

## New Deal Towns

### Jersey Homesteads Gets Historic Marker



Jersey Homesteads (since renamed Roosevelt) was a New Deal town intended for Jewish settlers. The Roosevelt council is seen with the town's new historic marker, which reads:

"Organized as an agro-industrial Jewish cooperative community by the Provisional Commission for Jewish Farm Settlements in the United States, led by Benjamin Brown (1885-1939), Jersey Homesteads was one of approximately 100 communities built by the Roosevelt Administration in the 1930. Among the other members of the Provisional Commission were Rabbi Stephen Wise and Albert Einstein. The design of the community, with interior and exterior greenbelts, reflects the influence of Sir Ebenezer Howard, pioneer of the English "garden city" planning concept, while the design of the buildings by architects Alfred Kastner and Louis Kahn incorporates principles developed by Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus in Germany in the 1920s."

### **New Deal Town Celebrating Its 80th Anniversary**

Dalworthington Gardens, Texas, was established in 1936 under the Homestead Subsistence Program. The town began with 80 parcels of land between Dallas and Fort Worth. It is celebrating its 80th anniversary June 10 and 11, 2016. The Oldtimer's Dinner will be Friday night. On Saturday there will be a 5-kilometer race and a 1-mile run/walk; a 4-city softball tournament will feature teams headed by the mayors of Arlington, Pantego, Mansfield and DWG; and families will form softball teams to play on the newly refurbished ball field. There will be free hot dogs all day, and activities for children.

The Arlington Community Band and the Uptown Drifters band will entertain in the evening, followed by a showing of "Finding Nemo" on the town's outdoor screen. For more information and registration forms, click [here](#).

### **New Book on Greenhills, Ohio**

A new book about the New Deal Town of Greenhills, Ohio, was released in 2013 by Arcadia Publishing Co. "Greenhills" was written by Debbie Mills and Margo Warminski, in a community effort with many volunteers from the Greenhills Historical Society. This paperback edition is heavily illustrated and is 128 pages. The list price is \$21.99.

### **Greenbelt, Maryland, Theater Restoration Project Wins \$75,000 in Grant Competition**

In the spring of 2013, the Greenbelt Theatre was entered in a competition for grant money, with the winner based on popular vote. Greenbelt won a \$75,000 grant, which will be used to renovate the theater lobby. Thanks to all those who voted for the project.

Partners in Preservation, sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, chose the Greenbelt Theatre and 23 other historic places in and around the District of Columbia to compete for votes to win up to \$100,000 in grant funding. Settled in 1937 as a cooperative New Deal community, Greenbelt is now nationally recognized for its unique design and strong sense of place. This old-fashioned, single-screen theater has been at the heart of Greenbelt's commercial core for 75 years.

**Notice:** 2012 was the 75th anniversary or birthday of many of the New Deal resettlement towns. We know that Greenbelt, Md. (see below), Roosevelt, N.J., and Aberdeen, Va., held events. We would like to hear if any other towns are also celebrating or have celebrated. Please contact our office if anything is planned so we can include it on our website.

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or

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## **Roosevelt, New Jersey, Celebrates 75th Anniversary**

Roosevelt will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of its creation as part of the Resettlement Towns program of the New Deal all through 2012. The celebration will feature a series of programs during the year and an exhibit about the Jersey Homesteads (the original name of the town) entitled “New Deal New Jersey” at the Middlesex County Museum. For information contact Borough Historian Michael Ticktin at [MTicktin@aol.com](mailto:MTicktin@aol.com).

The town is also planning an all-day celebration September 22, which will include a talk by NNDPA Board Member Christopher N. Breiseth titled “Subsistence Homesteads and the New Deal Vision.”

Jersey Homesteads was one of 99 New Deal Communities planned or initiated by the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Resettlement Administration. The town served as a prototype for the Resettlement Administration's three garden cities: Greenbelt, Md., Greendale, Wis., and Green Hills, Ohio. It was one of the few New Deal communities to become a separate municipality, which occurred on May 29, 1937. The first “homesteaders” had moved into their government-built housing the previous July.

Event organizer and Borough Historian Michael Ticktin is a new board member of NNDPA.



*Amphitheater in Roosevelt, with President Roosevelt memorial.*



*Memorial to President Roosevelt.*

### **Greenbelt Celebrating 75th Anniversary All Through 2012**

Greenbelt, Md., will celebrate its 75th anniversary with several events throughout the year. Several upcoming events are listed below. More information is available at the Greenbelt 75th anniversary [website](#).

### **Greenbelt History on Display at Public Library**

Discover the wonders of Greenbelt history unfold in the Greenbelt Library's Tugwell Room Saturday, March 10 and March 24, 2012, from 10 a.m.-noon. The library collections include audio cassettes of oral histories, photographs, maps and blueprints, memorabilia and more than 500 books and periodicals. Open with assistance. Prince Georges Public Library at Greenbelt, 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 301-345-8000. Free.

### **Girl Scouts Celebrate 100 Years**

It is the Girl Scouts of America's 100th year as well as Greenbelt's 75th anniversary. Celebratory activities will be held 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, 2012, on the lawn in the front of the Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt. For more information, email [museum@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:museum@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 301-507-6582. The celebration is free.

### **Museum Lecture to Cover History of Greenbelt**

Join the Greenbelt Museum for a fascinating lecture about Greenbelt's development, "Greenbelt, Maryland: Beyond the Iconic Legacy," from its creation in 1937 to the present. Greenbelt scholars and University of Maryland faculty members Isabelle Gournay and Mary Corbin Sies will be speaking April 17, 2012, at the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 201, 15 Crescent Road. For more information email [museum@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:museum@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 301-507-6582.

### **Greenbelt 75th Anniversary Symposium: Sustaining Greenbelt's Legacy**

Greenbelt's anniversary celebration includes a two-day symposium, April 27–28, 2012. A list of sessions follows. Except for the keynote address, each session will include a panel of presenters. All sessions will be held in the Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD.

#### **April 27**

9:30 a.m. A Living Community: Greenbelt's Enduring Legacies

11:15 a.m. The Greenbelt Museum at 25

2 p.m. Towards Inclusion: Diversity in Greenbelt

3:45 p.m. Greenbelters on the Move: Public Transportation for a Pedestrian City

#### **April 28**

9:30 a.m. Moving Towards 100: Recent Initiatives

1 p.m. Keynote address by Dr. Mervyn Miller: "From the British Garden City to Greenbelt and Back to the English New Towns." Dr. Miller of London is author of "[English Garden Cities: An Introduction](#)," published in 2010 by English Heritage, as well as numerous books about individual garden cities.

Following this symposium, the Clarence Stein Institute will hold a series of free lectures on topics related to the legacy of Stein, a noted planner and consultant on green town projects. Check with Tom Hardej at [thardej@umd.edu](mailto:thardej@umd.edu).

Submit advance registration by April 18. General admission \$30, senior citizens and students \$15

Registration can be mailed to  
Symposium, Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Registration at the door is \$35, senior citizens and students \$20

For more information, download the [symposium flyer](#), email [cwest@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cwest@greenbeltmd.gov), call 240-542-2058 or fax 301-220-0561.

### List of New Deal Homestead and Resettlement Communities

Information in the table below is from the Division of Subsistence Homesteads, Federal Emergency Relief Administration and Resettlement Administration agencies. Most of the statistics were compiled from U.S. House of Representatives, Select Committee of the Committees on Agriculture, Hearings on the Farm Security Administration, 78th Congress., 1st Sess., 1943-1944, pp.1118-1127. The three Green towns are not included on this list.

We would like to hear from people from each of these Resettlement towns to learn about them today. Likewise, if you are conducting research on any of these communities, please let us know and we will try to connect you with sources. Any further information that NNDPA is able to collect will be posted on this page.

Name	Location	Units	Type
Arthurdale	Reedsville, WV	165	Stranded community
Burlington Project	Burlington, ND	35	Stranded community
Cumberland Homesteads	Crossville, TN	262	Stranded community
Red House	Red House, WV	150	Stranded community
Tygart Valley Homesteads	Elkins, WV	195	Stranded community
Westmoreland Homesteads	Greensburg, PA	255	Stranded community
Casa Grande Valley Farms	Pinal Co., AZ	60	Co-op farm
Lake Dick	Jefferson and Arkansas Cos., AR	97	Co-op farm
Penderlea Homesteads	Fender Co., NC	195	Co-op industrial
Terrebonne	Terrebonne Parish, LA	73	Co-op plantation
Cahaba (Trussville Homesteads)	Near Birmingham, AL	287	Resettlement community
Osage Farms	Pettis Co., MO	86	Resettlement community
Albert Lea Homesteads	Albert Lee, MN	14	Industrial
Arizona Part-time Farms	Phoenix, AZ	91	Industrial
Austin Homestead	Austin, MN	44	Industrial
Bankhead Farms	Jasper, AL	100	Industrial
Beauxart Gardens	Beaumont, TX	50	Industrial
Dalworthington Gardens	Arlington, T	79	Industrial

Dayton Homesteads	Dayton, OH	35	Industrial
Decatur Homesteads	Decatur, IN	48	Industrial
Duluth Homesteads	Duluth, MN	84	Industrial
El Monte Homesteads	El Monte, CA	100	Industrial
Granger Homesteads	Granger, IA	50	Industrial
Greenwood Homesteads	Near Birmingham, AL	83	Industrial
Hattiesburg Homesteads	Hattiesburg, MS	24	Industrial
Houston Gardens	Houston, TX	100	Industrial
Lake County Homesteads	Chicago, IL	53	Industrial
Longview Homesteads	Longview, WA	60	Industrial
Magnolia Homesteads	Meridian, MS	25	Industrial
McComb Homesteads	McComb, MS	20	Industrial
Mount Olive Homesteads	Near Birmingham, AL	75	Industrial
Palmer Homestead	Matanuska Valley, AK	203	Industrial
Palmerdale Homesteads	Near Birmingham, AL	102	Industrial
Phoenix Homesteads	Phoenix, AZ	25	Industrial
San Fernando Homesteads	Reseda, CA	40	Industrial
Three Rivers Gardens	Three Rivers, TX	50	Industrial
Tupelo Homesteads	Tupelo, MS	35	Industrial
Wichita Gardens	Wichita Falls, TX	62	Industrial
Aberdeen Gardens	Newport News, VA	159	Garden city for African-Americans
Allendale Farms	South Carolina	?	Farm community for African-Americans
Flint River Farms	Macon County, GA	146	Farm community for African-Americans
Gee's Bend Farms	Wilcox County, AL	100	Farm community for African-Americans
Mileston Farms	Holmes County, MS	110	Farm community for African-Americans



Mounds Farms	Madison and E. Carrol Parishes, LA	149	Farm community for African-Americans
Prairie Farms	Macon County, AL	34	Farm community for African-Americans
Sabine Farms	Texas	80	Farm community for African-Americans
Tillery Farms	North Carolina	?	Farm community for African-Americans
Ironwood Homesteads	Ironwood, MI	132	Garden city
Cherry Lake Farms	Near Madison, FL	133	Farm & rural community
Pine Mountain Valley	Harris Co., G	205	Farm & rural community
Fairbury Farmsteads	Jefferson Co., NE	11	Farm village
Fall City Farmsteads	Richardson Co., NE	10	Farm village
Grand Island Farmsteads	Hall Co., NE	10	Farm village
Kearney Homesteads	Buffalo Co., NE	10	Farm village
Loup City Farmsteads	Sherman Co., NE	11	Farm village
Scottsbluff Farmsteads	Scotts Bluff Co., NE	23	Farm village
Sioux Falls Farms	Minnehaha Co., SD	14	Farm village
South Sioux City Farmsteads	Dakota Co., NE	22	Farm village
Two Rivers Farmsteads	Douglas and Saunders Cos., NE	40	Farm village
Woodlake Community	Wood Co., TX	101	Farm village
Ashwood Plantation	Lee Co., SC	161	Farm community
Biscoe Farms	Prairie Co. AR	91	Farm community
Bosque Farms	Valencia Co., NM	42	Farm community
Chicot Farms	Chicot and Drew Cos., AK	85	Farm community
Christian-Trigg Farms	Christian Co., KY	106	Farm community
Clover Bend Farms	Lawrence Co., AR	91	Farm community



Desha Farms	Desha and Dre Cos., AR	88	Farm community
Dyess Colony	Mississippi Co., AR	275	Farm community
Escambia Farms	Okaloosa Co., FL	81	Farm community
Flint River Farms	Macon Co., GA	146	Farm community
Gee's Bend Farms	Wilcox Co., AL	100	Farm community
Hinds Farms	Hinds Co., MS	81	Farm community
Irwinville	Irwin Co., GA	103	Farm community
Kinsey Flats	Custer Co., MT	80	Farm community
La Forge Farms	New Madrid Co., MO	101	Farm community
Lakeview Farms	Lee and Phillips Cos., AR	141	Farm community
Lonoke Farms	Lonoke Co., AR	157	Farm community
Lucedale Farms	George and Greene Cos., MS	93	Farm community
McLennan Farms	McLennan Co., TX	20	Farm community
Mileston Farms	Holmes Co., MS	110	Farm community
Mounds Farms	Madison and East Carroll Parishes, LA	140	Farm community
Orangeburg Farms	Orangeburg and Calhoon Cos., SC	80	Farm community
Pembroke Farms	Robeson Co., NC	75	Farm community
Piedmont Homesteads	Jasper Co., GA	50	Farm community
Plum Bayou	Jefferson Co., AR	200	Farm community
Prairie Farms	Macon Co., AL	34	Farm community
Richton Homesteads	Richton, MS	26	Farm community
Roanoke Farms	Halifax Co., NC	294	Farm community
Ropesville Farms	Hockley Co., TX	76	Farm community

Sabine Farms	LHarrison Co., TX	80	Farm community
Saginaw Valley Farms	Saginaw Co., MI	33	Farm community
Sam Houston Farms	Harris Co., TX	86	Farm community
Scuppernong Farms	Tyrrell and Washington Cos., NC	127	Farm community
Shenandoah Homesteads	Five counties in VA	160	Farm community
Skyline Farms	Jackson Co., AL	181	Farm community
St. Francis River Farms	Poinsett Co., AK	86	Farm community
Tiverton Farms	Sumter Co., SC	29	Farm community
Townes Farms	Crittenden Co., AR	37	Farm community
Transylvania Farms	East Carroll Parish, LA	163	Farm community
Trumann Farms	Poinsett Co., AR	57	Farm community
Wichita Valley Farms	Wichita Co., TX	91	Farm community
Wolf Creek	Grady Co., GA	24	Farm community
Drummond Project	Bayfield Co., WI	32	Forest homesteads
Sublimity Farms	Laurel Co., KY	66	Forest homesteads
Jersey Homesteads	Near Hightstown, NJ	206	Subsistence homesteads
Total Units (including green towns)		10,938	

The total construction cost for all New Deal towns was \$108,095,328. The average cost per unit was \$9,961.

(Source: "Tomorrow a New World: The New Deal Community Program", Paul K. Conkin)

### **Farm Home Administration Mortgages (FHA)**

In the 1930s, prior to World War II, the major source of home mortgages for middle- to upper-income families was the FHA. A basic two-bedroom home for middle-class Americans was obtained through a 30-year loan of approximately \$3,600. Many of America's citizens in their seventies and eighties today grew up in these houses and may remember the family burning that mortgage document in the 1960s when the house was finally paid off. Some of these houses were even ordered from Sears and the parts for a complete house were shipped to the site for installation. If and when you ever find an old Sears catalog, look and see if your family's home was in it. All in all, from the White House to a more basic house, all benefited at home from the New Deal.