing and legal counselors.

The workshop is being sponsored by NID Housing Counseling Agency (NID-HCA), funded by HUD. NID-HCA has been involved in housing issues affecting the underserved and minority communities for the past 25 years.

Banks and lenders agreeing to participate include Chase, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, GMAC Mortgage, PNC Mortgage and US Bank. For additional information, please call 1-866-993-4643.

MRC Recruitment and Orientation Session

The Prince George's County Health Department-Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) invites you, your family, friends, colleagues and social organization members to attend the next MRC Recruitment and Orientation Session. The next training will take place on **Wednesday, March 23, 2011** 6:00 pm-8:00 pm at the Hyattsville Municipal Center, 1st Floor Multipurpose Room, 4310 Gallatin Street Hyattsville, MD 20781. To register please call 301-883-3413 or E-mail: [Preparedness](mailto:Preparedness@princegeorgescountymd.gov)
Please click the link: [FLYER](#) for more information.

The Medical Reserve Corps' goal is to assemble a group of community volunteers that will work with



On February 18, 2011, Tulip Grove Elementary School's PTA held the "I Can Be" program. Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner is pictured with Principal Brian Baudoin and a member of the Bowie Boys and Girls club at the "I Can Be" program.



Council Chair Turner continues to visit District 4 elementary schools to stress the importance of fighting childhood obesity through the Promoting Healthy Counties Initiative program. During her visit on Friday, February 18, 2011 to Highbridge Elementary School, Council Chair Turner gave out jump ropes and health education coloring books to students. Physical Education Teacher Ms. Mackenzie Kellman is pictured here with Council Chair Turner.

Health Department staff responding to public health emergencies or community need. **You are Needed!**

New Recruit Class Starts Training

The Prince George's County Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department recently started a class of recruit Fire Fighter/Medics. On Monday, February 28, 2011, twenty-seven personnel attended their first day of training at the Fire/EMS Training Academy as members of Career Recruit School #42. Twenty-four of the recruits are new hires; 3 are EMS-ready only and will receive basic firefighter training. Thirteen of the recruits are currently experienced as either firefighters, emergency medical technicians (EMT) or paramedics who possess appropriate Maryland training certifications. This latter group will attend an abbreviated academy of ten weeks, after which they will be detailed to Fire/EMS stations. The remaining recruits will attend a full training academy allotment of twenty-four weeks.

Acting Fire Chief Marc S. Bashoor, along with the command staff, attended the recruit's first day at the Fire/EMS Academy and offered words of encouragement. He stated, "One of the greatest secrets to living a rewarding life is to find the one thing you really love to do; then go and do it. For most of you here, it is clear that the answer to that question is fire suppression and emergency medicine."

For more information please contact the Prince George's County Fire Department Information Office at 301-883-7154.

"SpeedPay" with WSSC

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) will offer new and expanded services for customers to pay their bills online. SpeedPay, through Western Union, will be available beginning Friday, February 25th, at 5 p.m., following system maintenance and upgrades.



Ms. Ingrid Harrison, Community Outreach Coordinator, Office of Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner was happy to visit Spring Hill Lake Elementary School on behalf of Chair Turner's Promoting Healthy Counties Initiative program. Ms. Harrison gave out jump ropes and health education coloring books to students.



On February 15, 2010, Council Chair Turner was excited to host a welcome breakfast for the 2010-2011 Posse Scholars. Council Member Leslie E. Johnson and Council Member Mary A. Lehman were also in attendance for the breakfast reception. The Posse Scholars were awarded certificates of accomplishment.

Posse students are: Ashley Boyd, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Bakari Boone, The Maret School; Daryl Curry, Central High School; David Dan, Bowie High School; Jonathan Harris II, Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School; James Scott-Ransom, Bowie High School; Jerome Martin, McKinley Technology High School; Johante Webb, Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School; Miyelle Aiken, St. Johns College High School; Obianuhu Okonkwo, Dr. Henry A. Wise, Jr. High School; Patrick Hooke, Parkdale High School; and Yorman Amador, Bladensburg High School.

As part of e-Services to our customers, we are upgrading our web-based system to allow you to pay your bill 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week using your credit, debit, ATM card or e-check.

Paying electronically saves you time and gas, and can help you avoid paying late fees. We will also offer access to your previous bills and payment history.

While there is a convenience fee associated with paying online, that fee has been reduced by almost two dollars. SpeedPay will collect a fee of \$3.00 for each transaction. The money goes to Western Union for providing the service, not WSSC.

To use SpeedPay, just log on to www.wsscwater.com and click on WSSC e-services.

WSSC Scholarship

The Commissioners of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) are offering the annual Joyce Starks Engineering Scholarship to a college student majoring in engineering. Named in honor of Commissioner Starks, the scholarship is valued at \$1,000. To qualify, students must have a permanent home address in WSSC's service district, and be enrolled in a degree program that leads to a Bachelor of Science in Engineering or an advanced degree in engineering. Past winners are also eligible to compete.

Applicants should send a copy of their official transcript along with a cover letter, proof of permanent residency, two references and a 400 to 1000 - word essay on the following:

What topic have you studied that makes you believe it is important for engineering to be mindful of "green" environmental initiatives and how would this make you a good candidate for a WSSC scholarship and potential summer internship?



Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner and Council Vice Chair Eric Olson presented a Proclamation to the Posse Foundation recognizing their "Exemplary Commitment to Education" in Prince George's County during Council Session Tuesday, February 15, 2011. Posse leadership includes Dave Salge, Senior Trainer; May Naldo, Trainer; and Robyn Lingo, Program Director.



The reference letters must be submitted separately or in a sealed envelope if sent with the application materials. The deadline for submissions is **June 30, 2011**. The scholarship winner may also be offered a paid internship in the summer of 2012. Scholarship winner will be awarded at the August Commission meeting, [Temple Hills Resident Wins WSSC Scholarship](#).

Send applications to Charlett Bundy, Esq., Corporate Secretary, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, 14501 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707. Applications must be postmarked by **June 30, 2011**.

Delegate Anne Healey Scholarship Funds

The Office of Delegate Anne Healey now has scholarship funds available to full or part-time students who will attend any eligible Maryland institution during the 2011-2012 academic year. Students must be residents of Legislative District 22. They may be enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, post-secondary career, vocational or professional studies program.

Scholarships will range from \$200 to approximately \$2,000. Scholarships are for one year, but applicants may apply for additional assistance in subsequent years. Delegate Healey's scholarship selection committee will review applications and recommend potential scholarship recipients.

Selection of recipients will be based upon certain criteria, including academic achievement, academic goals, and the likelihood of completing a college degree or certification in a program, as well as demonstrated commitment to service in our community. The scholarships will be based on a variety of factors, including scholastic achievements, written statements by the applicant, community/school involvement and letters of recommendation. Applications and supporting



Council Chair Turner was delighted to stop by and celebrate the Open House of the Newly – Renovated, State – of the Art, Prince Georg's County Health Department Dental Clinic.

Dr. Donald Shell, Health Officer, Prince George's County Department of Health and Dr. Debony Hughes, Public Health Dentistry Specialist, are pictured here with other staff of the Dental Clinic



Prince George's County Council Members stand with student participants at the 7th Annual Black History Month Program, Art and Soul: Celebration of the Arts in Prince George's County, March 1, 2011.

documentation are due no later than **June 29, 2001**. To apply and for more information please contact 301-858-3961.

College Savings Plans of Maryland

The College Savings Plans of Maryland offer a variety of ways to help realize your child's dream of going to college. Whatever they'll eventually grow up to be: a teacher, a businesswoman, a scientist, or computer specialist, saving for college is an important first step in making it happen.

Maryland offers two Section 529 College Savings Plans: *The Maryland College Investment Plan*, available year-round, and the Maryland Prepaid College Trust, with enrollment open until **April 4, 2011**.

Learn more about how the Plans work by stopping by the 'College Savings Starts Here' Tour, **Wednesday March 30, 2011** at the Bowie Library, 15210 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20715.

Come by any time between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm to talk in person with representatives about your family's situation. The College Savings Plans were created by the State of Maryland to help families and students afford college. You can also visit: www.collegesavingsmd.org to learn more about your options. For parents whose children are attending college this year, visit <http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/index.asp> for financial aid information.

Acting Chief John Nesky Chosen to Head Bowie Police Department

On March 10, 2010, Bowie City Manager David Deutsch announced that, John Nesky has been selected as Bowie's new Police Chief. Deputy Chief Nesky has been serving in the role of Acting Police Chief since Katherine Perez, the Department's first chief departed in November of 2010.



United States Senator Barbara A. Mikulski joined Prince George's County Council Member's for a meeting to discuss County priorities, Monday, February 28, 2011 at the County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. Pictured left to right are: Council Member Andrea Harrison, District 5; Council Member Mel Franklin, District 9; Council Member Mary Lehman, District 1; Council Vice Chair Eric Olson, District 3; Senator Barbara A. Mikulski; Council Chair Ingrid Turner, District 4; Council Member Leslie Johnson, District 6; Council Member Obie Patterson, District 8; and Council Member Karen Toles, District 7. MRC Recruitment and Orientation Session



The decision to promote Nesky to Police Chief was made at the end of a nation-wide search that resulted in 130 applicants for the job. After interviewing the top candidates during the week of February 28, 2011, and consulting with the Bowie City Council about his choice, Deutsch offered the job to Acting Chief Nesky.

As Deputy Chief, Nesky helped establish and grow the Bowie Police Department, which now stands at 48 officers. In addition to helping to hire officers and manage the department, he was the driving force behind several department initiatives such as the City's award winning National Night Out Against Crime event and a self defense training program for women. Most recently in November 2010, he oversaw the establishment of a Criminal Investigation Unit, which has been responsible for the closing of several cases involving criminals who had committed multiple crimes.

Spotcrime.com Shows Where the Crimes Are

Those interested in seeing where crimes are occurring in their neighborhoods have a new tool at their disposal. Prince George's County Police Department is now supplying data from its computer aided dispatch system to a website called spotcrime.com. Viewers to the site can enter a specific address. The site will display a map showing any crimes that have taken place nearby.

The site provides the type of crime, the crime report number and the name of the agency supplying the data. Because Prince George's County manages dispatch duties for the Bowie Police Department, crimes handled by the City Police and County Police are both displayed on the maps.

Crime data is also available in report form from the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org. Uniform



On Wednesday, March 9, 2011, the members of Youth Leadership Bowie took a tour of the Prince George's County Administration Building with Council Chair Turner. The group also had an opportunity to tour the Prince George's County Court House. Council Chair Turner was able to discuss the "ins" and "outs" of the legislative branch and answers questions on how the Prince George's County Council operates on a daily basis.



The Bowie High School Ladies With Class group held Women's Empowerment Week during the week of March 7, 2011. On March 9, 2011, Council Chair Turner is pictured here with Ladies With Class President Ms. Tierra Langley and Ladies With Class Advisor, Ms. Denise Swann. Chair Turner spoke to the group about career choices and future goals.

Crime Reports, monthly summaries of all crimes in Bowie, and Unusual Reports for non-routine incidents, such as robberies, are provided there.

For more information about crime data in the City of Bowie, please contact the City of Bowie Police Department at 301-575-2480 or www.spotcrime.com.



On March 4, 2011, the Iota Gamma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., spent the day in Annapolis learning about the Maryland State General Assembly.

Council Chair Ingrid M. Turner was excited to be in attendance for this tour. Chair Turner is pictured here with Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown, Council Member Karen R. Toles, Iota Gamma Omega Chapter President, Mrs. Ingrid Harrison, Chief of Staff Mrs. Tomeka C. Bumbry and other members of the chapter on the tour.

More News For You

Senior Computer Center Open House

On **March 23, 2011**, from 10:00 am – 12:00 noon the Bowie Senior Center is hosting a Computer open house. The Computer Center has a brand new look! All of the computers and monitors have been replaced with new ones. The upgrades are part of the City's continuous efforts to keep the Senior Center's facilities current. If you are a senior and would like to register for the next class session which runs **May 9, 2011 - July 1, 2011**, please sign up on **April 5, 2011** at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact the Center at 301-809-2300. The Bowie Senior Center is located at 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie 20716.

Rain Garden Workshop at Bowie City Hall

On **March 26, 2011**, from 9:00 am – 10:30 am, Bowie residents are invited to come to the Bayscapes Garden just behind Bowie City Hall and learn about rain gardens and native/conservation landscaping. In case of rain, the workshop will move inside the building. Bowie City Hall is located at 2614 Kenhill Dr Bowie, MD 20715. For more information and to register, contact Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org.

“According to the Ladies”

In celebration of Women's History Month, on **March 26, 2011**, you are invited to celebrate Belair Mansion with four ladies from Belair's past. Discuss their different lives in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Girl Scout patches are available for \$1 per scout. This event is **FREE**. Belair Mansion is located at 12207 Tulip Grove Drive, Bowie, MD 20715. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Scholarships in Bowie

The City of Bowie is offering two types of scholarships for high school students who live within the corporate limits of the City of Bowie. Students with a 3.0 cumulative GPA who have applied to college to major in a visual or performing arts field can apply for the Arts Scholarship. The application can be downloaded from www.cityofbowie.org. The Excellence in Education Scholarship is open to students with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 who have been nominated by their high school. Students interested in this scholarship should contact the guidance counselors at their school to express interest in being considered for this nomination. Scholarship applications have been sent to area high schools attended by Bowie students and the high school guidance departments have information regarding both scholarship programs. The application deadline is **Monday, March 28, 2011**. For more information on the two scholarships, contact Annette Esterheld at 301-575- 5601 or aesterheld@cityofbowie.org.

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will be hosting a Blood Drive on **March 30, 2011**, at the City of Bowie Gymnasium from 2:00 pm- 8:00 pm. The City of Bowie Gymnasium is located at 4100 Northview Drive Bowie, 20716.

Looking Back at Levitt Bowie

On **March 30, 2011** at 7:00 p.m., the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts presents, “Looking Back at Levitt Bowie”. Dr. James Jacobs of the National Park Service offers a retrospective on the 50-year evolution of a planned community – Belair at Bowie. Dr. Jacobs' interest in the Levitt product/concept is longstanding – as a student at George Washington University he participated in the 2000 Belair at Bowie/Levitt Study. Free. For more information, please contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

City Beautification Awards

The City, in cooperation with Soroptimist International of Bowie-Crofton, is now accepting nominations for the 16th Annual Beautification Awards. Nominations can be made by anyone for a home or townhouse, business, school, or specialty garden that reflects the beauty of Bowie. You can nominate your home or business, or nominate anyone else that you think has gone the extra mile to make an area of Bowie stand out. All nominations must be for locations within the corporate limits of Bowie. For more information or to obtain a nomination form, visit the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org, or contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Back to the 60s

In celebration of the Golden Anniversary of Belair at Bowie, the Belair Mansion is planning to host an exhibit, "Back to the 60s", featuring memorabilia from Belair at Bowie's earliest days. Do you have a high school yearbook – from any school in the Bowie region? Are your love beads or bell bottoms still in the drawer? How about your lovely melamine dishes or stainless tableware from the era? How about a psychedelic poster or a Beatles album cover? What do you have stored from the "Summer of Love"? What object do you have saved that takes YOU back to the 60s? The City Museums Division is seeking items for a fun exhibit during the late Spring/early Summer of 2011. Help the Belair Mansion get "back to the 60's" by loaning your objects to the exhibit. For further information, or if you've already got a loan in mind, please contact Samantha Dorsey, Museum Curator, at 301-809-3097 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Basketball Camp at the Bowie Gym

During the week of **April 18-22**, the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics will offer a basketball camp for boys and girls ages 8-17. Registration is \$300. For more information, contact David Deal, Camps and Clinics Director for the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics at 202-527-7503 or email ddeal@monumentalsports.com.

Environmental Assessment in Greenbelt Park

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has initiated an Environmental Assessment to analyze the potential impacts of proposed improvements to the Main Entrance Road (Maryland Route 10), Park Central Road, Sweetgum Picnic Loop (Route 200) and Laurel Picnic Area (Route 201). The improvements would include rehabilitation of the roadways, parking lots, guardrails and drainage structures. One alternative under consideration involves the replacement of an existing double culvert with a bridge over Still Creek. The proposed activity may include temporary road closures and detours within the park.

Public input is an important part of the assessment process. You are invited to comment on the scope and potential impacts of this project. The project information can be viewed online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/parkHome.cfm?parkID=184>. Written comments will be accepted for consideration until March 28, 2011. For more information, please contact Richelle Ellis, FHWA Environmental Protection Specialist, at 703-404-6333 or email at Richelle.Ellis@dot.gov or Christina Snyder, Project Manager NPS/DSC at 202-619-6392 or email at Christina_Snyder@nps.gov.

Military and Displaced Veterans Residential Program at Franklin Park

Members of the active military, veterans, and/or displaced veterans can now find apartments nearby at affordable prices, thanks to a new initiative at *Franklin Park at Greenbelt Station*. The new program has already attracted attention from the Joint Anacostia-Bolling military bases, which have already entered into a rental partnership agreement at Franklin Park.

Franklin Park will offer this special program to members of the military because of the strong belief that citizens serving our country are due our respect, honor and gratitude for their service,” said Sharon Thames, Executive Director of Business Development and Government Affairs. “

Franklin Park is located next to mass transit and major highways. Military personnel serving at Ft. Meade and Andrews Air Force Base would also find Franklin Park’s location to be favorable and its rents reasonable. Prince George’s County’s Veteran Affairs Center would also offer its services to veterans living at Franklin Park.

For more information please contact Mr. Charles Maier at 301-424-4141 or email at Charlie@MaierWarnerPR.com.

Donation Drop Off

The American Rescue Workers Donation Drop-Off will be held every second and fourth Saturday of Every Month. The next Donation Drop-off will be held on from 9:00 am -12:00 noon at the parking lot between the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD 20770 and the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road Greenbelt, MD 20770. Residents are asked to bring usable clothing, shoes, dishes, books, furniture and toys to make your tax-deductible donation. For more Information call the city of Greenbelt Recycling Office at (301) 474-8303.

VA Cash Relocation Assistance for Foreclosed Veterans

The VA is providing a new benefit for some veterans who lose their homes to a short sale or a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure. The VA has authorized mortgage servicers to provide veterans with up to \$1,500 in relocation assistance. Borrowers can use the money to cover moving expenses and other costs associated with the change in their living status.

Relocation assistance is the VA’s latest effort to help service members on the edge. The agency has for years incentivized mortgage companies to exhaust all alternatives when veterans are in jeopardy of losing their homes. The “VA has a longstanding policy of encouraging servicers to work with veteran borrowers to explore all reasonable options to help them retain their homes or, when that is not feasible, to mitigate losses by pursuing alternatives to foreclosure,” according to the [two-page VA circular](#) released on the subject. “These options generally provide a substantially better outcome than a foreclosure sale for borrowers, investors and communities.”

Veterans won’t receive the funds as part of their home’s overall sale. The VA will reimburse mortgage servicers. For more information on this and other VA benefits check out the VA Benefits Blog [here](#).

Learn About Weight Loss

Suitland Community Center and The Prince George's Sports & Learning Complex are both offering weight loss classes that began March. Topics include effective ways to lose weight, fat tissue vs. muscle, cardiovascular exercise vs. resistance training, snack attacks and motivation. For class days, times, fees and registration information, log onto [SMARTlink](#), browse, and conduct an advanced search using the words "weight loss," or call the Park and Planning Help Desk at 301-699-CALL (2255).

Spring Break Flag Football & Cheerleading Camp

On **April 18, 2011 thru April 20, 2011** the Prince George's County Police Department's Police Athletic League will host a Spring Break Mini-Camp in Glenarden, Maryland. This three day, co-ed, mini-camp is geared to youth from the ages of 11-18. This camp will teach the fundamentals of flag football and cheerleading as well as feature workshops on nutrition, leadership, college readiness and much more.

Participants will need to bring a bag lunch for the first two days of camp and on the final day campers will spend the afternoon at Dave & Buster's. There will be a \$20 fee per camper to cover daily snacks and lunch at Dave & Buster's. Space is limited for this event. **Please RSVP by April 11, 2011.** Spring Break Flag Football & Cheerleading camp will be located at Glenarden Woods Elementary School, 801 Glenarden Parkway, Glenarden, Maryland 20706. For more information contact the Community Services Division at (301) 909-7126.

Summer Day Camp

Summer Day Camp registration began on Saturday, February 26, 2011 for Prince George's County residents. Read more [here](#) about the terrific summer camps being offered, browse camps that interest your children and meet your family's scheduling needs, and make note of the camp barcode numbers, the participants' SMARTlink barcode numbers, and your PIN number. Get more information from the Help Desk staff at 301-699-CALL(2255) or help4smartlink@pgparks.com.

2011 Xtreme Teens Rising Stars Vocal Showcase

The 2011 Xtreme Teens Rising Stars Vocal Showcase will be held at University of Maryland Kay Theatre on Saturday, May 14, 2011. Ladies and gentlemen ages 10-17 who are residents of Prince George's County are cordially invited to audition for the 2011 Xtreme Teens Rising Stars Vocal Showcase. Both soloists and musical groups may audition. Those who make the cut will have the opportunity to perform in the Showcase at Kay Theatre and compete for prizes ranging from \$250-\$1,000. Read more [here](#) so you can sign up for an audition.

Audition Dates & Times:

To schedule an audition (date & time) call: 301-853-2005; TTY 301-445-4512;

Saturday, March 26, 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm

*Kettering/Largo/Perrywood Comm. Center
431 Watkins Park, Upper Marlboro*

If you would like to be included in our mailings, please forward your name and address to

LCFerguson@co.pg.md.us. Please also pass this information on to other concerned citizens. Remember, as a team working together, much can be accomplished.

Together
Everyone
Accomplishes
More

"Working for YOU!"

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