

# Greenbelt Kicks Off Program To Foster Grassroots Spirit

by Matthew Arbach

Greenbelt CARES and Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) are two local organizations offering free social and personal enrichment programs that every Greenbelt resident should know about. Unfortunately, many in the community are either not aware of them or feel they are not in a position to access them.

The Center for Dynamic Community Governance (CDCG) has been bestowed with a grant by the City of Greenbelt to initiate their partnership with the Greenbriar community in bringing a greater awareness of CARES and GAIL. This effort begins with a community gathering on Saturday, August 12 at the Greenbriar Community Center Terrace Room from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CDCG members Aileen Kroll and John Buck as well as Judy Hering and Sharon John, representatives of CARES and GAIL, will be present. No registration is required and free childcare is available if requested one week prior to the event.

The impetus for this project began at the 2016 Green Man Festival, when Greenbriar Phase Three Board President Angeline Butler approached the CDCG representatives at their table. Concerned about improving the sense of community and participation in civic matters, Butler arranged for Dynamic Community Governance training for board members, where basic DCG principles were introduced. From these sessions, it became clear that all Greenbriar residents would greatly benefit from such training. They also revealed a need to expose other areas of Greenbelt to the kind of programming and services regularly offered in Historic Greenbelt, such as the many free services offered by CARES and GAIL.

CARES was formed in 1974 and offers a wide choice of family-based services. Counseling, both individual and family, as well as crisis management for crime-related situations, anger management and addiction treatment are available. There are discussion groups devoted to the life lessons of problem-solving, coping and decision-making skills. In addition, GED preparatory and general tutoring are offered.

The GAIL program focuses on health and fitness, with a strong emphasis on seniors. They provide free monthly produce and a brown bag food program. They also offer free mental health screenings and assistance and a prescription drug discount pro-

gram. Home care and transportation assistance is available as well as support and counseling for caregivers. For those with disabilities, GAIL offers advice on acquiring benefits and programs.

Kroll and Butler recognized that many Greenbriar residents were unaware of these programs. The partnership with CDCG seeks to remedy this. The community gathering on August 12 will be the first in a year-long series to determine the stumbling blocks to usage and to eliminate them. There may be linguistic and/or cultural challenges, as well as concrete ones like transportation and childcare.

They further hope that this partnership will have a concurrent effect on the health and morale of the Greenbriar community as a whole. Greenbriar comprises 729 units and was constructed in three phases beginning in 1974. Each phase has its own five-member board. Its hub is its Community Center, with its availability of sports and swimming as well as rooms for meetings. Butler looks to foster a grassroots, democratic spirit where residents are more involved in decision making and are made aware of the developments and problems that arise. She expressed the dilemma where only the elected representatives are discussing issues and implementing solutions without the voices and energy of the actual residents being brought to the table.

Both Kroll and Butler emphasized the sense among Greenbriar residents that they often do not feel connected with the rest of Greenbelt, most especially the central heart of Historic Greenbelt. Kroll says that this feeling was a major reason for centering the CDCG grant on Greenbriar, where the need for community enhancement was clearly evident. The hope is that this partnership will bring a feeling of inclusiveness within and without for this large and diverse community. Butler sees the future of Greenbriar not in the status quo of representative board governance, but in residents joining together and taking an active and energetic role in their community's welfare. By combining the consent-based and transparent decision making of CDCG, the enriching programs of CARES and GAIL, and frequent community gatherings, Kroll and Butler hope a transformation will take root that can go a long way to bringing a greater unity to Greenbelt in general.

# Police Seek Help Locating Critical Missing Person

The Greenbelt Police Department is seeking assistance in locating critical missing person Yasier Gomez-Lugo, age 19. He was last seen leaving his residence in the 6200 block of Springhill Court on July 24 at approximately 7:30 p.m., when he stated that he meant to do harm to himself.



Yasier Gomez-Lugo

PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

5-foot 8 inches, 145 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He was last seen wearing a black 'Chipotle' T-shirt and black Adidas pants with white stripes down the sides. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

## Robbery

July 17, 9:30 a.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A woman arranged to sell hair extensions to another woman and agreed to meet in a parking lot at Beltway Plaza. The buyer pulled up next to the seller and when they began to negotiate a price, the buyer sprayed a chemical irritant in the seller's face, took the hair extensions and fled.

July 18, 11:50 a.m., Hanover Parkway near Greenbrook Drive. A cab driver picked up a fare at the New Carrollton Metro Station and when he drove him to his destination, the rider displayed a handgun and announced a robbery. After getting money from the driver the suspect fled on foot. He is described as black, 5 feet 11 inches tall, 180 pounds, with a muscular build, short hair and tattoos on both arms, wearing a white shirt with black stripes and jeans.

## Assault

July 17, 1:30 a.m., 10 Southway. A man walking down the street saw two men get out of a vehicle described as a 4-door silver Nissan Altima with dark tinted windows. They then asked him what he had on him. Believing he was about to be robbed, he attempted to run from the area. He then heard two shots and realized he had been shot in the hand. A family member transported him to Doctors Community Hospital for treatment, and police were contacted. One man was described as black, 20 to 30 years old with a slim build, hair in dreadlocks and tattoos on his neck, wearing a black short sleeved shirt, and the other was described as a tall black man with dreadlocks, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt and a ski-type mask.

July 18, 7:21 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Court. A 36-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested by officers who responded to a request to check on the welfare of a person. The man was charged with second degree assault after

he assaulted another person when officers were on the scene. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

## DWI/DUI

July 16, 2:55 a.m., Hanover Parkway near Greenway Center Drive. A 36-year-old resident was arrested and charged with driving while impaired by alcohol and other traffic-related violations after being stopped for a traffic violation. He was released on citations pending trial.

## Theft

July 13, 12:58 p.m., 5700 block Cherrywood Lane. An employee at Shell Food Mart witnessed a man tamper with a gas pump, allowing three other people to put gas into their vehicles without paying. All then drove away.

July 13, 4:01 p.m., 6400 block Ivy Lane. A man's ring was taken from a hotel room at the Greenbelt Marriott.

July 14, 3:30 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A locked and secured silver Kent Terra mountain bike was taken from a bike post.

July 18, 7:31 p.m., 8100 block Burkhart Court. Packages were taken from the front stoop of a residence on July 12.

July 19, 4:34 p.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace. Packages were taken from the front stoop of a residence on July 13.

## Fraud

July 15, 7:30 p.m., 6300 block Breezewood Drive. A man attempting to buy an iPhone online was waiting to meet the seller to complete the transaction when he was approached by a man who gave him, the buyer, a box containing a cell phone. The buyer saw that the phone powered on

and then completed the sale. He later discovered that the phone was counterfeit and did not work. The seller is described as black, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a thin build and a light beard, wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and orange shorts.

## Trespass

July 14, 5:25 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 53-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with trespass after he was found on the grounds of Beltway Plaza, having been banned from the mall by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

## Vandalism

July 19, 9:27 a.m., 6200 block Springhill Drive. A fence surrounding a pond was vandalized on July 17.

## Vehicle Crime

Three stolen vehicles were recovered. A 2013 Hyundai Elantra stolen July 14 was recovered the same day by Prince George's County police in the 14600 block Old Gunpowder Road in Laurel.

A 2006 Chevrolet 3500 pickup and two work trailers were stolen from the 6400 block Ivy Lane on July 16. The truck and one of the trailers were recovered the next day in the 17300 block Mulford Road in Bowie. The second trailer was also recovered the next day by the owner on Glenn Valley Drive near Meadow Way in Hyattsville.

A 2008 Buick Enclave SUV reported stolen July 8 from the 6100 block Breezewood Drive was recovered July 17 by D.C. Metropolitan police in the 1200 block 50th Street, S.E.

A door was forced open and the ignition damaged in the 6400 block Ivy Lane in an attempt to steal a vehicle.

## Safer Internet Selling, Buying

The Greenbelt Police Department invites the public to use the Police Station as a safe place for completion of legal online transactions. Meeting there might also deter those persons attempting to carry out possible scams. Sellers and buyers can meet in the lobby or just outside the building to finalize transactions. The lobby is open and available for use 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The Greenbelt Police Station is located at 550 Crescent Road. For more information contact George Mathews, public information liaison, at 240-542-2116.

*The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect.*  
Call 1-866-411-TIPS.  
Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA  
**GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Thursday, August 3, 2017  
GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

## 1. GHI Open Session – Begins at 7:30 p.m.

### GHI Regular Open Meeting

- Approve Minutes: GHI Open Meeting Held on July 6, 2017
- Recertification of Yard Boundaries for 4-E Ridge Rd
- Amend Yard Solutions' Task Force Charter
- Member Comments re: Board Meeting Procedures
- 2017-2018 Audit Committee's Questions to the Board re: the 2016-2017 Audit Committee's Comprehensive Annual Report



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, or go to the GHI Office (One Hamilton Place) or contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members  
For more information, visit our website: [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)