Election 2023

Answers to Question 2

The News Review once again asked candidates for election to the Greenbelt City Council to respond to questions posed by this newspaper. Answers are limited to 150 words. If an answer exceeds the limit, the answer is cut off at that point. Here are the answers we received to our second question.

Question 2. How would you increase civic participation in city government, particularly from residents in Greenbelt East and West?

Bill Orleans

Contrary to the image many town have of ourselves, Greenbelt is not particularly a more progressive community than others, near or far. We think and act conventionally, if with a liberal tint, to enhance the character of a democratic, revolutionary tradition, how we are at ‘keeping’ our republic?

Much of the commentary in recent decades, on the loss of civic culture, has insufficiently noted that the loss has coincided with the growth of individual pursuits and “irresponsible” consumption. (I agree with Francis.)

Too few of us participate in city government, from every part of town. For some, it’s a matter of not knowing or caring; for others, it’s a matter of logistics. Council could (should) direct staff to facilitate, in different venues around town, more activities, food and child care provided, to grow connections of residents to other residents about advisory boards, when and where regular meetings can be implemented on a small scale. Participatory budgeting is a process where a portion of the city budget is allocated to a project that is nominated and chosen entirely by citizens. If people see the direct outcome of their voice, they will learn that the city cares about their input.

Jenni Pompi

The key to increase civic participation in city government is education – residents need to know where and how to start. Quarterly information forums across the city, with council members and staff, can inform residents about advisory boards, when and where regular meetings are.

See QUESTION 2, page 6

The 19th Annual Utopia Film Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, with 36 independent works at Building. Greenbelt Cinema and the Municipal Building. The festival will be held on Saturday, October 21, with 36 independent works at Building. Greenbelt Cinema and the Municipal Building.

Two Rivers film poster

Greenbelt’s 19th Utopia Film Festival Opens This Weekend

by Susan Gervasi

The big news of the Greenbelt City Council’s public safety briefing on Wednesday, October 11, was the 14 percent increase in vehicle thefts this year, compared to last year. The big driver for the increase is auto-related crime (465 percent higher than the same time last year, which was itself historically high). Auto theft has particularly escalated. In that category, vulnerable brands like Hyundai and Kia comprised 60 percent of vehicles stolen this year, though carjackings were down by 47 percent.

Citizen robberies (non-violent) increased from 31 to 42 a year to date over 2022. The geographical distribution of crimes remains typical, with more instances of all offences occurring to the west of Kenilworth Avenue.

Auto Crime and Juveniles

Juveniles are the perpetrators of much of the auto-related crime. Recent changes by Maryland’s law enforcement has resulted in more high-profile arrests, though teen and young offenders essentially sends the youths back home, only to re-offend. Of 47 juvenile arrests, many individuals were re-arrested several times – some up to five times.

In response to a question from Councilmember Judith Davis, Deputy Chief Tim White, Greenbelt Police Department, estimated that the 47 arrests amounted to perhaps half that number of separate offenders. B. Maryland’s new legal process for juveniles, the punishment for an offence is six-month’s probation and for multiple offences, up to one year of probation. A felony carries one year of probation. Greenbelt Police Chief Richard Bowers

One of the questions asked was contingent on the builder’s approval given to Royal Farms to begin the development of a Royal Farms store selling gas and fast-food chicken. The approval was contingent on the builder’s approval of city and county requirements for the preservation of a historic site. Despite the opposition of the City of Greenbelt, the Prince George’s County Planning Board in 2020 approved the building of a Royal Farms store selling gas and fast-food chicken on Greenbelt Road. The development of the site has begun with the clearing of a large area of woodlands, as many Greenbelters will have noted when driving by and as pictured in the October 12 issue of this paper.

A stop work order from the county lies on the ground near the construction entrance on Monday evening.

However, the planning approval given to Royal Farms was contingent on the builder’s observing a number of conditions, one of which was the preservation of the historic Toaping Castle site.

The 64-acre plantation, patented in 1757, was originally built of logs. The home of Isaac Walker and his family expanded over the years into a larger wood-framed structure, the hub of a small plantation worked by those they enslaved, which reached a size of 169 acres. He and his descendants occupied the site from mid-1700s until 1935. In 1935, the property was purchased by the federal government as part of the Greenbelt project.

See ROYAL FARMS, page 8

Stop Work Order Shuts Down Royal Farms Site Clearing

by Bonnie Schrack

The Royal Farms project was put temporarily on hold October 13 due to a violation of city and county requirements for the preservation of a historic site.

Despite the opposition of the City of Greenbelt, the Prince George’s County Planning Board in 2020 approved the building of a Royal Farms store selling gas and fast-food chicken on Greenbelt Road. The development of the site has begun with the clearing of a large area of woodlands, as many Greenbelters will have noted when driving by and as pictured in the October 12 issue of this paper.

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See ROYAL FARMS, page 8

Youthful Offenders Dominate Auto-related Crime Statistics

by Cathie Meetre

Auto-related Crime Statistics

by Cathie Meetre

The 19th Annual Utopia Film Festival will be held on Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, with 36 independent works at the New Deal Café, the Greenbelt Cinema and the Municipal Building.

The Festival, a project of Greenbelt Access Television (BA’s TV), offers features, documentaries, shorts and animation from independent film-makers around the world, across the nation and throughout the D.C. metropolitan region. This year’s many subjects include environmental threats, stories about complex human relationships, the psychological impact of Covid-19, the Vietnam War, the drama of “coming out” to one’s traditional family and a fight over some controversial New Deal murals.

Town Destroyer (4 p.m. Saturday, New Deal Café) documents a bitter 2019 battle over the fate of 13 Depression-era murals in a San Francisco high school. Images of slave-holding President George Washington, those he enslaved and defeated Native Americans raised hard questions for the city’s school board: Did the murals glorify enslaver Washing- ton? Were they a veiled critique of American history? Should they be painted over or protected?

American history is also examined in An Afternoon at My See UTOPIA, page 8

Two Rivers film poster

Stop What Goes On

Monday, October 23
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

What Goes On

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Election 2023
Question 3. Greenbelt has a lot of unused office space and retail space. Are there ideas you’d suggest or support for filling or repurposing it?
We ask candidates to submit their answers to the News Review by 6 p.m. on Monday, October 23, preferably by email to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com. Answers will be limited to 150 words.

Drop Us a Line!
Electronically, that is. editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

A Thank You To Our Neighbors
The members of Mishkan Torah would like to thank our Greenbelt neighbors for their show of support to us during the recent tragic events in Israel, including the flowers, verbal sup- port and written messages, and the locals who joined us for ser- vices and events. We are grateful to be in community with you all and hope that you know we are there for all of you as well.
B’shalom (In Peace),
Mishkan Torah Congregation

Ranked Choice Voting
This year’s city council elec- tions are unusually interesting, with a large (for Greenbelt) num- ber of candidates and several re- tiring incumbents. But voters will still be given a very blunt tool – a single mark next to the name with which to make their choice.

Bernard Kelly

Petra Sanchez (bottom right) and friends enjoy a Span- ish-dance exercise class at Greenbelt Nutricenter on Cherrywood Lane.

Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour
The cultural phenomenon continues on the big screen in this music documentary. Taylor Swift fans can immerse themselves in this once-in-a-lifetime concert film experience with a breathtaking, cinematic view of the history-making tour.

Killers of the Flower Moon
Based on David Grann’s broadly lauded best-selling book, the film, directed by Martin Scorsese, is set in 1920s Oklahoma and depicts the serial murder of members of the oil-wealthy Osage Na- tion, a crime that inspired crucial laws to be known as the Reign of Terror. Among the film’s stars are Leonardo DeCaprio, Robert De Niro, Jesse Plemons, Tommy Lee Jones, and Lily James.

Pedro Almodóvar: 2 Short Films
A double feature of new short films by the incomparable Pedro Almodóvar. In The Human Voice, a woman watches time passing next to the suitcase of her ex-lover (who is supposed to pick them up, but never arrives) and a restless dog who doesn’t understand what his master has abandoned him. The second film is Strange Way of Life, in which a man rides a horse across the desert that separates him from Bitter Creek. He comes to visit Sheriff Jake. Twenty-five years earlier, both the sheriff and Silva, the ranch- er who rides out to meet him, worked together as hired gunmen. Silva visits him with the excuse of reuniting with the friend from his youth, and they do indeed celebrate their meeting, but the next morning Sheriff Jake tells him that the reason for his trip is not to go down the memory lane of their old friendship.

Letters Policy during City Elections
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.

The News Review will not print letters endorsing candidates. The News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.

Letters to the Editor

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-379-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.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+ Captions CC + Closed Captions
DVS + Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES: OCTOBER 20th - 26th
Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour
(NR) (DVS) (2023) (165 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 8:00 PM
Sat. 7:00 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Thurs. 6:30 PM

Killers of the Flower Moon (R) (DVS) (2023) (306 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 3:30 PM
Sun. 1:45 PM (OC)
Mon. 12:30 PM, 5:00 PM
Wed. 6:00 PM
Thurs. 6:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 6:30 PM

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Celebrate 20th Year Of the Forest Preserve
Join in the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve on Sunday, October 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Northway Center. Put on your best outfit for this forest festi- ve — hiking boots are most welcome. See the story of how the Great North Woods were saved and become our Forest Preserve. Those who are actively caring for, protecting and speaking out for our forest will be recognized.
RSVP appreciated at suzanwild@gmail.com or call 434-388-2961.

GATE Shows Council Candidate Videos
With the elections getting closer, GATE Greenbelt Access Television will air a series of videos for all 11 candidates for the Greenbelt City Council and will be on display for viewing now on the GATE channel and website. In the videos, each can- didate was given three minutes to correspond to the question, “What would you like to see council accomplish in its next two-year term?”
To view these videos on de- mand, visit greenbeltaccess.org, scroll down to WATCH and click on the YouTube link. In ad- dition to their YouTube channel, GATE programming is available daily on Comcast channel 77 and Verizon FiOS channel 99. Their schedule is posted on their chan- nel websites.

Free Kite Fly Offered Saturday, October 21
Children of all ages are inv- ited to pack a picnic lunch at Schrom Hills Park on Saturday, October 21 from 2 to 3 p.m., sponsored by the Greenbelt Unplugged RUAK. SPACE: Free Art For All and Greenbelt Rotary. Free kite kits and decorating supplies are avail- able for children of all ages. No kite, no worries, there are many to share.

Pumpkin Festival Starts this Weekend
Greenbelt’s Pumpkin Festival is hosting three pumpkin-kin events this year. The Festival provides pumpkins, carving tools and the candles to light up the jack- o’lanterns. These volunteer-hosted events are funded by and support from the Greenbelt Rotary Club. Participation is free. To attend, October 20 at GATe Center there will be pumpkin carving from 4 to 8 p.m. These pumpkins will appear in the North Woods, just off Northway and Ridge Road, on Saturday, October 21 for a pumpkin walk from 6 to 9 p.m.
Saturday, October 21 at Schrom Hills Park, there will be pumpkin carving from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. with the pumpkins featured in a pumpkin walk from 6 to 9 p.m. Carving participants can take home their pumpkins after helping. This is part of Greenbelt’s Fall Fest and there will be fun activities for every- one.
Friday, October 27 at Spring- hill Lake Recreation Center there will be pumpkin carving begin- ning at 3:30 p.m. Participants will take their carved pumpkins home to light up the neighbor- hood.
The Festival needs volunteers for everything from advance planning, fundraising, making posters, acquiring and transporting pumpkins (both pre- and post-carving), helping with carv- ing, helping with clean-up, help- ing to arrange entertainment at the events and many other tasks. Volunteer by emailing greenbeltpumpkinfestival@gmail.com with the subject line: Volunteer.
Find information on facebook.com/GreenbeltPumpkinFestival. Questions can be directed to greenbeltpumpkinfestival@gmail.com.

Sacred Ground Dates Now Set
The Sacred Ground dialogue circle is designed as a safe space for difficult but respectful and transformative dialogue on race and racism. This 11-session series is set to begin Monday, October 29 and finish in April 2024. Reg- istration is still open. All sessions are 6 to 4 p.m. on Sundays, in- person in Greenbelt. Contact Jim Fischer at jfish2r2@verizon.net for the list of dates, so- cial questions and to sign up. Curriculum details are at episcopalchurch.org/ sacred-ground. Registration for each session includes watching 90 minutes of video and reading 55 pages of materials, all avail- able online.
At the Library
The Greenbelt Library is open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes
Friday, October 20, 11:15 a.m. Ages 2 to 3. Register at pgmls.info/event/9020758.
Monday, October 23, 10:15 a.m. Early childhood Reader. Register at pgmls.info/event/9020746.
Wednesday, October 25, 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. A storytime for ages 4 to 6. Register at pgmls.info/event/9020828.

Hatchlings: Ready to Hatch Season October 20-21, 11-11 a.m., ages 18+ (adults). Hatchlings: Ready to Hatch is an interac- tive early literacy program and expectant parents. Learn more about your-baby-to-be through songs and activities. Reg- istration is required at pgmls.info/ event/3096901.

Toastmasters Meet
The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join online every first, third and fifth Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone to work on their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt- toastmastersclub.org.

Astronomical Society To Meet October 26
The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 6 in the Greenbelt Community Center. ASG member Sue Bassett will give a presentation on The Drake Equation. The meeting is free and open to the public.

This is a hybrid in-person/ Zoom meeting. A Zoom link will be posted before the event at greenbeltastronomy.org/events.

Church Offers Festive Evening
On Saturday, October 21, join neighbors for a festive even- ing at the Greenbelt Christian Church, United Church of Christ. The evening starts with a spa- cious dinner from 5 to 6:30 p.m., followed by a live entertainment extravaganza from 6:45 to 8 p.m. The entertainment will include the premiere of Amy S. Hansen’s short comic play, Parking Garage Cabaret. A free-will donation will be accepted at the door, and all proceeds go to support local charities.
The annual Oktoberfest celebration returned to St. Hugh’s Catholic Church on Saturday, October 14. Dormant during the Covid-19 pandemic, the observance, open to the parish and public, featured traditional Bavarian-style cuisine, music by Phil Ventura and a raffle for attendees.

In addition to parishioners and other Greenbelt residents, guests of the event included Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan, and Prince George’s County Councilmember Ingrid S. Watson. Both were on hand to enjoy the sausage, pot roast, half chicken, lentils and noodles, goulash soup, potato soup and sausages prepared by and with the supervision of Silke Poppe, longtime member of the St. Hugh parish.

This was the first opportunity for Watson to attend. The former Bowie councilmember had been coming to Greenbelt for many years and was drawn to the event by its reputation. “It’s all about community and it’s really important to fellowship and coming together as neighbors and family, especially in a setting like this,” Watson said, enjoying her goulash soup. “It’s nice that people came out. It’s even better to fellowship in person than over Zoom.”

Jordan, a participant of many Oktoberfests of the past, was equally pleased to see people return to the event calling it an important part of the fabric and history of Greenbelt. “It’s incredibly good food, good people and a lot of fun,” he said. Noting the positivity of the movement toward greater social engagement, Jordan expressed the need for continued caution. Overall, he seemed encouraged by increased social interaction stating, “The civility is coming back.”

In addition to the efforts of Poppe, Oktoberfest at St. Hugh is an important part of the fabric and history of Greenbelt. “It’s incredibly good food, good people and a lot of fun,” he said. Noting the positivity of the movement toward greater social engagement, Jordan expressed the need for continued caution. Overall, he seemed encouraged by increased social interaction stating, “The civility is coming back.”


From left, Beverly Dziduch, County Councilmember Ingrid Watson, George Matthews and Mayor Emmett Jordan attend the Oktoberfest.

Greenbelt Community Church Donation Drive

The Greenbelt Community Church will collect clothing and small hard goods on Saturday, October 28 from 8 a.m. to noon and Sunday, October 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Place soft goods in plastic bags, hard goods in boxes that one person could carry and books in their own boxes. Oversized items cannot be accepted. Donations will be taken to Value Village, which pays the church. The church uses the funds to help local charities.

The church is located at 1 Hillside Road. For questions, contact Greenbelt Community Church office@greenbelthcc.org.

Mishkan Torah Invites All to Sunday @ MT

Mishkan Torah invites all to join its community for their first Sunday @ MT, on October 22 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. On offer will be a book club, birdwatching, a current events discussion, a playgroup for kids, and bagels and coffee. All are welcome to join in to get to know this community in a casual, fun setting. To register and provide suggestions, click on “Activities on Sunday Oct. 22” at mishkantorah.org.

Memorials Planned For Robert Lewis

A Memorial Service for Robert Lewis will be held at the River Road Unitarian Congregation, 6301 River Road in Bethesda on Thursday, October 26 at 11 a.m. If interested in transportation from Greenbelt to Bethesda email revlew@live.com (subject line transportation) by Monday, October 23 for more information.

A Remembering Robert Lewis event will be held at the Greenbelt American Legion on Saturday, October 28 from 2 to 4 p.m.
MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 23 - 27

Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 pm, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, On the Agenda: Meeting with PTA Presidents; Minutes of September Meeting. Grants Discussion

Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 pm, WORK SESSION - CITY MANAGER'S QUARTERLY UPDATE

Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 pm, SPECIAL MEETING / CLOSED SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORK SESSION

Thursday, October 26 at 7 pm, FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Special Board meeting; Volunteer Preliminary Discussion, Implementing Trails Plan, Pumpkin Walk Follow-Up, PFBP Provide Parking Plan for the Future

In advance, the hearing is advised to be used MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

FALL FESTIVAL
Saturday, October 21, 2 - 5 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 8511 Cherrywood Lane

Join us for our annual fall festival, presented by Greenbelt Recreation! With games, moon bounce, pumpkin decorating, hayrides, food, music, and more, you won’t want to miss out on all the fun! For more information, call Greenbelt Recreation at (301) 397-2270. In case of inclement weather, call our weather hotline (301) 474-0876.

SPONSOR THE 2023 GOLDFIELD WOOLIE 5K FAMILY RUN & WALK
Greenbelt Recreation is seeking local businesses and organizations interested in supporting the Goldfield Woolie and its continued success. Sponsorships range from $100 - $500. Depending on sponsor level, sponsorships may include logo placement on advertisements, on-shirts, promotional materials, and more. For our business or organization is interested in sponsoring this year’s event at Goldfield Woolie, please contact Recreation at (301) 397-2270 or by email at Noref@greenbeltmd.gov.

Leaf Vacuum Schedule | Fall 2023-2024
The City Public Works Department will begin collecting loose leaves from the following areas with the leaf vacuum from October 30, 2023 until January 2024. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove trash and stones from the plows as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents NOT to park in front of leaf piles.

October 30 - November 3

November 4 - 9

November 10 - 15

November 16 - 21

November 22 - 27

November 28 - December 3

December 4 - 9

December 10 - 15

December 16 - 21

December 22 - 27

Leaf Vacuum Schedule | Fall 2023-2024

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 welcoming, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

OFFICIAL NOTICE
In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(1) and (7) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, immediately following the Council Work Session – City Manager, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; 2) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

The purpose of this meeting is (1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; (2) to consult with counsel regarding outstanding legal matters.

The public may attend the Council Work Session prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION
TRANSPORTATION TO POLLING PLACES
On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, the Greenbelt Connection will provide free transportation to polling places for City voters between the hours of 8:30 am and 3:30 pm. Citizens are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes before their scheduled time should call.

GREENBELT CONNECTION: (301) 474-4100
to schedule their transportation. In addition, the bus will make scheduled picks up at

GREEN RIDGE HOUSE AT 10:30 AM AND 2:30 PM
and will return to Green Ridge House after the voters have cast their ballots at the Community Center.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION
As required by Section 14 of the City Charter, Greenbelt will hold a regular City Election on

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023
Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm

Any qualified registered voter with an address within the corporate limits of the City of Greenbelt may vote in City elections.

If you have any questions regarding the upcoming election, please call the City offices at (301) 474-8000, use Maryland Relay (711), or send an email to the City Clerk at banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

A sample ballot is available on a link at the Municipal Building and on the City website at www.greenbeltmd.gov/.

CITY ELECTION INFORMATION
EARLY AND MAIL-IN VOTING
ANY REGISTERED GREENBELT VOTER MAY CHOOSE TO VOTE BY EARLY VOTING OR MAIL-IN!

NO MORE EXCUSES!
EARLY VOTING: Any qualified voter of the City of Greenbelt may choose to vote by EARLY VOTING.

EARLY VOTING DATES AND LOCATIONS
Greenbelt Community Center – (15 Crescent Road)
Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm
Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse – (6915 Hanover Parkway)
Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center – (6101 Cherrywood Lane)
Saturday, November 4, 10 am – 3 pm
Sunday, November 5, 10 am – 3 pm

MAIL-IN BALLOTS
Mail-in ballots must be received (by 6 pm) 11/07 for the Greenbelt Election.

For additional information, contact Bandina Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.
QUESTION 2 continued from page 1

and events are hosted, instruction on how to sign up for email and text notifications from the city and give citizen the opportunity to share what they need to become more involved.

Greenbelt must meet citizens where they live because it gives them more access and shows these residents the city cares about their issues and opinions. Occasionally holding council meetings and worksessions in different areas of the city may also increase participation, particularly for those residents for whom transportation is a barrier.

Increasing communication is also vital. Establishing communication with property management, condo boards and homeowners’ associations could help disseminate more information.

Matthew Inzeo

The tradition of civic participation defines Greenbelt. We have committees for everything, including some that other cities never imagined. Even so, we need citizen participation in important problems right now.

Ideas:
- Crime. Neighborhood-level cops with Coffee meetings of citizens and police on ways to reduce crime.
- Recreation. Meetings with recreation leaders and parents on improving recreation facilities and programs.
- Representation. Facilitating a Greenbelt East Advisory Committee, like the long-standing Greenbelt East Advisory Committee, with Franklin Park’s neighborhoods.
- Youth participation. More emphasis on civic participation of young people, especially our Eleanor Roosevelt students, including the Youth Advisory Committee.
- Voter participation. Voting in city elections, especially in Greenbelt East and West, has historically lagged. Every Greenbelt voter, including teens, is registered with the city by voting on November 7. “Greenbelt is Great,” but it could use more participation.
- Ric Gordon

This question truly hits home for me because for nearly a decade I have been working to strengthen engagement throughout our city. Long before I was elected to council in 2021, I started Greenbelt Voices Rising in November of 2017 to increase engagement and outreach to raise

the engagement of both Greenbelt East and West. I have sponsored events through GBVR such as panel voter empowerment and outreach rallies that focused on municipal and voting importance to increase registration. I have worked to bring other sponsors to hold outreach events such as pride fest, school supply giveaways and holiday events promoting to all Greenbelters to show we are One Greenbelt East, West and Center. I plan to continue the work I have already been doing to spread awareness of the importance of getting involved with our local government and city activities through volunteers on boards, committees and commissions.

Silke Pope

Civic participation by residents can be increased by residents knowing how to contact city council, city management and city committees. We need to encourage residents to voice their ideas and concerns to these civic organizations through multiple channels. But civic participation isn’t just about communicating with political bodies. Civic participation is about engaging with your community in whatever way that is meaningful to you. Whether political, social or recreational, we need to inspire not only adult participation but child and youth participation. As I have worked a long time in the educational field at both Greenbelt Middle School and Springhill Lake Elementary, I have continually promoted civic participation to my children. Children will eventually be the next generation to govern our community, so the earlier they are encouraged to participate in any and all civic groups that interest them, the healthier our community will be in the future.

Danielle McKinney

As a Greenbelt West resident, my goal is to meet residents where they are, know who they are, what they need and build connections showing how they can participate civically. I’d like to help illuminate the views and beliefs of our culturally diverse community and why, when and how people engage civically. I would prioritize holding meetings, town halls and activities and expand city facilities in Greenbelt East and West creating greater inclusion and equity.

People are engaged and learn best from small bite-sized pieces of information. I would find creative ways to streamline and communicate city activities and highlight ways people serve.

Prioritize social media for short, time-sensitive messages. Use targeted emails/lists for specific interests/audiences.

Finally, our ARPA Community Group grants should yield results that improve civic engagement.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides luncheons for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

Fall Auto Sale

Rates as low as 4.9% apr*

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*annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit.

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Spending and reporting on spending under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was a major theme at the October 9 regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council. In addition, council considered the state’s Capital Transportation Plan for 2024 through 2029.

ARPA Actions
Council approved the proposed bicycle and pedestrian project list to be used completing ARPA funded projects. They identified $2.35 million that could be reallocated to other projects. The council discussed the projects and would like to see evidence of the projects awarded. It was noted that the projects awarded are generally larger than the projects they are replacing.

Council also approved a reallocation of some ARPA funds from projects that they do not believe will be completed. The most notable project is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The estimated cost of the projects totals $274,400 but a number of the projects do not yet have estimated costs. Council allocated $300,000 in ARPA funds toward this use, so all of the projects on the list may be implemented, particularly as costs for some items have increased significantly.

More controversial was a water station for the dog park, a project long urged by Councilmember Silke Pope. Having water for the dogs was generally supported but Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted this project would not be completed by December 2024 as required, and must be completed by them; any contract would be completed by December 2025. Any unspent funds must be returned to the Treasury.

There was a discussion of two pots: lost revenue and ARPA. The lost revenue funds can be used for any purpose while the ARPA funds are limited to Covid-related purposes.

Council reviewed the existing projects, located at spending versus estimates and the likelihood that the projects could be completed by the deadlines, and identified $2.35 million that could be reallocated to other projects.

Councillor Silke Pope was concerned that this would not be enough money to do the job right. Pope said she did not buy the $120,000 cost. She suggested more projects could be continued.

Pope stressed the need to find revenue sources beyond property tax to fund programs. She also called for the city to provide a narrative on its website to tell the story of how the ARPA funds were distributed.

Business Grants
Economic Development Manager Kevin Simpson reported that his office has awarded $10,300 Business Improvement and Recovery Fund grants, with more expected. In addition, four $50,000 Business Capital Infrastructure Fund grants have been awarded with more grants to come.

Stage
Council approved a staff request to use ARPA funds.

See ARPA, page 12

Prepared for the Wild Rumpus by Rebecca Squire

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites families and children of all ages to attend a joyful celebration of creative transformation in Roosevelt Center. The Wild Rumpus Halloween rave returns this year on Friday, October 27, starting at 4:30 p.m.

For more program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.
The Utopia Festival takes its name from Greenbelt’s origins as an FDR-era “utopian” town, ideally constructed to foster community civic involvement. Each year, an all-volunteer committee evaluates submissions from independent filmmakers to choose works aimed at the festival’s mission to help build “a better world through film.” See utopiafilmfestival.org.

A fence has now been erected around the historic site, as photographed on October 16.

The approval for Royal Farms to go ahead with their proposal was given by the county in January 2021. It states that the historic site “is to be preserved.” A more detailed section cites the Planning Board’s adoption of a series of recommendations from the Historic Preservation Commission which include, among others, the use of a “super silt fence around the historic site during construction” to prevent damage. Representatives of Greenbelt’s Planning and Community Development office along with a historic preservation office along with a historic preservation section of the County’s Planning Department, visited the Toaping Castle site on October 10 and saw that no such fence was in place and that there was damage to the site. They found that the contractor’s work was clearly outside the permitted actions. On October 13, the city and the county’s Department of Permitting, Inspections and En-

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Tooping Castle site on October 13.

Tooping Castle site and the stop work order has been lifted.

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In the Wednesday, October 11 Greenbelt City Council worksession on public safety, City Manager Josué Salmerón introduced Police Chief Richard Bowers, who in turn presented Deputy Chief Tim White, Captain Jermaine Gulledge, Animal Services Director Walter Rivers Solres, Lieutenant Mike Parsley, Lieutenant Mike Probyn and Criminal Incident Team Supervisor Rachel Probyn.

Crime statistics, particularly those including youthful offenders and auto-related offenses are dealt with in a separate article. **Staffing**

Setting the scene, Bowers told of the department’s authorized strength of 53 sworn officers, currently at 50 after some resignations, with 24 civilian positions. Speed camera tickets must be approved by a sworn officer, but whenever possible non-sworn staff are used (e.g., technology and records). The city’s police team also includes criminal investigators, record specialists and parking enforcement.

Bowers noted that a new academy was about to start, but that meant 10 months until new officers graduate. A primary function is patrol division, providing day-to-day operations. Gulledge, lead of the patrol division, described their three daily shifts as having each usually six but optimally seven officers. There are nine officers who rotate on night shifts. In addition, Patrol Division deploys Community Action Teams to provide school and bike coverage/patrols as well as event support and coordinating managing evidence and investigations. The department is also working on developing canine patrols. Criminal investigators work on rape, robbery and homicide – violent felonies – and the department is anticipating a partnership with the U.S. Marshals Service to apprehend violent and repeat offenders who take up residence here.

**Council Support**

Councilmember Judith Davis interposed to point out that although Bowers had noted that the number of sworn officers hasn’t increased in 20 years, this is not because council hasn’t authorized additional spending. She added that as soon as the city hires a few new officers, an equal number either retire, move on, or have to be asked to leave.

Bowers replied that the department successfully recruits officers, but bigger departments or other investigative agencies with bigger budgets and a larger scope for advancement tempt officers away. He acknowledged they needed innovative ways to keep staff engaged, acknowledging that it’s more cost-effective to retain than train. In response to Councilmember Silke Pope, Bowers said that each new officer costs $22,000 per year and that, even if they had 70 slots, the positions would be challenging to fill.

**Community Policing**

Rachel Probyn spoke on community policing and the crisis response teams authorized by the council in July of 2022. After a 60-day ramp-up they became one of the only five Maryland jurisdictions with that capability and the only municipal force.

Greenbelt fields two crisis counselors and a police officer. The current organization is supported by American Rescue Plan Act funds, which will disappear in 2023. The department is also expecting to have a wellness check every two years.

**Animal Services**

Walter Rivers Solres explained that there is a capacity issue resulting from limited space and below-complement staffing currently two of three assigned full-time staff plus volunteers. The facility can hold up to six dogs and 16 cats. The office gets 12 to 50 calls per day trying to surrender animals, and if the facility runs out of space animals are referred to the county shelter. Rivers Solres urged those in attendance to spay or neuter their animals.

**Commercial Vehicle Parking**

In response to Councilmember Rodney Roberts’ question about parking of commercial vehicles, particularly in the area near Franklin Park, Bowers replied that the department is working on having a wellness check every two years.

**Talk Health Event At the Library**

Monday, October 23, 11 a.m., ages 18+ (adult). Under the supervision of registered nurses, University of Maryland School of Nursing students will conduct free weekly health screenings, referrals, health education and classes on a variety of topics. The topic for this week’s 12:30 p.m. lunchtime discussion is diabetes. The full schedule is available at pgemls.info/event/8976249.

**Five years of crime statistics for months January through August show the sudden acceleration in the last two years.**

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GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW Thursday, October 19, 2023
Comparison of demand for police service requests for January through September 2022 and 2023 characterized the Maryland statute as well intentioned, but with unforeseen consequences. Bowers informed council that it seemed likely that the Maryland State Assembly would address this in the next legislative session, with council inclined to communicate their position on it to the legislature.

In reference to the recent deaths of four non-resident youths who were driving recklessly in a vehicle stolen in Greenbelt, White noted that Greenbelt officers do not pursue fleeing vehicles because the danger to all concerned—officers, bystanders, other motorists and those fleeing—it is too great. They attempt to stop the car but if it accelerates away, they don’t chase but instead attempt to identify and locate the vehicle by other means.

Juvenile Crime
Greenbelt’s police department and recreation department have taken encouraging steps to reach out to young people at risk of criminal behavior. A successful public safety camp this year involved 10 young offenders and exposed them for a week to various aspects of public safety and emergency services. Plans are in progress to repeat and expand a similar program next year.

The city is also enhancing its public safety explorers camp this year and open it to middle school students. Captain Jermaine Gulledge noted that they also expected to take encouraging steps to reach out to young people at risk of criminal behavior. A successful public safety camp this year involved 10 young offenders and exposed them for a week to various aspects of public safety and emergency services. Plans are in progress to repeat and expand a similar program next year.

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Greenbelt Police Department reported one death, one domestic dispute, one sexual assault and one contact with Child Protective Services. On October 12 near 7800 Mandan Road, a missing person case was resolved.

Juveniles Involved

Attempted Vehicle Theft

On October 9 officers responded to Beltway Plaza for an attempted vehicle theft. Two boys and a girl were noted as the suspect and a brief chase was initiated with the help of a Berwyn Heights officer. They were caught, identified and released to their parents pending charges for attempted motor vehicle theft.

Robbery

On October 13 at 2:35 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a boy was followed home from school by a classmate who displayed a knife and demanded his belongings.

Break-in

On October 9 at 9:36 p.m. near 5999 Springhill Drive, a woman found money missing from her nightstand.

Threats

On October 11 at 3:45 p.m. near Hamilton Place, a resident threatened groundskeeping staff by spraying them with a hose into his yard, he would have a buckshot and said he’d had “two beers.”

Disorderly Arrest

On October 13 at 9:39 p.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a man who had been banned from the property was arrested for harassing a woman.

DUI Arrest

Three drivers this week were given the standard field sobriety tests and displayed multiple signs of impairment, leading to their arrest.

On October 10 at 10:53 p.m. a blue Ford Ecoline was sitting still on 495 North. As police approached, the vehicle drove forward and stopped multiple times. The driver had bloodshot eyes and alcohol on his breath, and said he’d had “two beers.”

On October 14 at 12:30 a.m. a woman was arrested after crashing her car on the median near Crescent Road and Kenilworth Avenue. On October 14 at 2:07 a.m. near Beezreek Drive and Cherrywood Drive, a man was arrested after driving erratically with two flat tires. His eyes were glassy and watery and he denied having any alcoholic beverages despite the odor of alcohol. He then said he only had two beers at the club.

Fraud

On October 9 near 24 Ridge Road, someone in the area online led to unauthorized chargers on a debit card.

On October 13 near 7200 Hanover Parkway, checks did not go through.

Theft

On October 9 near 8150 Lakewood Circle, items including watches and jewelry were missing from an apartment.

On October 11 at 1:30 a.m. near 6700 Village Park Drive, a woman met a man online who drove her to Greenbelt, stole her phone, and left her there.

Residential package theft occurred October 10 near 1 Westway and October 11 near 5801 Cherrywood Terrace.

Commercial Theft

On October 9 at 9:30 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two women stole merchandise.

On October 10 at 1:14 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two women stole $500 worth of T-shirts. On October 11 at 2:11 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a wallet.

On October 11 at 6:20 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man who had been banned from the store stole several items; charges are being filed.

On October 12 at 2:00 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole clothing.

On October 13 at 9:53 a.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise.

Vandalism of Residence

On October 11 at 2:41 p.m. near 9200 Edmonston Road, a rock was thrown that broke a bedroom window. The resident was home and a camera caught the thrower of the rock.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

Seven vehicles were stolen including two Hyundais and two Kias: On October 10 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2021 Kia Forte (Md. 4EZ5742) containing the owner’s wheelchair, and also near 9300 Edmonston Road a 2017 Hyundai Tucson (Md. 9EM4676) containing military equipment and uniform clothing.

On October 11 near 6000 Bleezreek Drive, a Hyundai Elantra (Md. TEK5638), and near 8003 Lakewood Circle, a 2018 Infiniti Q50 (Md. 6FP9550), on October 12 near 8009 Breet Place, a 2014 Ford Escape (Md. 1BH1883), and near 9300 Ed- monston Road, a 2017 Kia Sorento (Md. 3JW7334), and on October 15 near 6100 Bleezreek Drive, a Chevy Suburban (Md. 6IW4290).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On October 9, a 2016 Hyundai Elantra, stolen from Laurel, was found near Ora Glen Drive and G Court with a damaged window and ignition. On October 10, a 2011 Hyudais Sonata, stolen from Breezwood Park, was found near 7300 Hanover Parkway with a damaged window and ignition. On October 13, a stolen Hyundai was observed driving with a window and ignition recovered near 7800 Mandan Road.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

Five vehicles had windows broken and ignition damaged: a 2018 Hyundai Accent near 5807 Cherrywood Terrace; a 2017 Kia near 6105 Bleezreek Court; a vehicle near 9300 Edmonston Road; a Hyundai Elantra near 8000 Mandan Road; and a 2011 Kia Sportage near 34 Crescent Road.

Airbags were stolen from five Honda Civics: On October 10 near 8100 Lakewood Drive; on October 11 near 7700 Lakewood Drive; on October 14 near 9100 Edmondston Road; on 6200 Springfield Drive and 6200 Springfield Court. Tags were stolen on October 3 near 5900 Cherrywood Road (Md. 6FG8409), on October 13 near 9900 Bleezreek Drive and on October 15 near 6000 Greenbelt Road.

On October 14 near 8200 Canning Terrace, all four tires were stolen from a Honda Civic, and on October 15 near 6400 Ivy Lane, the rims were stolen from a Toyota Corolla.

On October 10 near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway, personal items were stolen including a laptop and tablet. On October 12 near 200 Luster Lane, a vehicle was rammaged through. On October 13 near 6100 Springfield Terrace, personal items were stolen. On October 13 near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, a laptop was stolen.

Near Southway and Ridge Road, a vehicle had a broken window. Near 8000 Mandan Road, a vehicle’s seats were cut open, the mirror was torn off and the dashboard was damaged. Near 121 Centerway a vehicle had two punctured tires.

Missing Greenbelt Teenager

Missing Greenbelt Teenager Located, Others Still Missing

Five youths who were part of an organized outing to Skate Zone in Crofton on Saturday became critical missing persons when the group is thought to have run away during the outing. One of those missing was 13-year-old Branden “Kai” Heagy, from Greenbelt. Kai was located Wednesday afternoon, after four days missing. Police have also safely located the eldest member of the group, 17-year-old Benja-

bined. The five teens were last seen together at approximately 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, October 14 at the Skate Zone at 1082 Crain Highway in Crofton. On Monday, 48 hours after the disappearance of the group, the Anne Arundel County Police Department released a flyer depicting the five, noting that due to their ages there are concerns for their well-being. At the time of press, the youths who remain missing are Fuzeah “Zeah” Alquthami, 13, Aiden Jones, 15, and Avery Peaceman, 16.

Anyone with information on their whereabouts is asked to contact the Anne Arundel County Police Missing Persons Unit at 410-222-4731.
Council and DPIE Investigate Mutual Issues at Worksession

by Cathie Meetre

On September 20, Greenbelt Council met in a worksession with the Prince George’s County Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE). Mayor Emmett Jordan noted the long-term and continuing problem of excessively long lead-times for permits (quoting up to a year for Use and Occupancy permits) and difficulties in locating city and county requirements. Among the DPIE representatives were Lori Parris, senior advisor; Yvette Gayles, information technology; and Robert Gentry, enforcement. The major topics occupied the meeting: rent stabilization, permits and short-term rentals. In all cases, DPIE suggested using the county’s 311 system to get assistance; see princegeorgescountymd.gov/community-relations/pgc311.

Rent Stabilization

The county council earlier this year passed a one-year rent stabilization bill, enforced by DPIE, which allows rent increases to 3 percent. Interpretation of this has proved thorny, partly due to varying interpretations of what utilities are included in the rent. If a landlord raises the rent by what the renter believes is more than 3 percent, the renter may appeal the increase and request a hearing – but can only appeal an additional rent while their appeal progresses or be subject to eviction procedures. The council was told this is a Greenbelt issue due to recent turbulence over Charles Town North apartments, whose new owners (who inherited many empty apartments) recently began dividing the utility bill among the occupied apartments, significantly raising tenants’ monthly payments. Greenbelt Jenni Pomeroy wondered if the residents could request a collective review, but Parris replied that although perhaps a meeting with DPIE could be arranged as a group, each renter’s case would have to be dealt with separately.

Momentum Permit System

Parris introduced the department’s new permit application system, which tracks permit applications from initial submission to approval. Parris noted that as patterns of delay emerge, the data from Momentum can help DPIE address chokepoints. She also stated that organizations applying who were not locally based or who were using architects and engineers based outside the area were often delayed due to incomplete local knowledge. She encouraged applicants to utilize locally-based vendors. Parris pointed out that the system provides information to all classes of users: DPIE itself, applicants and the public.

Gayles explained that Momentum is a multi-year implementation currently running in parallel with the legacy system (ePermits) which will stay in place until the permits it holds are closed out. New applications go into Momentum. The changeover, however, has resulted in increased volume of questions and a steep learning curve. As of October 12, there was a message on the DPIE website noting significant delays in permitting. In response to a question from Jordan, Parris stated that a separate Business Development office in DPIE was focused on helping small businesses navigate the process.

Homeowner Permits

Councilmember Rodney Roberts inquired about homeowner permits, asking how Momentum affects them. Parris explained that the walk-in system was still available but, since Covid, office traffic has significantly dropped and she commented that “millennials prefer to do everything online.” In addition, the Virtual Permit Center is designed for homeowners during a one- or two-day review process where DPIE staff assist applicants online.

Municipal Input

Jordan brought up the city’s permit requirements; those requesting permits first apply to the city. Parris explained that DPIE has no authority to enforce a city-based permit step. Jordan pointed out, as a result, permits are issued without the city knowing of the development. Greenbelt Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby explained that her office receives a list of county permits issued and can croscheck to see which ones they already have information on and proceed accordingly. DPIE representatives noted their willingness to work with the city to coordinate but reiterated that they could not enforce a city regulation.

Short Term Rentals

DPIE’s Gentry spoke to the growing issue of short-term rentals through Airbnb and similar online vendors, though Hruby noted that there were only a couple of known instances in Greenbelt. Permits allow only 90 or 180 days of short-term rental per property in a year, depending on occupancy by the owner. All such rentals must be in a house that is the primary residence of the owner, and the platform used (e.g., Airbnb or VRBO) must be licensed in the county. Applications require documentation and, for condominiums or cooperatives, the organization’s bylaws must permit this use.

Food Trucks

DPIE no longer enforces food truck hubs after recent legislation but confirmed to Hruby that the city can create its own restrictions for food truck operation and location, subject then to the city’s oversight and not the county’s. To vend on private property, the truck owner must have permission. Parris said that it is likely that the statute will undergo more revisions and should be considered a work in progress. Bonnie Schrack assisted in researching this story.

FALL FEELINGS AT GREENBELT CO-OP

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Purple Line construction zone on East-West Highway, saying the road is “practically undriveable.”

Proclamations

Jordan presented proclamations declaring October Cooperative Month, Breast Cancer Awareness Month and recognizing October 9 as Indigenous Peoples Day in Greenbelt.

Royal Farms

City Manager Jouie Salmerin noted that the property next to the Honda dealership on Greenbelt Road has been cleared for the Royal Farms convenience store and gas station. While agreeing that the sight of the site has been shocking, he told council that the extent of tree clearing was in compliance with the plans approved by the county.

(The city did not learn until later that week that the fence to protect the Historic Site of Topping Castle had not been constructed as required. See story, p.1.)

Other Actions

Council approved without discussion as part of the consent agenda a renewal of the News Review’s lease at the Community Center.

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$50 fine and the impound fees were considered by the truckers merely a normal cost of doing business. Roberts appeared to be concerned that smaller vehicles, such as a small contractor’s pickup, would be swept up in the same way. However, Bowers explained that only large vehicles – larger box trucks and 18-wheelers – were subject to the fines and towing. But smaller vehicles were subject to the 14-day parking limit. Bowers noted that somewhere to keep these large trucks was a clear need not currently met locally.

Technology

Bowers described plans to use license plate reading cameras. Criminals use stolen cars when committing crimes, and being able to spot a bogus or stolen license plate heading into town is a way to rapidly deploy a police presence. As an example, he pointed out that the original area of Greenbelt has only three ways into the city – via Southway and Lakecrest from Greenbelt Road and Crescent Road at Kenilworth. Greenbelt Station has a single access. The live alert can catch a stolen car crossing the barrier or assist in investigating prior incidents. The new systems allow search by color and other refinements.

The Public Safety Advisory Committee is in support of a camera network; it’s funded, and Salmerón says he is expecting proposals. Meeting participants were surprised that the cost of a license-plate reader was only about $55 per camera everything included. About 20 quarters are anticipated.

Comments from the Floor
Resident Justin Baker spoke from the floor in full support of the license-plate readers. He noted that, “We can’t arrest our way out of crime.” He stated he thought the court system was failing residents, especially the juvenile court, and suggested a public investigation into their negligence. He also referred to two recent incidents in Greenbelt Center, and requested that the area get its “fair share” of routine patrols.

Resident Bill Orleans asked about reporting and the newer system that the FBI favored (National Incident Based Reporting). White explained that, in fact, Maryland required the older one so they were reporting in both modes. Prince George’s County also required its own reporting. White hoped that these inconsistencies would be resolved by the new year and result in reporting based on the FBI format.

Mayor Emmett Jordan asked about the traffic dashboard. Bowers said it is available online already but only updated monthly. The second is the crime data dashboard which is in the troubleshooting phase so it is not yet publicly available.

In a lively debate on CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) – the quality level against which police departments are measured – Davis was emphatic in her desire that Greenbelt remain at the high level it had achieved for many decades. Bowers suggested that maintaining consistency with over 400 requirements, many of which did not apply to a municipal entity, was something that should be reconsidered. He said that most local jurisdictions maintain the standard one level lower than Greenbelt’s. Davis remained unconvinced.

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Notice of the Annual Membership Meeting

The Greenbelt Community Cooperative Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.
Greenbelt Community Center Gym
15 Crescent Rd. Greenbelt, MD 20770

According to the Co-op’s bylaws, 25 members constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, those present can schedule another meeting, which can proceed even in the absence of a quorum.

Note: Voting members have $100 or more in their member capital account.

WORKSESSION

continued from page 9

Candidates Sought
For Co-op Board
Greenbelt Consumer Coopera-
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tion at its annual meeting on Sat-
day, November 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Community Center gym. Members interested in serving as directors can pick up nomination forms at the customer service office or email to board@greenbelt.coop by Sunday, October 22. GCC does not ac-
cept nominations at the annual meeting.

Mary Murchison-Edwards poses with the News Review at Pilot Mountain State Park in Pinnacle, North Carolina.

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ERHS Girls Soccer Team Still on a Roll

by Patrick Gleason

As the soccer season heads into the final week of the regular season, hoodies and blankets have started to populate the sidelines in response to the now regular fall weather. But the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Raiders soccer program continues to produce results that provide just as much warmth – catalyzed by the evident bond between teammates. Both the junior varsity and varsity squads enjoyed victories over Laurel High School on October 12. The JV notched an 8-0 win with plenty of excitement and celebration as Iris Gaycken, Anna Grim and twins Yadira and Karina Reyes Carranza each scored their first goals of the season. Freshman forward Alina Kargbo netted two goals herself, while classmates Treasure Wogu and Julia Visnic also added to the Raider total.

The varsity squad celebrated senior night with a 4-0 triumph and Kaia Booker, Victoria Tans. Juniors Gabriella Martinez and Alyssa Casey combined for three goals. Senior Addison Green, wearing no. 20, has captained the junior varsity squad to a successful season thus far.

Roosevelt controlled the first game with Holy Child, guided by Swart’s hat trick. Two of her goals came after Tiger defenders fouled Savage in the box, resulting in penalty kick conversions, which Swart calmly slotted into the corner of the net. Sophomore Claudia van der Have assisted Swart’s other goal as the Raiders earned their ninth victory of the season. Elkton defeated Holy Child 3-0 in the middle game, while the Raiders and Golden Elks fought to a 0-0 tie in the final.

Then, on October 16, Roosevelt defeated an overmatched Northwestern 6-0. Freshman Claire Alolga scored twice, while van der Have, Autumn Freeman, Mahaalet Dejenie and Obisesan joined in the scoring fun. Obisesan, the team captain and three-year starter at centerback, scored her first goal of the season with a well-placed shot from distance after a Raider corner kick. Both teams travel to Oakland Mills on October 19 where they will seek to continue generating their own warmth, regardless of the weather.

Sophomore Addison Green, wearing no. 20, has captained the junior varsity squad to a successful season thus far.
**HUG Walk Connects Greenbelt Residents from West to East**

by Cavít Ireland

Greenbelt residents joined together on Sunday, October 15, at this year’s annual Help Unite Greenbelt (HUG) Walk. Dozens joined the pack and held signs with positive messages as their route connected the city. Some picked up trash, others pushed strollers and everyone wore a smile. The sun dipped in and out of the clouds as participants made their brisk stroll. The walk began at the entrance to Indian Spring Trail on Cherrywood Lane at 1:30 p.m. and stopped at a few locations along the way: Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Bud- dy Attick Park, Roosevelt Center, Greenbriar Community Center, Windsor Green Community Center, concluding at Schrom Hills Park.

Festivities at the end included music from the tie-dye-clad HONK! Situation band, cake and laughter. More people joined the walk this year than last, according to Pat Astill, a member of the Greater Greenbelt Volksmarchers, a local branch of the noncompeti- tive, international fitness walking club known as volksmarching. Astill loves how friendly every- one in Greenbelt is and thinks it’s amazing how a lot of dif- ferent people come together for a good cause. The HUG Walk allows community members to meet each other, get exercise and promote positivity through acts of kindness and selflessness, says Astill.

“You know, Greenbelt was built as a walking community,” Astill explained. She and other volunteers lined the route with sky blue HUG and Volunteers Universal messages. The walk allows residents to visit parts of Greenbelt they nor- mally don’t explore, furthering the connection between all parts of the city and its people. Aileen Kroll, a spokesperson for the event, said one goal of the walk is to break down divisions among Greenbelt residents.

The tradition, which began in 2013, is “the embodiment of Greenbelt,” said Kroll. “Some- body has an idea and they just bring it to fruition,” she ex- plained. Kroll credits the impact of the HUG Walk to the care of the volunteers and Robert Goldberg-Strassler. “This particu- lar walk is all Robert’s mission, bringing people together,” she said.

Goldberg-Strassler founded the organization Random Unself- ish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) in 2017. “This is one of the many, many things he does for the community, like picking up trash throughout all of Greenbelt all year round,” Kroll said. RUAK was one of 65 co-sponsors of this year’s walk.

Greenbelt was built as a Green Town, back in 1937. Three Green Towns were built in the U.S. in the 1930s in an attempt to provide affordable housing to the working class as the Great Depression ended. The result is a city with a mix of urban and sub- urban life. “Eleanor Roosevelt re- ally spent a lot of time watching the development of Greenbelt,” said Astill. Kroll believes the spirit of Greenbelt is strong and deep- rooted. “The social justice core of Old Greenbelt remains from 1937 clear through to the present time, as evidenced by all of this,” she said. “Everything that many of us do is all about ‘What do we need to do to make things better?’”

Cavit Ireland is a student with the University of Maryland’s Philip- py Magrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.

Dear Greenbelt neighbors,

I am writing to ask for your vote on November 7th. Two years ago I promised that I would put myself in the best position I could to fight the proposed BEP industrial development on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). Subsequently, another Greenbelt resident and I filed a NEPA lawsuit against the U.S. Treasury.

I am happy to report that because of our lawsuit, Treasury has been forced to abandon its plans to dump 120,000 gallons of polluted wastewater daily into Beaverdam creek, an action that would directly affect thousands of our residents in Greenbelt west. The Treasury now says they will dump their wastewater into the WSSC sewage system.

To date I have spent $42,000 dollars on legal expenses with $12,000 from contributions and $30,000 from my city retirement fund. The fight is not over, but I know that if enough Greenbelt residents put their minds to it we can still save BARC. If you would like to help save BARC, you can contribute to the Save BARC legal defense fund, and/or write to President Biden at the White House to ask that BARC be given national monument status via executive order.

Thank you for your help and I would really appreciate your vote on November 7th so I can continue my work on behalf of Greenbelt.

Sincerely,

Rodney M. Roberts

Contribution or Information: Joseph O’Brien, Treasurer - 6T Ridge Road
By Authority of Candidate