

NOVEMBER 2018

VOL 2

THE GREENBELT GAZETTE

CAPITAL AREA GREENBELT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Join us at the Annual Meeting!

The CAGA Board invites ALL to the Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

6:00-8:00 pm

All Capital Area Greenbelt Association members, municipal officials and supporters are invited to the Board's Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 14, 2018. It will be held at the Giant Foods Community Room, 2nd Floor on Linglestown Road in Harrisburg.

Carl Dickson, Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Director and CAGA board member, will provide an update on over \$7 million in Greenbelt improvements currently underway that are expected to be completed later in 2019. Also, CAGA is receiving assistance from Leadership Harrisburg's Class of 2019. The leadership team will share plans to assist CAGA in efforts to engage more volunteers. Visit www.caga.org for the full agenda. Come hungry – light refreshments will be served.

Meet the Board!

by CAGA Director Diane Kripas

Current members of CAGA (paid 2018 dues) will have the opportunity to meet new and returning board members at the Annual Meeting and vote on new directors. Carl Dickson, Cindy Hogeman and Marcia Nye are willing to serve a second three-year term. Here's some background on the three new individuals seeking director positions:

Jan Hastings is a Lower Paxton Township resident who is the Marketing Manager for Centric Bank in Harrisburg. She's responsible for creating and implementing Centric's marketing and communication plans. Prior to her current position, she was owner of Jan Hastings Design – a graphics firm that designed logos, advertising and websites. She looks forward to helping update CAGA's website, online presence and print materials. Jane says that her favorite stretch of the Greenbelt is the view and activity along Riverfront Park. She has participated in the Hospice Butterfly Release at the Five Senses Gardens and says that her heart is in the gardens and the Paxtang Parkway.

Josh Jacoby is a Susquehanna Township resident who is the eCommerce Project Manager for PSECU in Harrisburg. He leads and directs PSECU teams that support information technology needs. He currently serves as Secretary for the Blue Mountain Velo Amateur Cycling Team. He describes himself as a “go getter” with a strong background in understanding, implementing and sharing technology. He's a regular user of the Greenbelt and Parkway Trails System and served as a Tour de Belt volunteer.

Becky Schuchert is a Harrisburg City resident who has a lifelong love of animals and shares her pet knowledge at the pet supply store, Abrams and Weakley on 6th Street in Harrisburg. She has an art background and spent many years owning her own sign business which explains how easily she gets signs made for Tour de Belt. She's been a CAGA member since 1992 and served as President for five years and the Tour de Belt logistics lead for over a decade. She brings her decades of CAGA knowledge and meets with many people that she can connect to the Greenbelt.

LET'S TALK

CONSTRUCTION

Capital Area Greenbelt Getting Safety Upgrades and Expansion

by CBS21 Karina Cheung

A century-old recreational trail in Dauphin County is getting millions of dollars' worth of improvements all thanks to grants and donations.

The Capital Area Greenbelt is 20 miles worth of trails through Harrisburg and five other municipalities. It's been around for decades, but now more than \$6 million are being put into the trail to expand and for safety upgrades.

The Capital Area Greenbelt was created a century ago, abandoned and then revitalized in the 1990s.

Now, it's getting a safety upgrade that costs about \$2 million.

"Several of our intersections have no flashing caution light to slow down," said Richard Norford, a director with the Capital Area Greenbelt Association (CAGA). "We're installing at most of these an overhead flashing caution light that will say there are bicyclists or walkers or people in the roadway."

Norford says the old state hospital part of the trail has reopened after being closed for six months.

It was all repaved after a sewer project closed it. Four other sections will be repaved as part of the upgrades.



"It's very important for those commuters, it's very important to those of us who use the Greenbelt for recreation, just to have this updated and as safe as can be and as smooth as possible."

*- CAGA Director
Dick Norford*

"We're installing gravel, we're packing that gravel down, and before cold weather sets in, we're targeting just after Thanksgiving," Norford said. "The end of November, we're scheduling having those paved."

The total upgrades along with the caution lights top \$6 million.

\$4.5 million will go toward creating a connector to Fort Hunter park.

"People wanted better signage, they wanted safe intersections and wanted to be able to ride to Fort Hunter," said Carl Dickson, the director of Dauphin County Parks and Recreation. "We've been able to accomplish all of those, and the last of those is that Fort Hunter connector."

Dickson says it's thanks to grants and countless supporters.

"Along with Dauphin County gaming funds from the casino and our grass roots fundraisers like the annual Tour De Belt, we cobble it all together to put these projects together," Dickson said.

The Capital Area Greenbelt Association estimates between 250 and 500 thousand people use the trail each year.

"It's very important for those commuters, it's very important to those of us who use the Greenbelt for recreation, just to have this updated and as safe as can be and as smooth as possible," Norford said.



Hill flattening along Cameron Street

Fort Hunter Extension Ground Breaking

On Tuesday October 30th, county commissioners, state and local officials, and Greenbelt board members and supporters joined for the groundbreaking of the Fort Hunter Greenbelt Extension. This 2 mile extension will link Fort Hunter and the Greenbelt making access to the trail safer for all members of surrounding communities.



Rain, Mud, Trees, Grass, Construction – That about sums it up

by CAGA Director Carl Dickson

Our stalwart volunteers have been dodging around rain, trying to stay out of the mud, cutting down trees as they fall, cutting grass when they can, and staying out of the way of the construction as it continues. The team has done a great job of matching volunteer opportunities with meaningful projects.

What is the saying? “Never resist a temporary inconvenience if it results in a permanent improvement.”

The good news is that most of the capital projects should be completed by the end of 2018.

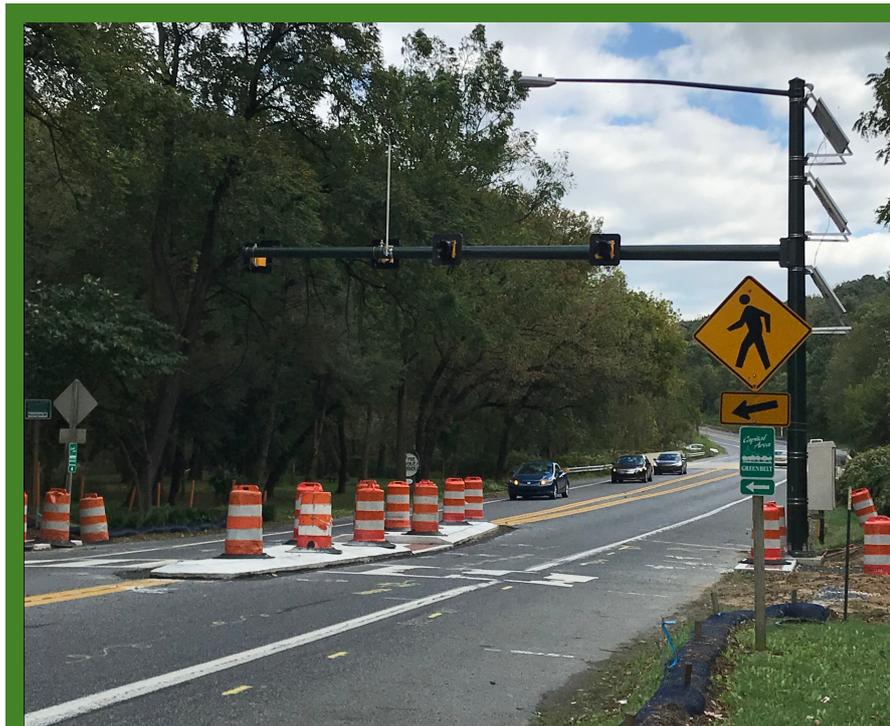
And what a Greenbelt we will have!

Safer intersections, corrected erosion issues, smoother trail surfaces, crossing lights, and a heightened awareness of the Greenbelt – all will be outcomes of this major \$7.8 ml investment in the Greenbelt in 2018.

Get out on the trail and check out the improvements...but you might want to wait until after Thanksgiving!



Stream restoration at Paxtang Parkway



New crossing at the Five Senses Gardens

Leadership Harrisburg Association to Partner with CAGA

by CAGA Director, Micheal Shaull

Leadership Harrisburg Association has selected the Capital Area Greenbelt Association as one of several class projects for their 2019 Community Leadership Series Class. A team of 7 professionals (and 2 LHA alumni mentors) who are participating in the leadership program will be working over the next 6 months on a Volunteer Engagement Plan aimed at increasing volunteer participation.

The goal will be to increase the number of volunteers and volunteer involvement by systemizing and streamlining volunteer recruiting, communication, coordination engagement, tracking and recognition. The scope of work will include assessing and analyzing current systems; surveying current volunteers as to what works well and what needs improvement; assessing the full scope of volunteer needs; researching and recommendations on a method for volunteer tracking and coordination of volunteer projects; creating a system for volunteer recognition as a means to attract new volunteers; and systemizing all volunteer communications. The team will make a presentation to CAGA's Board of Directors with their final recommendations at the conclusion of the project.



CAGA Directors Micheal Shaull and Keldeen Stambaugh and Marianne Babcock of the Public Relations Committee, presenting the project to the members of the LHA Community Leadership Series, Class of 2019.



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Save the Date for 2019 Tour de Belt

Sunday, June 2, 2019

The 19th annual Tour de Belt will once again be held the first Sunday in June (June 2, 2019). Mark your calendar and plan to be part of the greatest bike event in Central Pennsylvania. If 20 miles of biking is a little out of your league but still want to join in on the fun, we need over 75 volunteers to ensure 800+ riders safely return to HACC-Harrisburg campus. Early bird registration will open by February 1, 2019. Watch your inbox for more details as they become available. Check out our website after January 1, 2019 for updates.

We organize the TdB Planning Team in December. It's a 15-member strong team that meets in January and connects monthly through conference calls until May. Volunteer assignments tend to kick into full gear 3-4 weeks prior to the event. We expect to need assistance in 2019 with event promotions, data entry, organizing the food, etc. If you are interested in joining the TdB planning team, please email Diane Kripas at dwkripas@gmail.com.



Save the Date for the Annual Awards Dinner!

Friday, February 1, 2019

The Capital Area Greenbelt Association Annual Awards Meeting and Dinner will be held on Friday, February 1, 2019 at the Best Western Premier Hotel at 800 East Park Drive, Harrisburg. Plan to join fellow CAGA members to celebrate individuals and groups who have made significant efforts to improve the Greenbelt, and enjoy a delicious meal together! Invitations will be forthcoming...

Calling all Greenbelters!

While you're out enjoying the Greenbelt and sharing your photography skills on social media, don't forget to tag us on Facebook or on our Instagram [@capitalareagreenbelt!](#)

Want to see your Greenbelt pictures on our website, social media, or in the next newsletter? Send your pictures to marianne.a.babcock@gmail.com!

