



Ingrid Watson  
meet & greet, p.7



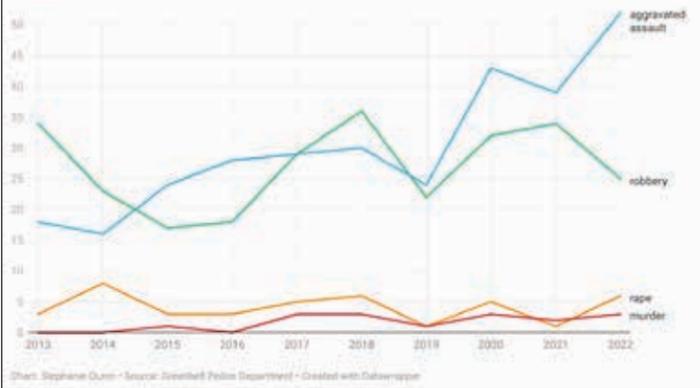
Ric Gordon  
wedding, p.4

## Amid Violent Crime Spike Police Saturation Nets Guns

by Stephanie Quinn

### Assaults Lead Violent Crime Increase in Franklin Park Over Past Decade

The number of aggravated assaults that the Greenbelt Police Department has confirmed in Franklin Park has almost tripled since 2013, from 18 to 52.



The Greenbelt Police Department seized seven illegal firearms during its December crime suppression operation in Franklin Park, an area of Greenbelt where the annual number of aggravated assaults confirmed by police has almost tripled over the past decade.

The 52 aggravated assaults that the department reported to

the FBI for the area over the course of 2022 nearly triple the 2013 total of 18, according to monthly crime reports.

The 2022 total comes amid the department's reports of a January 24 shooting, the February 10 arrest of a murder suspect, a February 3 combined arson and

See **CRIME**, page 8

## February 17 Is Official Day For Random Acts of Kindness

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Greenbelt Porch Coordinators Lien, left, and Maya Gareri along with Robert Goldberg-Strassler accept the Random Acts of Kindness Day Proclamation from Mayor Emmett Jordan.

This year the City of Greenbelt is celebrating Friday, February 17 as a day of Random Acts of Kindness. At Monday's city council meeting Mayor Emmett Jordan presented a proclamation recognizing the day to Robert Goldberg-Strassler and Lien and Maya Gareri of the Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) group. The proclamation stated that, "the City of Greenbelt recognizes simple acts of kindness performed without prompting or reason and how these acts can positively impact the performer, the recipient and the onlooker of the good deed."

At the meeting Goldberg-Strassler highlighted three of RUAK's projects: Greenbelt Porch, Greenbelt Plogs and Pre-K Storytime at Franklin Park.

### Greenbelt Porch

Greenbelt Porch is a program for which Girl Scouts Lien and  
See **KINDNESS**, page 2

### What Goes On

**Monday, February 20**  
Presidents' Day holiday, city offices closed  
**Wednesday, February 22**  
7:30 p.m. Council Worksession: Neighborhood Design Center on Greenbelt Station Greenspace Vision, Municipal Building.

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for more information.

## Exhibit Celebrates Greenbelt Lake with Beautiful Photos

by Erica Johns

The photography exhibit on display this month at the Patuxent Wildlife Visitor Center tells many stories about Greenbelt Lake, its wildlife, those who love and care for the lake's treasures, and the photographers who capture their beauty. The stories include topics such as animal life and their behaviors, the excitement of seeing it and the joy of sharing it with others, management practices to preserve a healthy lake and the importance of creating new advocates to care for the lake into the future.

The community of photographers teach each other to recognize specific animals and their behavior patterns, and help each other develop their skills to photograph them.

### The Photographers

The exhibit contains the work of 22 photographers – professionals and hobbyists with experience ranging from a single year to decades. Seventy percent have never exhibited before. They include an elementary school teacher,



PHOTO BY KEN BRIEFEL

Ken Briefel's photo *Inquisitive Baby Owls* is one of the Greenbelt nature photos on display at Patuxent Wildlife Visitor Center.

a former salesperson, a retired music teacher and a government retiree. Some have known Greenbelt Lake for decades or since childhood.

When Gloria Brown began walking at Lake Artemesia and Greenbelt Lake in retirement and

mentioned the bird life to her son, photographer Bruce Smith, he bought her a camera. Brown met Graeme Simpson, a professional nature photographer originally from New Zealand, at Lake Artemesia and told him about

See **PHOTOS**, page 12

## Witness The Joy Gods Return With Greenbelt's Youth Musical

by Chris Cherry and Rebecca Squire

After a pandemic hiatus, Greenbelt Recreation is celebrating the return of the annual Youth Musical by presenting a sparkling show about the resurgence of joy.

Tickets go on sale today for *The Joy Gods Return*, written and directed by Greenbelt resident Chris Cherry and featuring a cast of talented teen actors from several local schools.

Set in Manhattan a year after 9/11, the story concerns actress Felicity Knox, who makes a surprise appearance as Iris, the messenger goddess of joy, on the Channel Four morning news.

Her stunt is meant to publicize the premiere of her late husband's musical, *The Joy Gods Return*, but it blossoms into a campaign of joy that lifts the spirits of the entire city. New York falls in love with Iris, and so does jaded newscaster Brian Banning, whose quest for an exposé nearly wrecks everything.

Alternately funny and touching by turns, the show is an uplifting and entertaining depiction of finding love after experiencing loss. Zoe Larsen, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, plays Felicity. Creedence Jackson, a student at Bowie State University

and an alumnus of the youth musical program, plays Brian. The play-within-a-play structure of the story affords the other cast members the opportunity to play multiple roles.

There will be four performances in the Community Center Gymnasium/Auditorium: Saturday, March 4 at 7 p.m.; Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m.; and Saturday, March 11 at 2 and 7 p.m.

To purchase tickets, visit the Community Center Business Office, or call 301-397-2208. Historically, the Youth Musical has sold out, so advance purchase is recommended.



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

Joy returns to life with the Greenbelt Youth Musical.

# Letters to the Editor

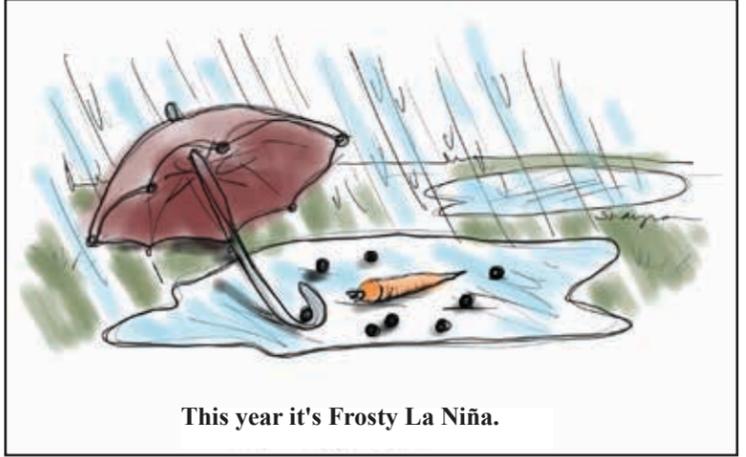
## Don't Miss Greenbelt Photographers' Exhibit

The Greenbelt Lake Wildlife Photographers' Exhibit at the Patuxent Research Refuge is stellar. For all of February, the National Wildlife Visitor Center is hosting The Greenbelt Lake Photographers' Exhibit at the John Hollingsworth Gallery. The photographs in the exhibition, in vibrant color and large scale, are landscapes and animal portraits from Greenbelt Lake, Buddy Attick Park. I suggest that you drive over immediately and gaze at these masterpieces.

I rolled up to the opening reception on Saturday morning expecting snapshots, coffee and donuts. Instead, I was greeted with a dry famine, yet a most excellent potent visual experience of the masterful photo show. Folks were called to the auditorium for a presentation by Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, Greenbelt's environmental coordinator, who delivered some vivid animal photographs during his conservation slide show. The lively hour-long discussion did not prove a bore, it was more like Greenbelt and Laurel's version of a raucous Studio 54.

Also on display at the visitor center is the traveling exhibit, Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program, featuring duck paintings and drawings by teenagers and younger. You will be in awe. These young people paint ducks accurately and with the added flair of animal personality, with background landscapes.

And it's a real nice place to take a walk. Or watch birds.  
Mike Reinsel



This year it's Frosty La Niña.

- Cartoon by Shayna Skolnik, News Review, February 25, 2016

## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



## KINDNESS continued from page 1

Maya Gerari are two of the coordinators. It's been running for three years and has collected 10 tons of food for the St. Hugh's Food Pantry.

### Greenbelt Ploggers

Greenbelt Plogs is a group of ploggers – folks who pick up trash as they walk – committed to cleaning up the streets. There are now at least 25 ploggers in Greenbelt, said Goldberg-Strassler. Thanks to a partnership with Public Works, the Ploggers have been provided with gloves, reflective vests and pick-up sticks. They also coordinate with Public Works to communicate which areas have been cleared to avoid redundancy.

### Pre-K Storytime

Finally, Goldberg-Strassler shared that one of the newer initiatives of RUAK is a Pre-K storytime at Franklin Park, begun last October, which he hopes will encourage literacy and help prepare children for school. RUAK had previously worked with Greenbelt Elementary

School and Greenbelt Middle School but "I figured I'm missing the age 0 to 5 population," said Goldberg-Strassler, who wants to "encourage the young to love literacy a little bit sooner and prep them for elementary school." Last week Friday's storytime session had 23 children in attendance, he reported.

### Friday, February 17

Jordan said Friday is a day for random unselfish acts of kindness. "I don't really know what we'll see," he said, "but hopefully we'll see Greenbelters and folks from all over doing all sorts of wonderful things," he said. If someone is interested in Porch or Plogging or other RUAK programs, contact spreadruak@gmail.com.

"It's powerful," said Jordan as he thanked Goldberg-Strassler. "It's an example of if one person, three people, 10 people all just take a little time and do one thing it can make a huge difference," said Jordan.



Old Greenbelt Theatre  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
www.greenbelttheatre.org  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5  
OC = Open Captions  
CC = Closed Captions  
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

**SHOWTIMES:**  
FEBRUARY 17th - FEBRUARY 23rd

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room

### Animated Oscar Shorts (2023) (95 mins)

Rating equivalent of PG-13/R.  
First four films are suitable for kids 10 and up, but the final film is for adult audiences only.

Fri. 8:15 PM Screen 1  
Sat. 7:30 PM Screen 1  
Sun. 5:15 PM Screen 1  
Mon. 5:00 PM Screen 1  
Tues. 7:30 PM Screen 1  
Wed. 7:30 PM Screen 1  
Thur. 8:15 PM Screen 1

### Live Action Oscar Shorts (2023) (110 mins)

Rating equivalent of PG-13 for adult themes.

Fri. 8:00 PM Screen 2  
Sat. 5:00 PM Screen 1  
Sun. 5:00 PM Screen 2  
Mon. 2:30 PM Screen 1  
Tues. 5:00 PM Screen 1  
Wed. 5:00 PM Screen 1  
Thur. 8:00 PM Screen 2

### Documentary Oscar Shorts (2023) (165 mins)

Rating equivalent of PG-13/R for adult themes.

Fri. 5:00 PM Screen 1  
Sat. 5:15 PM Screen 2  
Sun. 2:00 PM Screen 1  
Mon. 3:00 PM Screen 2  
Tues. 5:15 PM Screen 2  
Wed. 5:15 PM Screen 2  
Thur. 5:00 PM Screen 1

## On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

### Oscar-Nominated Shorts

#### Animated Shorts

An Ostrich Told Me the World Is Fake and I Think I Believe It (Australia)  
Ice Merchants (Portugal, United Kingdom, France)  
My Year of Dicks (United States)  
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse (United Kingdom)  
The Flying Sailor (Canada)

#### Live Action Shorts

An Irish Goodbye (Ireland)  
Ivalu (Denmark)  
Le Pupille (Italy, United States)  
Night Ride (Nattrikken) (Norway)  
The Red Suitcase (Luxembourg)

#### Documentary Shorts

Haulout (United Kingdom)  
How Do You Measure a Year? (United States)  
Stranger at the Gate (United States)  
The Elephant Whisperers (India)  
The Martha Mitchell Effect (United States)



Kein Kochendes skateboards at the top of Gardenway with Csilla, Tuna and Clark.

PHOTO BY KATRINA BOVERMAN

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887  
Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)  
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)  
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)  
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985  
Mary Lou Williamson, Editor  
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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#### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

# Community Events

## Disaster Training

The Greenbelt Rotary Club will be hosting Disaster Aid USA for a training seminar on Saturday, February 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Volunteers are sought to assist with future disasters in our area and beyond. There are 18 to 20 disasters annually; the group has recently deployed to Florida, West Virginia and Kentucky.

The training session will be held at Capitol College, located at 11301 Springfield Road in Beltsville. A complementary lunch will be served. The speaker is Larry Agee from Disaster Aid Louisiana, vice president of Disaster Aid USA, who has been on many deployments both nationally and internationally.

For questions and additional information, contact Vijay Kowtha, Greenbelt Rotary Club secretary, at [vkowtha@airtigers.org](mailto:vkowtha@airtigers.org).



## Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, February 18 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see the Green Comet, Jupiter, Mars and galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. All are welcome and there is no charge. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes to set up on the hill-top.

Observing will begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## Compost Workday Saturday Morning

“Methane, a potent greenhouse gas, is 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide for its first 20 years in the atmosphere.” — The Washington Post

To help reduce methane release in Greenbelt, join The Wigglers on Saturday, February 18 starting at 9 a.m. for an outdoor workday at the three-bin hot-composting station behind Roosevelt Center, alongside the Aquatic & Fitness Center. High school students can earn volunteer hours while learning how to prepare food waste diverted from the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket for rapid hot-composting. Enjoy snacks and conversation while working.

Help The Wigglers volunteers pre-compost food for the red wiggler composting worms that live on the loading dock of the New Deal Café where they make vermicompost, a highly prized soil amendment and nutrient load for plants.

To learn more about how hot-and worm-composting, come by Saturday morning anytime between 9 and 11 a.m. Email [NewDealWigglers@gmail.com](mailto:NewDealWigglers@gmail.com) with questions.



## Garden Club Meeting For Plot Assignment

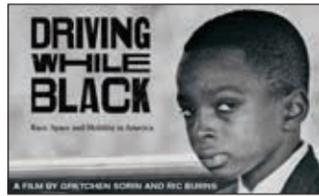
The Greenbelt Community Garden Club will be having a virtual 2023 Plot Assignment meeting. The meeting will be held Monday, March 6 at 7 p.m. An email will be sent to returning gardeners with a link to join. Returning gardeners can direct any questions about completing the application to their garden coordinator. Fees and forms may be sent to the garden coordinator or payment can be made online using PayPal. For those who have any difficulty downloading and printing the form or who are without internet access, call Martha Tomecek at 301-614-0691.

## Driving While Black Is Reel and Meal Film

The Reel and Meal film for Black History Month is Driving While Black (2020). The film explores the deeply troubling racism African Americans experienced while driving on the nation’s highways. The film begins at 7 p.m. on Monday, February 20, and will be screened both in-person at the New Deal Café and online via Zoom (registration required at [tinyurl.com/ReelMealFeb20](http://tinyurl.com/ReelMealFeb20)). The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee are co-sponsors of this month’s film.

William Ford, award-winning reporter for the online daily news website Maryland Matters, will lead the discussion afterward.

For more information, visit the Reel and Meal’s Facebook page.



The movie Driving While Black

## Black History in Words Dance, Drums and Jazz

On Sunday, February 19 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee and the Department of Recreation will feature spoken word artists Chris Haley, Sainey Cessay and Francis Stedman. The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Jazz Quintet will perform and the CHEARS’ Earth Squad and youth from Springhill Lake taught by Nana Malaya will dance to the drumming of Kweku, Hands on Drums. A display of Angola Capoeira will be presented by Mestre Santemu and students. This free program will take place at the Community Center.



## Dem. Club Has Talk On Black Equestrians

The Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club meets Friday, February 17, 7:30 p.m. at Greenbriar Community Room for a special presentation on the Black Equestrian Experience with Ponies Unlimited. Stand Foundation Equestrians and special guests will discuss the unknown and rarely discussed history of Black equestrians and stables in Prince George’s County and the Washington Metro Area.

## Black History Month Final Event Is Free Film

Wakanda Forever will be shown free of charge at Old Greenbelt Theatre on Sunday, February 26 at 1 p.m.

For more information, email [blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com](mailto:blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com).



## Workday Saturday To Restore Woodland

The Woodlands Committee is hosting a workday on Saturday, February 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. Help is needed with planting for the benefit of fireflies, butterflies, and birds. Volunteers will remove invasive shrubs and vines, move mulch and plant elderberry and native wildflowers near the Hillside Road underpass, which is between 13 and 19 Courts Hillside Road. Meet on the bike path by the underpass, just a bit uphill from the Firefly Sanctuary.

What to bring:

A face mask for when in proximity to others

Clothes that cover the skin, leather gloves and thick pants, recommended to protect against scratches

Loppers, pruning shears, trowels and shovels.

For more information, email [SowingStrength2@gmail.com](mailto:SowingStrength2@gmail.com).

## Free Local Concerts By Baroque Orchestra

Relic, an 11-member period chamber orchestra, will give a series of free concerts in Greenbelt, funded by a Community Foundation grant:

Thursday, February 16, 2 p.m. Open Rehearsal, Community Center, Room 201

Thursday, February 16, 7:30 p.m. Concert, Greenbelt Community Church

Saturday, February 18, 9:30 a.m. Children’s Concert, Community Center, Room 114

Monday, February 20, noon, Lunchtime Concert, New Deal Café

Friday, February 24, 8 p.m. Concert, University of Maryland Baroque Ensemble Collaboration with Relic and Aisslinn Nosky, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Gildenhorn Recital Hall

Sunday, February 26, 3 p.m. University of Maryland Baroque Ensemble Collaboration with Relic and Aisslinn Nosky, Greenbelt Community Church.

Audience members are encouraged to register at [relicensembler.org/events](http://relicensembler.org/events).

## PORCH Food Pickups

Saturday, February 18: By 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, February 19: By 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors)

Sunday, February 26: By 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge and for 11 and 13 Courts Ridge, by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Those living elsewhere in Greenbelt may contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com) with your address by noon on Sunday, February 19. New volunteers are welcome to expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt.

## This Week at the New Deal Café

The ONLY Greenbelt venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

## Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 2/16	FRI 2/17	SAT 2/18	SUN 2/19	
<b>GrooveQuest</b> 7-9pm DC-based band that covers the best of the 60's, 70's and 80's rock and roll.	<b>Ruthie &amp; The Wranglers</b> 8-11pm American Roots music at its finest! WAMMIES' winner.	<b>Poetry Open Mic*</b> 1-3pm <b>MARDI GRAS BASH!*</b> Barrage Band, Greenbelt Honk! Situation, and Wild Anacostias, 8-11pm	<b>Orchestra Prazevica</b> 6-8pm High Energy Eastern European Turbo Folk!	
MON 2/20	TUES 2/21	WED 2/22	TH 2/23	MON - FRI
<b>Chess Club*</b> 6-8pm <b>Relic, 12-2pm*</b> <b>REEL AND MEAL</b> 7-9pm Monthly social justice film series.	<b>MARDI GRAS</b> Open Mic with Joey Campfire 6:30-9pm Sign ups at 6:30.	<b>WallHas</b> 7-9pm Top tier experimental jazz fusion	<b>The Music of Paul McCartney</b> 7-9pm World-class impersonations of John & Paul	<b>Happy Hour</b> 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

It's time to renew your membership or join NDC. Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

\*For more information on these events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.



## Greenbelt Access Television

Feb. 18, Sat. – Feb. 24, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	Classic Movies • Sport/Drama	The Jackie Robinson Story • 1950
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Elementary: Bladensburg v. Laurel
2pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON SIX	Greenbelt Blues Festival • Various artists
3pm	Classic Movies • Sport/Drama	The Jackie Robinson Story • 1950
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Elementary: Bladensburg v. Laurel
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	Classic Movies • Sport/Drama	The Jackie Robinson Story • 1950
10pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON SIX	Greenbelt Blues Festival • Various artists
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming

Connect with GATE [f](https://www.facebook.com/gate) [y](https://www.youtube.com/gate) [i](https://www.instagram.com/gate) [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)



### Greenbelt Summer Peace Builders Camp

Greenbelt Community Church will host a Peace Builder Camp July 24 to 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children ages 5 to 14. The camp utilizes art, games and presentations to teach children mindfulness, empathy, anger management, conflict resolution and self-empowerment. Students bring their own lunches.

For cost and to register, visit [lffp.org/peacecamp](http://lffp.org/peacecamp). For more information, email [peacecamp@lffp.org](mailto:peacecamp@lffp.org) or call MJ Park at 240-838-4549.

### Drop Off Menstrual Products, Bras, Toiletries

The drive to collect bras, menstrual products and toiletries, sponsored by the Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (GARF), will continue through February 28. Drop off donations anytime at bins in six locations: Co-op Supermarket, Aquatic & Fitness Center, Youth Center, Springhill Lake Recreation Center, New Deal Café and Choice Clinical Services in Roosevelt Center.

New and/or gently used bras of any size or type, new sealed menstrual products and new travel or regular size toiletries (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, conditioner, razors) are in high demand. "Gently used" bras means clean with no large stains, broken clasps or straps, holes, stretched out elastic, smoke smell even after washing, missing underwire or underwire poking through. Other items such as period panties, menstrual cups and new underpants in unopened packages are also needed.

Collected products will go to two nonprofits: Shepherd's Cove Emergency Shelter for Women and Children and I Support the Girls, which coordinates the direct delivery of supplies on an as-needed basis to organizations serving women and girls.

For more information, email [greenbeltarf@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltarf@gmail.com). For those who prefer to make a monetary donation, visit I Support the Girls at [bit.ly/ISTGxGreenbeltARF](http://bit.ly/ISTGxGreenbeltARF).

### City Notes

The Museum's Valentine's Day open house event welcomed approximately 50 visitors.

Horticulture/Parks installed four bike racks at Roosevelt Center and Fleet Maintenance held a bucket-truck maintenance tutorial for the Horticulture crew. Refuse/Recycling collected 24.13 tons of refuse and 9.41 tons of recyclables and Sustainability/Environmental received BigBelly Waste Bins funded by a grant.

At the Animal Shelter, one cat was adopted and one cat and one dog arrived; current residents are four dogs, seven cats, six kittens and three rabbits.

The Community Center hosted a meet-and-greet event for a county councilmember and provided free space to the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Greenbelt Assistance in Living program, Public Safety Advisory Committee and Black History Month Committee.

Arts activities included a full-capacity Parent's Night Out and several art workshops. Therapeutic Recreation offered seniors a trip to Wegmans, with Public Works providing transportation.

Park rangers facilitated Girl Scout meetings at Schrom Hills Park.



# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 20-24

- Monday, February 20, **PRESIDENTS' DAY, CITY OFFICES CLOSED**
- Tuesday, February 21 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, *On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Discussion of Street Tree Replacements Near Greenbriar Condominiums, Update on the Tree Canopy Grant, Planning of Arbor Day 2023 Event*
- Wednesday, February 22 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**
- Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN CENTER ON GREENBELT STATION GREENSPACE VISION**
- Thursday, February 23 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
- Thursday, February 23 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda, Tabling at Greenman, Spring Clean-Up, Report to Council: Reroute of Northway Path, Master Trail Plan: Section 5 Final Review, Master Trail Plan Overview*

**In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov).**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Departure from Design Standards Application Greenbelt Advisory Planning Board

Notice is hereby given that the Greenbelt Advisory Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **March 1, 2023 at 7 pm** in the Greenbelt Community Center, Room 114, 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD on an application filed by Armory Place, LLC for consideration of a request for a **Departure from Design Standards (DDS)** for premises located at 7010 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. The Applicant is requesting permission to allow universal 9'x19' parking spaces. Per Prince George's County Zoning, a standard parking space is required to be 9.5'x19'. This DDS is associated with the submission of a Detailed Site Plan (DSP- 22023) to construct apartment housing for the elderly, consisting of 95 for-sale age-restricted units. The DSP is not subject to the review of this DDS but will be reviewed by the Advisory Planning Board in the immediate future.

For additional information please contact Terri Hruby, Director of Planning and Community Development at (301) 345-5417.

## PRESIDENTS' DAY OF SERVICE

**FEBRUARY 20, 10 AM - 1 PM  
BUDDY ATTICK PARK**

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire caging around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beaver herbivory and remove invasive vines.

Register by email at [kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov).

## COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.**

## Greenbelt ARPA Funds Assistance Programs Update (as of 2/6/23)

Rent and Utility Assistance  
· 435 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$2,218,628.56.

Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance  
· 19 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$65,623.41

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of Presidents' Day.

**THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.**

## REGUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

- Week of February 20
- Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
- Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
- Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
- Thursday Route – Collected Friday

*There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, February 24.*



## Resistance and Resilience in the African Diaspora

### BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2023

The programs presented this year in recognition of Black History Month 2023 highlight the talents, genius and survival skills of people with African heritage as they strive to live and thrive in various challenging environments.

Presented by Greenbelt Recreation and the Black History and Culture Committee.

**Free Family Film at the Old Greenbelt Theatre: FREE**  
February 26 at 1 pm, Marvel's Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.

**In Person Cultural Program:** February 19, 2:30 - 4:30 pm  
Featuring spoken words with **Chris Haley, Sainey Cessay, Francis Stedman**; Capoeira Angola with **Mestre Santemu;Kweku Owusu** drums and dance; **Roosevelt HS Jazz Quintet** providing music.

## CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

### GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

This FREE program is available for Greenbelt families with newborns to 2 years old. Service includes monthly diapers, formula, baby milestone progress review, and more.  
Call (240) 542-2019 or email [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov).

### FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

This FREE program occurs every 3rd Thursday of the month from 1 - 3 pm. Look at this section of the City calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar) for locations and information.

### MEMORY CAFE PROGRAMS

The Memory Cafe is a welcoming space for people with memory challenges. Offered online on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month from 2-3 pm and in person on the 2nd Wednesday from 2-3 pm. Pre-registration is required, email [sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov) or call (240) 542-2029.

### CAREGIVER SUPPORT

Feeling isolated or looking to connect with others? Join our caregiver support groups. In person the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm, Virtual on the 3rd Wednesday of month. Pre-registration required, email [sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov).

### COMMUNITY NURSING PROGRAM

Through a partnership with the Catholic University of America, GAIL is hosting the following events at the Greenbelt Community Center - GFE Entrance at 15 Crescent Road. All events are from 1-3 pm. Pre-registration is required, email [sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov) or call (240) 542-2029.

- 2/21 - Memory Screenings
- 2/28 - Healthy Meal Demo
- 3/14 - Med Reconciliation / BP
- 3/21 - Mini Mental (HANDS)

## COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY

**TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM FEBRUARY 28 - MAY 9  
BUDDY ATTICK PARK**

A free 11-week course designed to increase communication and understanding between members of the Greenbelt community and the Greenbelt Police Department. It is an excellent opportunity for individuals, living, working, or attending school in Greenbelt to gain a better understanding of how your law enforcement agency works. The GCPA combines classroom and hands-on instruction on a wide variety of police functions.

**Applications are due Sunday, February 19.**

For more information or to apply, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CPA](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CPA)

## GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP BECA DE EDUCACIÓN GREENBELT

Application period open through  
March 31, 2023.

El período de solicitud esta aqui al  
31 de marzo de 2023.



## FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS GRANT PROGRAM

Find out more about the City of Greenbelt First-Time Homebuyers grant program today! The grant funds can be used for closing costs and/or down payment for FHA, VA, USDA, FNMA, or Freddie Mac loans. <http://ow.ly/xlKZ50My327>

**GREENBELT RECREATION'S SUMMER CAMP GUIDE AT  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov/camps](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/camps)**

**SPRING CAMPS AVAILABLE APRIL 3-7, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM**

Legislative Priorities

# Council Seeks Answers to Tax Issues, Metro Station Updates

by Susan Taylor

Greenbelt City Council meets annually with local legislators and government representatives before the Maryland General Assembly's 90-day legislative session to present the priorities of Greenbelt and to strategize. Officials met in person on December 20 and councilmembers relayed the city's hopes for a statewide single-use plastic ban as well as opposition to plans for a maglev train, widening the Beltway and the construction of a Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility in the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. (For more information about priorities, see the January 26 issue of the News Review.)

**Requesting Clarity**

Two priorities speak to a lack of timely transparency on the part of the State of Maryland for the residents of Greenbelt.

For a city or town to budget effectively, they need to know how much money is coming in before committing to money going out. Council has asked its representatives to press for timely and clear information from the state regarding the granting of tax abatement requests. These abatement changes would reduce or exempt a taxpayer from paying the amount charged in tax or penalties. The Maryland Homestead Tax Credit, for example, reduces the property tax charged for a primary residence.

Council also asked for a rewording of the language in Constant Yield Tax Rate notices "to be more understandable" (see the January 5, 2023, News Review issue for an explanation of the Constant Yield Tax Rate). The current language, they said, is "very confusing to residents," when the rate of tax changes to keep the amount of money coming in (the yield) the same.

**Metro Improvements**

Greenbelt Metro Station acts as a link to multiple transportation modalities for residents and visitors and, according to council, has the "potential to act as a catalyst for significant economic development." Proximity to I-495, I-95, the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Greenbelt Road make Greenbelt Metro station a first choice for area visitors. Regardless of the possible decision on relocating the FBI headquarters to that location, the station is a transportation hub connecting foot, bike, bus, auto, subway and MARC train modes of movement.

The station was built in the early 1990s with an interchange

connecting it to the Beltway in only one direction – west. Since then, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) and the Greenbelt City Council have traded positions on the benefits, ecological detriments and feasibility of building a full interchange, allowing access from and return to both the inner and outer loops of the Beltway.

Twenty years ago, former County Councilmember Thomas Hendershot declared, "It is insulting that people from Montgomery County and Howard County have a better Beltway access to the Greenbelt station than the vast majority of Prince Georgians." The interchange project has been in the State Consolidated Program (the plan for use of community development funds) for over 20 years. It is considered crucial to the FBI relocation and other future developments at the Greenbelt Metro Station.

Delegate Anne Healey stated that money was available in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget for both the Beltway interchange and a direct connection from Greenbelt Road through the Greenbelt Sta-

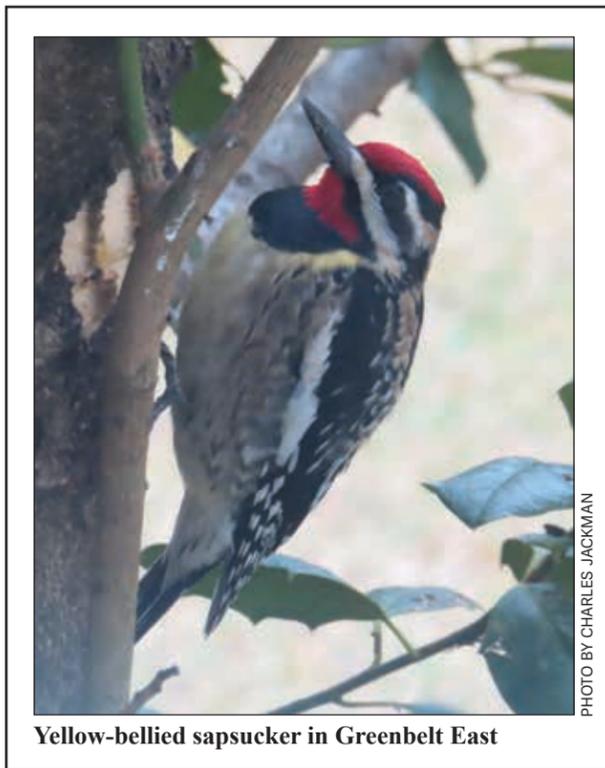
tion neighborhood (see the February 10, 2022, News Review). Road access from Greenbelt Road would ease some of the difficulty for residents of Greenbelt Station in reaching the Metro station.

Currently in the permitting phase and in need of more funding is the pedestrian and bike trail that will provide access not only to residents of Greenbelt Station, but to those of Berwyn Heights, Branchville and other nearby neighborhoods.

**Station Upgrades**

The station opened in 1993 and needs an upgrade. Some improvements were planned for summer 2020 and have yet to be implemented. Upgrades, such as real-time bus arrival signage and Capital Bikeshare docks are modernizing and local riders are eager for these improvements, making commuting easier.

Other improvements will not only serve current Metro riders but have the possibility of attracting businesses and other development. Restroom facilities, landscaping and improvements to the aging façade fall into this category.



Yellow-bellied sapsucker in Greenbelt East

PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN



**GREENBELT NURSERY SCHOOL**  
 Open House Sat., Feb. 25, 10 am.—1 pm.  
**REGISTRATION FOR FALL 2023**  
 Classes for children 2, 3, & 4  
**WWW.GREENBELTNURSERY.SCHOOL.ORG**

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Curated routes and trail maps: [anacostiatrials.org](http://anacostiatrials.org)

Black History

# The Bell Affair Brought Local History to the Screen

by Deanna Dawson

A large crowd attended the screening of *The Bell Affair* at Old Greenbelt Theatre (OGT) last Thursday; the event was presented in partnership with the Prince George's County Historical Society. The film chronicles the true story of the Bell family, who were enslaved in Prince George's County but sent to work in Washington, D.C. Amid a city-wide race riot that erupted from a strike at the Washington Navy Yard in 1835, Daniel Bell convinced a dying Robert Armstead, his wife Mary's slaveholder, to free Mary and their children.

After Armstead's death, however, his wife Susan refused to honor the manumission deed and arranged to have the Bells sold. Daniel fought a desperate battle in court to win his own freedom and protect his family from Susan Armstead. When Mary and the children's freedom suits failed, the Bells attempted to escape enslavement, setting off down the Potomac River in 1848 on the schooner *Pearl* with about 70 other slaves seeking freedom.

As it approached the Chesapeake Bay, the *Pearl* was intercepted by an armed steamer dispatched by slaveholders and returned to Washington. Members of the Bell family continued to sue for their freedom, some successfully, but most remained enslaved until the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act became law in April of 1862.

Following the film there was a Q&A session with the film's executive producers, Dr. Kwakiutl Dreher and Dr. William G. Thomas III of the University of Nebraska. The film is based on one of the stories in historian Thomas's book *A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War* (Yale University Press, 2020; available for checkout through the Prince George's County Memorial Library System). Dreher and Thomas responded to numerous

questions from the crowd about the history, including the role of Francis Scott Key, known primarily for his lyrics for *The Star-Spangled Banner*, who was depicted in the film prosecuting, as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, an abolitionist for libelous sedition and intent to incite a slave revolt. Thomas said that Key, a slaveholder, sometimes represented slaves seeking freedom and sometimes represented slaveholders, and Key supported the colonization movement to send freed slaves to Africa. Thomas said that the ill-fated escape on the *Pearl*, which was one of the largest slave escape attempts in the U.S., had been arranged by Daniel Bell and others, and the Bell family was the largest group aboard, along with other enslaved families including the Queen family, several of whose descendants were in the OGT audience.

There were also questions about how the film was made, which Dreher was directly involved in. The original plan to film in person was changed by the Covid pandemic to being both directed and filmed remotely. Each of the 40 cast members recorded their speaking parts in their homes, with Dreher providing detailed instructions to each on the tone and gestures to use in each scene. The film editors brought all the parts together and then finished it with rotoscope animation, which basically drapes an animation layer over the live footage to smooth it, include background images and make the action more realistic. Thomas noted that this approach seemed appropriate when the events are known but not all their details, requiring both filmmakers and viewers to use "historical imagination" to get into the history and empathize with those who experienced it. For more information on the historical background and the making of the film, go to [animatinghistory.com/bellaffair](http://animatinghistory.com/bellaffair).

**RIVERDALE TROOP 214**

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent.

Join us and support Scouts BSA Troop 214's  
**Boy Scout Chili Supper**  
 Sunday, February 19th, 2023  
 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
 Elks Lodge #1778  
 6700 Kenilworth Ave  
 Riverdale, MD

For more information contact:  
 Jonathan Jones ([jjones67@yahoo.com](mailto:jjones67@yahoo.com))

**CHILI CHOICES:**  
 MEATY | VEGGIE | SPICY!

Tickets:  
 \$15 at the door. | \$12 in advance (see below)

Tickets include FREE admission for children under 5; ALL Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Scout leaders who are in uniform!!

All proceeds will help support scouting activities throughout the year for both boys and girls BSA Troop.

- It's time again for our annual BSA Chili Supper. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door.
- Tickets can be purchased using Paypal <http://paypal.me/boyscouttroop214>
- A big Thank You to our Charter Organization, Elks Lodge #1778, for donating their space.
- Any questions? Please contact Jonathan Jones ([jjones67@yahoo.com](mailto:jjones67@yahoo.com)) for more information.

# New County Councilmember Meets Greenbelt Constituents

by Lois Rosado

County Councilmember Ingrid Watson (formerly Harrison) met with Greenbelt constituents on Wednesday, February 8, at the Community Center. The purpose was to learn about local concerns through interactive dialogue. Watson vowed to be a strong partner to Mayor Emmett Jordan, the Greenbelt City Council and Greenbelt residents. She introduced members of her staff and informed the audience that a newsletter to constituents will be sent out from her office to provide an overview of what is happening in the district and at the county council.



PHOTO BY CHONDRIA ANDREWS

County Councilmember Ingrid Watson talks with constituent Jenni Pompi.

Watson also brought with her representatives from the county's Office of Community Relations and the Office of Employment who distributed informational materials.

### Greenbelt Schools

Watson wants to ensure that Greenbelt schools, Springhill Lake Elementary in particular, remain a priority on the next phase of the P3 Blueprint Schools implementation plan, an alternative financing model to build new public schools in the county.

### The Environment

An advocate for environmentally friendly policies like eliminating Prince George's County's dependence on single-use plastics, Watson supports the county's Climate Action Plan. She plans to work with the Greenbelt City Council and SAVE BARC in order to mitigate the negative impacts of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing facility at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

### Transportation

Working with state partners on the maintenance of roads and sidewalks, Watson supports the proposed Greenbelt East Trail Project that would help with access to an even more walkable and bikeable community.

### Projects, Needs Supported

Watson listed a full range of projects and community needs she plans to support:

- Policies for equitable economic development that include

transit-oriented development, specifically around Greenbelt Metro station and other stations in District 4.

- Roundtables to bring together HOAs, community and civic association leaders to share their concerns and provide much needed resources.

- Host an environmental conference each spring to bring together county agencies and non-profit environmental organizations to educate the community about climate change and how individuals can take action to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gases.

- Work with police chiefs and the State's Attorney office to promote safer communities as crime levels continue to increase.

- Support for seniors, veterans, residents with disabilities and families needing assistance with rent, job training or finding employment, and specifically working with businesses to hire Prince Georgians.

- Work with small and minority-owned businesses to move more efficiently through the county's permit process.

Watson shared an overview of county council activities that she is a part of. There is an effort to eliminate the ability of new development projects to use certain site-specific text amendments thereby ensuring that developers

follow the new zoning ordinances and allowing for grandfathering of some projects already in process including CB-083-2021. Apartment housing for seniors in Greenbelt is moving forward with Watson voting for this bill.

Watson voted to amend the zoning ordinance that prohibits the development of townhouses and one-family attached dwelling units in the Residential Agricultural (R-A) Zone.

She is considering bills that address rent stabilization, a pilot project labor agreement, a security camera incentive program, an amendment of the hours of operation for tobacco and e-cigarette stores, prohibiting storage facilities in specific areas, amending procedures for public notice and review and an amendment to make the zoning ordinance process more transparent.

Watson stated that she is opposed to the maglev train being built anywhere in Maryland and will continue to support that effort. She encouraged those present and beyond to reach out to her office so that she can address their concerns, by emailing her at [councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us](mailto:councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us), or visiting her webpage at [pgccouncil.us/254/District-4](http://pgccouncil.us/254/District-4).



## Black History Events



Six-year-old Tae Cahalan has lots of color choices at the Artful Afternoon's celebration of Black History Month at the Community Center on February 5.



A young passerby hears about health screening at the Kaiser Permanente mobile unit.

- Photos by Jamarie Spencer

RELIC PRESENTS

# Winter's OASIS

MUSIC OF  
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Free Concerts  
Feb 14-26



**GREENBELTMD** February 2023

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROGRAMS UPDATE



In response to the COVID-19 health emergency, the City of Greenbelt has been designated as the recipient of just under \$23 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to respond to COVID-19 public health emergency and its impacts.

### GREENBELT HAS LAUNCHED THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

- The First-time Homebuyer Mortgage Assistance Program
- The Education Scholarship Program
- And the Healthcare Voucher Program

### PROGRAMS LAUNCHING SOON:

- The non-profit grant program
- The tree canopy grant
- Round 3 of the Business Improvement Recovery Fund
- Small Business Capital Improvement Fund

Stay connected by visiting the City's website, [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). For updates on all ARPA programs, visit [www.engagegreenbelt.com](http://www.engagegreenbelt.com)



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# CRIME continued from page 1

shooting in the complex and a February 13 shooting that resulted in a lockdown at the neighborhood elementary school.

Police spokesperson Hannah Glasgow said officers' 168 premise checks and 155 traffic stops during the 28-day saturation patrol, which lasted from December 3 through December 31, enabled them to confiscate a large number of firearms compared to most months. According to the department's weekly crime data, in December 2021, police confiscated three firearms and in December 2020, they confiscated one.

Glasgow said the crime suppression operation allotted two to four additional officers to Franklin Park per shift to conduct proactive patrols and respond to calls for service. The department typically assigns one officer to each of Greenbelt's three area commands.

"During regular patrol, officers just by the nature of the job have to be really reactive and might be able to do one or two traffic stops a night," Glasgow said. "When you're doing these saturation patrols, you can do up to 10 in ... a four-hour shift."

Police seized four of the seven illegal firearms after pulling over vehicles with illegally tinted windows.

Officer Albert Murray, the department's community officer for Franklin Park, said the crime suppression effort supported his goal of doing more proactive and community-oriented policing.

"My objective is to just definitely build back trust with the community and tackle some of the problems that the community has going on," Murray said, "whether that's being very visible and vigilant at nighttime ... or something as simple as walking through and saying hi to the kids out there."

Glasgow said the possibility of future saturation patrols depends on budgetary constraints. Officers participated in the effort on top of their usual patrols. "This was done on officers' overtime," she said.

Some Franklin Park residents recognized officers' efforts but described continuing safety concerns. Myisha Hagler, 40, a patient services representative who moved to Franklin Park in 2018, feels better about her son's safety than a year ago. Hagler recalled being stranded outside her apartment last January after a murder

led police to seal off the adjoining building. Her building is only accessible through the adjoining building.

"I was terrified to let my son go outside and play, because anything can happen," Hagler said.

Hagler suggested that Franklin Park management could protect residents by installing key access to buildings. "I've seen people sleeping in buildings," she said. "You know, [they're] sitting in the hall, and they're drinking, and I don't even know if they're residents here or not."

Rachel Antzak, 40, a data analyst who has lived in Franklin Park since 2013, said some parts of the complex are poorly lit at night and secluded from the road. "It's like, 'Okay, well I'm not going past this point, because it's too dark and I don't feel comfortable going down that way,'" she said.

Franklin Park management

did not respond to requests for comment.

Murray emphasized the department's commitment to the Franklin Park community.

"The department definitely cares about the city," Murray said. "One hundred percent. And if there's a problem ... we try our hardest to not just put a BandAid on it. We try to get to the root of the issue and solve it."

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 Call Metropolitan Washington Ear  
 301-681-6636  
 No special equipment needed



# Greenbelt Police Arrest Local Man for Two Attempted Murders

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

After an extensive investigation by the Criminal Investigations Unit, the Greenbelt Police Department has arrested 24-year-old Armani Williams of Greenbelt for two recent shootings in the city. A warrant for his arrest was issued on February 1, and on February 8, at approximately 8 p.m., Prince George's County Police executed a search warrant in the 9000 block of Breezewood Terrace in Franklin Park, with Greenbelt Police officers assisting. Williams was taken into custody and transported to the Greenbelt Police Station for processing.

Williams is charged with attempted first-degree murder for the August 10, 2022, shooting at the Shell gas station on Cherrywood Lane, near Beltway Plaza, which landed a man in hospital,

suffering from gunshot wounds. After being shot at the gas station, the victim drove away while the shooter continued to fire at his moving car, endangering multiple bystanders. Police were notified a little after 9 p.m. that evening by the hospital that was treating the man. The victim survived his injuries. In addition to attempted first-degree murder for this shooting, Williams is charged with first-degree assault, reckless endangerment, firearm use in a felony violent crime and handgun on person.

Williams is also charged with the shooting of a 25-year-old man just one block away from the first shooting, on Cherrywood Lane. The second shooting took place on January 24, at approximately 6:17 p.m. When police responded to the report of a shooting, they found the 25-year-old suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. This victim also survived his injuries. For this incident, Williams is charged with attempted first-degree murder, first-degree assault, second-degree assault and firearm use in a felony violent crime.

Williams has several arrests and charges in his past, including for misdemeanor theft and disorderly conduct at the age of 18, in 2016; second-degree assault, disorderly conduct, fraud and resisting arrest in 2018; felony robbery, second-degree assault, drug charges and false statements to an officer in 2019; second-degree assault, felony robbery and misdemeanor theft in 2020; as well as multiple cases with the Department of Social Services to establish paternity and child support for three children.

Williams is currently being held without bond.

*This report was made using multiple police reports and public case records.*

## Forest Preserve Hike



PHOTO BY SUSAN BARNETT

On January 22, a group of 35 forest enthusiasts came together for a celebratory hike in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve. The hike was led by Paul Downs and sponsored by the Celebrate the Greenbelt Forest Preserve to kick off the 20th anniversary of the passing of the forest preserve ordinance – Keeping it Wild and Wooded! The next event is February 26 – watch for details in the News Review and on Facebook!



## Laissez les bons temps rouler!

### Mardi Gras Celebration

February 17-21

Something for Everyone!

www.greenbelt.coop

**Auto Auction**  
 Date- February 14 – February 28 2023  
 Time- 10-11:30 am  
 Location- 4E JP MORGAN COURT WALDORF MD, 20601  
 1975 OLDSMOBILE 98 3N675X116594  
 1987 PONTIAC FIREBIRD 1G2FW21H3HL228677  
 2000 TOYOTA SOLARA 2T1FF22PXYC808792  
 2011 FORD EXPLORER 1FMHK7D80BGA29638  
 2019 BMW 8SERIES WBAFY4C59KBJ98888



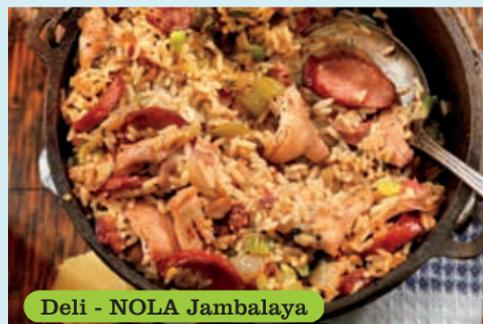
Let the good times roll at New Deal Café



Fried Catfish



Gumbolaya



# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred February 6 to 12. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

## Assault

On February 7 at 10:21 a.m. near 7200 Hanover Parkway, a patient stated a medical provider pushed him out of a business when he became irate and would not leave. The medical provider stated he did ask the patient to leave after he started to cause a disturbance in the office but did not push the patient. Both parties were advised of their options.

## Fight

On February 10 at 12:29 a.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a fight broke out after a group of teenage girls cut in front of a woman in a fast-food line. All parties were advised of their options.

## Commercial Theft

February 6 at 12:57 a.m. near 5500 Greenbelt Road; February 10 at 10 a.m. and February 11 at 10:18 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road; February 12 at 1:24 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road.

## DUI Arrest

February 6 at 12:57 a.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane.

## Shell Casing Found

On February 8 at 5:19 p.m. near 550 Crescent Road, a spent casing of 9-mm Ruger ammunition was found in the parking lot.

## Trespassing

On February 6 at 2:55 p.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, a man was charged with a criminal citation for trespass and banned from Franklin Park.

## Vehicle Crimes

### Autos Recovered

Four cars were found with broken windows and damaged ignition/steering column: a 2021 blue Kia Forte (Md. plate 4EZ5742) found February 12 near 9300 Edmonston Road; a stolen 2013 Hyundai Elantra, found by Howard County Police February 12 near 8100 Lakecrest Drive; two more of these cars were impounded when the owner couldn't be reached: a Hyundai Sonata, found February 6 at 12:50 a.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, and a black Kia Optima, found February 12, 4:49 a.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court.

More stolen cars were found: February 6 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a car stolen from Baltimore City; February 6 near 7600 Mandan Road, a Hyundai Elantra stolen from Prince George's County; February 11 near Springhill Drive and Cherrywood Lane, a Kia Forte; February 11 near Ora Glen Drive and Morrison Drive, a 2013 Hyundai Sonata stolen from Hyattsville located with damages; February 12 near Kenilworth Avenue and Beltway, a stolen Lexus R35 was found on the side of the road with damage consistent with an accident.

## Vehicles Stolen

Three Hyundais, three Kias and a Ford were stolen: February 7 near 7600 Mandan Road, a 2013 Elantra (Md. plate 3EK2528); February 8 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a 2016 Sonata (Md. plate 1CH0719); February 8, near 6100 Breezewood Court, a 2016 Explorer (Md. plate 7FD9025) stolen after it was left unattended and running with the keys in the ignition; February 8, near 100 Westway, a Kia Optima (Md. plate 9EJ1929); February 12, 8200 Canning Terrace, a black 2018 Kia Soul (Md. plate 8DJ2103); February 12, near 9300 Edmonston Road, a white 2015 Kia Optima (Md. plate 1FD3221); February 12, near 6200 Springhill Drive, a 2012 Sonata (Wis. plate WH2462C).

## Vandalism and Theft from Auto

Tools were stolen from cars February 7 near 9300 Edmonston Road and near 9000 Breezewood Terrace.

Catalytic converters were stolen February 6 from a 2012 Isuzu truck near 6400 Ivy Lane, and from a 2021 Nissan NV200 near 7700 Greenbelt Road.

On February 7 near 8100 Mandan Terrace, four cars had their windows broken but nothing was stolen: a 2015 Acura RDX, a 2013 Merz G-Class, a 2011 Honda CRV and a 2014 Hyundai Sonata had a window broken and the ignition tampered with.

On February 7 near 7500 Mandan Road, a number of cars had windows broken and were rummaged through, including a Tesla Model 3 (nothing stolen), a Hyundai Sonata (with a steering wheel club, nothing stolen), an Infiniti QX56 (currency stolen), a Honda Civic (nothing stolen), a Mazda 3 (window smashed), and a Nissan Rogue (window cracked).

Four Kias had windows broken and steering column/ignition damaged: February 10, a 2016 Forte near 9100 Edmonston Road, and a Forte near Parkway; February 11, a Sportage near Ridge Road; February 12, a Forte near Southway.

Property was taken from cars February 6 near Laurel Hill Road (unlocked vehicle); February 9 near Parkway, car window broken; February 12 near 6000 Springhill Drive.

On February 7 near 400 Ridge Road, a 2008 Hyundai Accent had a window broken, nothing taken, nothing tampered with. On February 8 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a GMC Yukon had a circular crack to the middle of the front windshield. On February 9 near 7700 Mandan Road, a 2017 Kia Forte had a window broken, nothing taken. On February 12 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2011 Hyundai Sonata had a window broken and near Lakeside Drive and Westway, a 2019 Ford Fusion had all four tires deflated and the rear passenger window broken.

## School Locked Down Due to Nearby Shooting

Springhill Lake Elementary School was placed on a brief lockdown Tuesday following a shooting in the neighborhood.

At approximately 12:44 p.m. on February 13, Greenbelt Police officers responded to the 6200 block of Springhill Drive for the report of a shooting with injuries. Officers located a 29-year-old man suffering with non-life-threatening injuries from a gunshot wound. He was transported to a local hospital via ambulance. It was later determined the shooting happened in the 5900 block of Cherrywood Terrace.

## Greenbelt Teen Still Missing

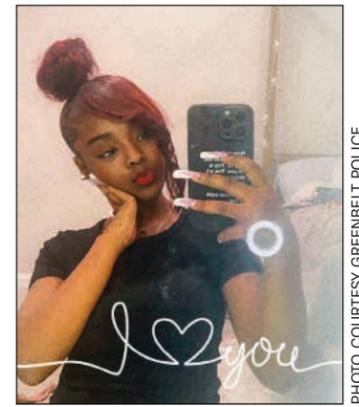


PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Kennedy Cohen

Fifteen-year-old Kennedy Elle Cohen has not been seen since approximately 9 p.m. on Saturday, February 4. She was last seen in the 7300 block of Morrison Drive, which is on the eastbound side of Greenbelt Road between Frankfort Drive and Mandan Road. The teen was last seen wearing a tan sweater, black leggings and purple Crocs.

Cohen is described as a Black female approximately 4 feet 10 inches in height and 120 lbs. The critical factor is age. The Greenbelt Police Department requests that those with information regarding her whereabouts call 301-474-7200.

## Police Launch #9PM Routine

The Greenbelt Police Department is launching its #9PM routine. The #9PM routine is a nightly reminder to residents to remove valuables from their vehicles, lock their vehicle doors, lock the doors to their residences, turn on exterior lights and activate alarms and security systems.

Every night the department will send out a reminder.

Criminals look for easy targets. Make it more difficult for them by following the #9PM routine. Many vehicle burglaries, and to a lesser degree, stolen vehicles, occur as a result of vehicles being left unlocked. Criminals walk through neighborhoods, trying vehicle door handles, hoping to find one unlocked. The best way to prevent vehicle burglaries is to remove all valuables, lock the vehicle's doors upon exiting and take the keys to the vehicle inside one's residence.

Greenbelt Police encourage those who own a Hyundai, Kia or Honda car model to take the #9PM routine a step further by adding a steering wheel club lock as an extra deterrent.

## Crisis Hotline: 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is now 988 and is available for phone calls and text messages.

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OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at [zellepay.com](http://zellepay.com). Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

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# Obituaries continued from p.4

classes to relearn the language. Bob created a diorama of the Battle of Trackie which is on display in the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago, Ill. A favorite pastime of Bob's was brewing Veritas, a traditional Lithuanian liquor, in his kitchen. Paula would take their sons outside in case Bob – not the best cook – blew up the kitchen.

After retirement Bob could be found walking and fishing around Greenbelt Lake. He and Paula were members of the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center where Bob could be found on the treadmill or stationary bike, always with a book in hand. His workout complete, Bob would wander around the Roosevelt Center visiting the Co-op Grocery Store and Generous Joe's while waiting for Paula to finish swimming. Bob and Paula also started a monthly wine club comprised of 14 people who had raised their children together. The wine club held over 105 gatherings, stopping only when Covid hit.

Bob is survived by Paula, his wife of 56 years; sons Scott (Cindy) and Shawn (Valerie); and grandchildren Troy, Kate, Kyle and Colin. In accordance with Bob's wishes, his body was donated to the Maryland Anatomy Board and no service was held.

To remember Bob, the family suggests enjoying some of Bob's favorite foods – pepperoni pizza, marshmallow peeps or Boston cream donuts. Donations in Bob's memory can be made to a local hospice or the Brandy Station Foundation at brandystationfoundation.com.



## Joan Haslinger Mohan



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Joan Haslinger Mohan

Joan Elizabeth Haslinger Mohan died on Monday, February 6, 2023, in Grinnell, Iowa, of congestive heart failure. She was 81.

Joan was born to Joseph and Henrietta Haslinger in Brooklyn, N.Y., on August 23, 1941, the third of 10 children. She grew up in Greenbelt and graduated from St. Hugh's School, the Academy of Notre Dame and Trinity College (now Trinity Washington University). Her father was a career Navy officer with assignments worldwide and in the Pentagon. Early in her career Joan's mother was a ballerina who operated a school of dance and elocution.

In 1958, Joan was first runner-up in the Miss Greenbelt contest, competing as Miss American Legion.

Joan received a bachelor's degree in history from Trinity and a master's degree in education from Johns Hopkins University. She taught high school history for four years in Baltimore County, where she met John Mohan. They were married on October 22, 1966.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, John and Joan lived in Ithaca, N.Y., while John pursued

a Ph.D. at Cornell University, and from 1971 to 72 they lived in the Soviet Union while he did research at Moscow State University. In 1973 John was hired to teach Russian Literature at Grinnell College, in Grinnell, Iowa. Joan worked as a substitute teacher in Grinnell schools until the birth of her son Jake (John Paul) in 1976. Her son Joseph was born in 1981.

In 1983, Joan became the director of Grinnell College's Reading Lab, where she spent nearly four decades helping students strengthen their reading, studying and English-language skills until her retirement in 2019.

Joan is preceded in death by her husband John; her parents, Henrietta and Joseph Haslinger; her brother Rev. Joseph T. Haslinger, Jr.; her brother John Paul Haslinger; and her sister Mary Haslinger Rogers. She is survived by her sons Jake (Amanda) and Joseph (Beth Skopp); granddaughter Elliott; and siblings Henrietta Bradley, Robert, Nancy, Henry, Thomas and Andrea.

Memorials may be designated to St. Mary Catholic Church, Grinnell, Iowa, or to Poweshiek County Democrats and mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 368, Grinnell, IA 50112. Memories and condolences may be shared with Joan's family online at smithfh.com. Funeral services were held in Grinnell, Iowa.

## Pancakes and Ashes At Community Church

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, will hold an annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 21, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The menu includes pancakes, sausage and scalloped apples. Donations are accepted.

On Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m., the church will hold an Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes. The service marks the beginning of the Lenten season. All are welcome to attend both events at an open and affirming church, located at 1 Hillside Road.

## St. Hugh's to Sponsor Mission Here in March

St. Hugh's Catholic Church is coordinating with other local Catholic parishes to co-sponsor a mission under the guidance of the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. The mission will be held on three evenings: Sunday, March 5 through Tuesday, March 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The location will be St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 11007 Montgomery Road, Beltsville.

The three nights will include Catholic speaker, musician and author Dan Harms along with the ministry team from the Franciscan University. Each night will include prayer, music and Eucharistic adoration as well as a time for refreshments and fellowship. There is a small registration fee. Visit [event.me/w8qyba](http://event.me/w8qyba). Call Mary Ann Tretler at St. Hugh's at 240-517-7559 for additional information.

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## PHOTOS continued from page 1

Greenbelt Lake. He then told Ken Briefel about the lake.

The photographers live from Fort Washington to Greenbelt to Gaithersburg, visiting the lake as often as every day. Many are in contact daily, at the lake or online, pointing out the day's wildlife, identifying species, reacting to each other's work and sharing skills including camera settings and composition. One retiree said, "It keeps me mentally strong, involved with people, in touch with the outside world and up to date."

Some capture many plants and animals; others focus on particular subjects. Kevin Higgins prefers reptiles: "I don't know much about them, so that's why I enjoy photographing them." For Michael Garcia, it's raptors. Marc Siegel is known for smartphone closeups from his kayak, and Raven Eyes Cagle her landscapes; Mick Morgan loves amphibians, Amy Wenzel birds and the great blue heron is Kathryn Beard's favorite.

They use smartphones, simple point-and-shoot cameras or complex cameras and lenses. Mike Kilberg's work demonstrates that successful wildlife photography doesn't require long experience and expensive cameras. He began in spring 2022 with a point-and-shoot camera, just in time to capture the barred owls nesting at the Lake that year. David Crissinger learned from Simpson that it's more about patience than gear, as when waiting for a creature to turn its head. Tom Statas said of his osprey flying with a fish, "It takes hours and hours to get a fish."

### Animal Behavior

Beard said orioles are "... very cool to see. The first week in May they start coming. When they first get here, they're so excited, flying around, then they pick a tree [pointing to a hanging nest still visible in January]. It's just fascinating seeing new things." Kilberg said herons are "... wonderful subjects, it's really fun to watch them fish." Wade Stephen said that late winter brings a variety of waterfowl as they migrate through Maryland.

Ken Nguyen shot from the ground with a very long lens for his close-up of a parent sheltering owlets from the cold. Simpson said owls deliberately nest near paths and people for protection from natural predators like red-shouldered hawks, which don't like to approach people and were also nesting at the lake (see Gloria Brown's baby hawks).

### Our Wildlife Neighbors

The exhibit opened with a high energy reception on Saturday, February 4, with about 200 attendees thronging the photos and hearing city environmental coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll tell how Greenbelt incorporates habitat protection in managing city green spaces. The man-made lake has become a natural ecosystem which the city supports with a mostly hands-off approach. Public Works (PW) leaves many dead trees, which owls need for nesting and hawks use as hunting perches. PW cages trees against beavers near paths for human safety, leaving uncaged trees elsewhere. PW promotes pollination with pollinator gardens and bee boxes and replaces invasive plants with competitive natives. These and other practices contribute to a diverse

population, including turtles, bullfrogs, beavers, stocked trout, owls, cormorants, kingfishers, egrets, ospreys, herons, geese, mallards, grebes, wood ducks, green-winged teals and mergansers. Carpenter-Driscoll said Cornell University's eBird observation database cites 167 confirmed bird species at the Lake.

### Patuxent Connection

Just as humans commute between home and work, waterfowl move between Greenbelt Lake and other waterways, including Lake Artemesia and Patuxent Research Refuge's Cash and Redington Lakes. Photographer Higgins said cormorants nest at Cash Lake and feed at Greenbelt Lake and eagles nest in the Beltsville Agriculture Research Center and feed at Greenbelt Lake. These waterways are part of green spaces extending from the 13,000-acre refuge south to the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. These and other connections such as regular Greenbelt visitors and volunteers at Patuxent, led to its hosting the exhibit.

### How About an Exhibit?

For years the photographers talked about exhibiting someday. In late 2021, Patuxent personnel told Simpson of a February 2023 gap in their gallery schedule, which he accepted for the group. When he asked them if they were interested in exhibiting, they were delighted and booked the dates. It took three months for 22 photographers to prepare an exhibit of one to three photos each.

### How Did You Do That?

One element of photography is composition, arranging visual elements within the image. Suzanne Flynn captured a curving line of four mallards that draws the eye to the most colorful duck, surrounded by golden water reflecting autumn leaf colors. Wenzel's egret photo applied camera settings and composition for unfocused background color to take the viewer's attention to the focused egret in the center foreground, where backlight glows through the feathers and highlights its sharply detailed beak and eye. The egret's stance is similar to its umbrella hunting position, whose shade helps it attract fish.

Crissinger's photo of a deer family shows a photo doesn't have to be large to tell a story. The mother and two fawns are playing in a shallow stream, the light on the mother's ears drawing the eye to their feet kicking up splashes of white water in the center, doubled by their reflections in the water. Family fun at the water park!

Want to learn more about these techniques? Simpson will speak at 11 a.m. each Saturday in February at the Patuxent Wildlife Visitor Center. The interactive discussion will address the perspectives, color, lighting and subject matter shown in these photos, as well as exhibition preparation and display formats.

### Patience

Please don't think these photographers show up, take a perfect photo and move on to the next perfect photo. These 47 photos represent many hours and many shots at the scene, and then a careful selection of shots that best illustrate the features or behavior that interested the photographer. It does take patience, but you can also "expect the unexpected," Crissinger said.

Another echoed him: "One of the things I really like about nature – it's never the same. I come here every day, the birds change, this year owls, the hawks' nest, waterfowl come and go, and I never know what I'm gonna see. That's what makes it fun."

Greenbelters Hilda and John commented, "It's amazing that all of this came from Greenbelt Lake. A lot of people don't know how much wildlife is nearby." When the photographers are asked "Where did you see that?", and answer "Greenbelt Lake" or "Lake Artemesia," they become local wildlife and green space evangelists to their listeners. A photographer said, "Lots of people don't get a chance to see this. If I share [my photos], maybe more people will appreciate the animals."

Vlad Tchompalov noted, "When you come here every day, you start to see patterns, you start to appreciate the nature, you see one bird and then others, you see more and more. You start to appreciate the beautiful ecosystem, and how interconnected the different species are. It was natural that we started to photograph it. It let us appreciate it in a whole new light."

Higgins said, "We're very lucky to have these parks, an oasis in urban sprawl ... Sometimes I'll hear someone in a park wishing kids would be quieter, and I tell them, 'If you like these parks, we've gotta get MORE kids to come out and fall in love, otherwise the parks will be gone because they'll say they're not important.'"

The exhibit is open through February 28 at the National Wildlife Visitor Center, 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, off Powder Mill Road south of Md. 193. The visitor center is open on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

- Photos by Erica Johns

### Mentor for Many

The photographers praise Graeme Simpson for mentoring, encouraging and advocating for them. Gloria Brown said, "Graeme is really one that has given me a lot of insight, how to shoot, what to shoot." From Mick Morgan: "Graeme here, explaining things to me about what these creatures are; he's an encyclopedia, he's done a great job on this."

Simpson printed, matted and framed over 25 percent of the photos, to boost the confidence of photographers with little to no printing or exhibit experience, who otherwise might not have participated. He said, "I get as much joy framing their photos as they do. There's something about community there, in helping them display their idea, what they saw in their image, of seeing them walk away happy. It makes me feel good, passing on that knowledge."



Gary Brown with hawk: "You turn into the trail and there was the hawk."



Mike Kilberg with his heron and baby owl, top row: "It's really fun to watch herons fish."



Osprey and prey by Tom Statas: "It takes hours and hours to get a fish."

**Greenbelt Lake  
Photographers exhibit  
February 1st -- 28th  
A talk  
about these photos  
and tips on exhibiting  
Every Saturday 11am  
at the Gallery**



National Wildlife Visitor Center  
John Hollingsworth Gallery  
10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop,  
Laurel, MD 20708

