



Spring 2018

# Utopian

## Plans for 10A Come Into Focus

### Inside this issue:

- Comm. Outreach **2**
- Family Program **2**
- Upcoming Lecture **3**
- Museum Calendar **4**

Plans for the Museum’s Education and Visitor Center are finally coming into focus! The Neighborhood Design Center, a nonprofit that specializes in community-engaged design and planning services, has created plans and renderings based on feedback from Museum staff, the FOGM Board, and many other stakeholders. This portion of the project was funded by a grant awarded to FOGM from the Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development.



This conceptual rendering from Neighborhood Design Center staff shows what a garden side entrance to the Education and Visitor Center at 10A Crescent might look like.



This aerial image from the Neighborhood Design Center conceptual plans shows the wheelchair-accessible path potential visitors to the Museum house would take after parking in the Community Center and Library parking lot. People would be approaching the house as Greenbelt’s original planners intended—via the garden side door, after walking through the underpass beneath Crescent Road and along an interior pathway.

The plans detail creative solutions to challenges inherent in transforming a residence into a public facility. For instance, NDC suggests establishing a main entrance that is accessible to all, as well as ADA compliant, on the garden-side of the house. The 10A garage will be converted into a film room, so that visitors can view our short orientation film without being disturbed by subsequently arriving visitors or groups. The former living room will be an

exhibit hall and the kitchen and dining room will be combined into one large learning lab, which will allow groups more space for hands-on educational exploration. They also propose changes to the upstairs to create a larger space for the research room and staff offices.

In order to bring these plans to life, the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum have been focusing recently on fundraising efforts. The FOGM Board is pleased to announce that

the organization was selected to participate in the State of Maryland’s Community Investment Tax Credit Program. If you donate \$500-\$2,500 towards the 10A project, you may be eligible to receive a state income tax credit worth 50% of your donation. However, there are a limited number of tax credits available, so please contact us today if you are interested in contributing, 301-507-6582 or [director@greenbeltmuseum.org](mailto:director@greenbeltmuseum.org).

# Museum Outreach Into the Community



Museum staff are often out and about in the community giving talks, interviews, attending school career days, participating at events like the Greenbelt Elementary Spring Fair, and much more. The Museum's Education and Volunteer Coordinator, Sheila Maffay-Tuthill, recently participated in Springhill Lake Elementary School's career day. Speaking about the day she said,

Museum Education and Volunteer Coordinator Sheila Maffay-Tuthill often works out in the larger community.

"It's always a pleasure to visit Springhill Lake Elementary. The kids are so attentive and ask great questions, and I get to share what we do at the Museum." In March, Museum Director, Megan Searing Young, spoke on a panel following a screening of *Defending Utopia: The Greenbelt News Review at 80* at the New Deal Café's monthly Reel and Meal. To have a staff member or volunteer speak to your group, call 240-542-2066.

# The Greenbelt Museum on Social Media

Did you know that the Greenbelt Museum has recently expanded our social media presence? We debuted a new look for our website ([greenbeltmuseum.org](http://greenbeltmuseum.org)) and created a YouTube channel where you will be able to watch Greenbelt history-related videos. Find out about the latest Museum news and take a look at historic and current photos via our Instagram and Twitter accounts. Our Pinterest boards are also filled with great images (need

ideas on how to dress vintage?) and you can even play along with our weekly "What IS It?" Wednesday game and guess about items from our collections. Just enter "greenbeltmuseum" into the search for any of them and check us out!

One of the first What IS it? Wednesdays asked viewers to guess what this metal artifact on display in the Museum house might be. If you guessed a toaster, you're right! It was manufactured by the Majestic Electric Appliance Company.



# Family Program Celebrates Greenbelt Day

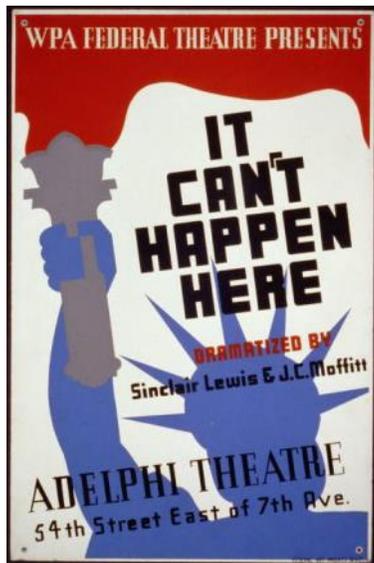


The Greenbelt flag, with its single pine tree, was designed by young Greenbelt resident, Mary Clare Bonham, who won first prize in the flag competition. It debuted at the Fourth of July Celebration in 1938.

**Saturday, June 2, 1-3pm 10A Crescent Road**

Celebrate Greenbelt Day Weekend at the Greenbelt Museum! Please join us at 10A Crescent Road on Saturday June 2, from 1-3pm for a special family program marking Greenbelt's rich history of new citizens being embraced by the community. We'll read aloud from several oral histories, view some early Greenbelt photographs, and discuss how it would feel to move into a brand new town. Next, we explore people from other parts of the world moving here and becoming citizens. Learn about what it takes to become a US citizen, and try your hand at a few questions from the citizenship test! Finally, we will make Greenbelt flags for everyone to take home. All ages welcome. Free! For more information contact Education/ Volunteer Coordinator, Sheila Maffay-Tuthill at 240-542-2064 or [education@greenbeltmuseum.org](mailto:education@greenbeltmuseum.org).

# Exhibit & Program About The Federal Theater Project



A poster from the Federal Theatre Project play *It Can't Happen Here*.

**Saturday, June 23, 7pm**  
**Greenbelt Community Center**

Chris Cherry, of the Greenbelt Recreation Department, has done extensive research on The Federal Theatre Project. As he writes, "It was the Works Progress Administration's four-year program to provide work for actors and other theater workers during the Great Depression. The WPA became, for a time, the biggest theatrical producer in history."

Cherry has planned, and will host, an 80th anniversary multi-media event, which recounts the highlights of the WPA's Federal Theatre Project and its connections to Greenbelt. The program will include a narration and slideshow, song performances, and a presentation of the one-act play by Betty Smith, *What Are You Going To Be?* Smith would go on to write *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*. Tickets are \$5, to purchase them, call 301-397-2208 or visit the Community Center business office.

Following the event, a reception is planned to celebrate the opening of a permanent exhibit in the east alcove of the Community Center that commemorates the history of the Federal Theatre Project. The exhibit will display examples of poster art from Federal Theatre productions, along with photos and newspaper excerpts. The program and exhibit are co-sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Department and the Greenbelt Museum.



# Greenbelt Museum 2018 Lecture Series

## **US Route 1: Baltimore to DC**

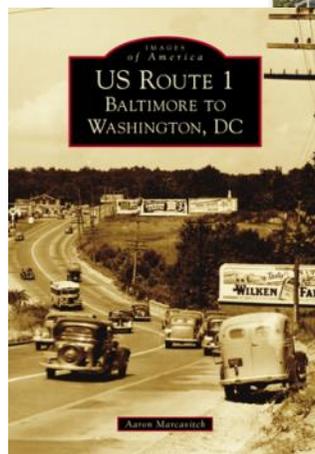
By Aaron Marcavitch

**Thursday, July 19, 6:30pm**

**Greenbelt Community Center**

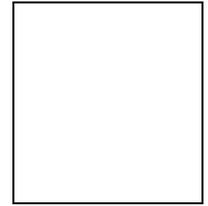
Join us as we welcome Aaron Marcavitch to share his newly published book, *US Route 1: Baltimore to Washington, DC*. The book explores the history and features of US Highway 1 between Baltimore City and Washington, DC. Connecting residential communities and commercial crossroads clustered along both sides of this historically important artery of transportation, this road has spanned three centuries of transportation, communication, and community development. From the earliest ships in Elkridge and Bladensburg to modern communities supporting the Washington/Baltimore region, Route 1 has been a vital part of this history.

Marcavitch has pulled together a rich collection of photographs from the National Archives and Records Administration's



Postcard of Del Haven White House Cottages, one of the motels on Route 1 between DC and Baltimore. Courtesy Boston Public Library, Tichnor Brothers Collection.

Bureau of Public Roads Collection, regional historical societies, and the Library of Congress to tell the story of these milestones of history. As executive director of Maryland Milestones/Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc., he seeks to preserve and promote the unique history of transportation and communication in northern Prince George's County. Books will be for sale at the event and the author will sign them following the lecture. This event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum and the City of Greenbelt.



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Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
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museum@greenbeltmd.gov

Historic Home  
10B Crescent Road  
Greenbelt Maryland, 20770  
Phone: 240-542-2066

Tours  
240-542-2064

## Greenbelt Museum Calendar of Events

### June

- 2 Greenbelt Day Weekend Family program, learn about citizenship! Make Greenbelt flags! 10A Crescent Road, 1-3pm. Free!
- 23 The Federal Theatre Project and Greenbelt, Presentation and Exhibit Opening. Greenbelt Community Center, 7pm. \$5. To purchase tickets call 301-397-2208

### July

- 19 Lecture & Booksigning, *US Route 1: Baltimore to Washington, DC*. 15 Crescent Road, 7:30pm. Free!

**Ongoing Exhibition:** *The Knowing Hands That Carve This Stone: The New Deal Art of Lenore Thomas Straus*, on view at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, open daily

**Group or Walking Tours:** Book a tour! Tours are \$10/person for groups of 4 or more & we kindly request that you book in advance. To schedule a tour call 240-542-2064 or email to education@greenbeltmuseum.com. Thanks!

Would you like to receive our email newsletter? Sign up at [www.greenbeltmuseum.org](http://www.greenbeltmuseum.org)

## Join the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum



**Membership Benefits:** unlimited admission to the Museum's historic house, 10% discount in our gift shop, mailed newsletter *The Utopian*, invitations to lectures and events, members-only programs, and the knowledge that you are helping to preserve Greenbelt's history.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like to make a gift in addition to my membership \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, mail to PO Box 1025, Greenbelt MD 20768 or **join securely on-line at [GreenbeltMuseum.org](http://GreenbeltMuseum.org)**. FOGM is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Thank you!

### Standard Membership

- \$25.00** Student/Senior, all benefits above
- \$35.00** Adult, all benefits above
- \$75.00** Family, all benefits above

### Supporting Membership

- Resettler \$250.00** All standard membership benefits plus recognition on an annual donor roster, print of WPA
- Cooperator \$500.00** All standard membership benefits plus private walking tour for 5
- Tugwell \$1000.00** All standard membership benefits plus behind the scenes tour or curator case opportunity
- Roosevelt \$5000.00** All standard membership benefits plus dinner for two in the historic house