

ERHS sports, p.11



Artful Afternoon, p.12

New Deal Café Negotiations With New Vendor Startle Co-op

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The New Deal Café is currently in talks with a new vendor, which came as a surprise to their current vendor, the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket.

Around April last year, as the Co-op continued to lose money as the Café's vendor, they recommended the Café look for alternate vendors, which they began to do, explained outgoing Café President Michael Hartman. At that time the Co-op board had not yet decided if they could continue as vendor, having lost around \$200,000, said Hartman. Co-op General Manager Dan Gillotte confirmed that the Co-op board told the Café they'd need to think about what would come next if they found they couldn't continue. At that time, the Café agreed to take over paying the rent to help mitigate Co-op's losses. In June they extended their contract on a month-to-month basis, with the Café paying the rent and waiving any profit sharing while the Co-op attempted to recoup some losses. In the fall last year Co-op was trying to figure out if it could continue to operate at the Café or not.

Under the new agreement, in particular with the Café cover-



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Café patrons enjoy dining in the outdoor patio area at lunchtime on June 4.

ing rent, the Co-op began to see some profitability and was becoming more hopeful. Yet, if they couldn't continue as vendor they wanted to make it as smooth a transition as possible, "because we care about the New Deal," said Gillotte. He and their food and beverage manager for the Café, Raul Lord Baptiste, met with a few possible vendors at the start of the year. "Dan was very generous with his time," said Hartman. Then, after over

six months of month-to-month arrangements, the Café and Co-op signed a new year-long contract (see page 8 of the January 18 issue). The previous contract had enabled the vendor to exit the contract with a 90-day notice, but in the new contract the Café requested the exit option be for both parties. In the new contract the rent remains the Café's responsibility.

See **NEW DEAL**, page 7



Greenbelt Pride Festival Continues Without Ric Gordon to Take Charge

by Dana Tompkins

On Saturday, June 15, the third annual Greenbelt Emerald City Pride Parade and Festival will take place for the first time without Councilmember Ric Gordon at the helm. His unexpected death on November 26, 2023, left an indelible mark on Greenbelt. A prolific community organizer, Gordon participated in and often spearheaded many community initiatives. Nothing was more important to him, however, than the Greenbelt Pride Festival says his widow, Carla Johns.

The first Pride Festival in 2022 followed Gordon's own coming out to a small group of confidants a couple of years prior, at the age of 39. According to Johns, as a part of the LGBTQIA+ community, it was important to her husband to bring everyone together, and for Greenbelt to be known as a safe space. For this reason, Johns remains intent on carrying on her hus-



PHOTO BY JANINA PARKER

From left, the late Greenbelt Councilmember Ric Gordon, MD Comptroller Brooke Lierman and Drag Queen Coco at the 2023 Greenbelt Pride Festival

band's legacy for this year's festival. Not an organizer herself, Johns partnered with Shaymar Higgs, executive director of The

iversity and inclusion and the ongoing support for equality in the LGBTQIA+ community in Greenbelt," said Mayor Emmett

See **FLAG**, page 4

Members of Public Works raise the Pride flag for the month of June.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Charlestowne North Apartments See Slow, Steady Improvement

by Tim King

Three months after the Prince George's County Circuit Court appointed a receiver for the Charlestowne North apartment building, the City of Greenbelt will issue a regular rental license to Tarantino Properties for the remainder of the fiscal year through August 2024.

City officials and residents have reported that there have been some steps taken toward overall improvements of Charlestowne North. For at least a year before the receivership, the apartment building was severely neglected by the former property manager, Charlestowne North Holding Company LLC. Contrac-

tors and utilities began to refuse to work on the property for lack of payment, which exacerbated what would normally be serious but fixable issues and led to the LLC losing its rental license due to failure to comply with city code and led to Freddie Mac filing for foreclosure and emergency receivership against the owner in January of this year.

Notable upgrades since February include targeted renovations of units affected by multiple floods due to pipes bursting, a repaired security door that is now functional, regular landscaping and grounds maintenance coming back and efforts made to clear specific code violations. While progress has been made, there is still work to be done. Most recently, an inspection on May 21 noted that elevator certification and a lead certification both need renewal.

Many units remain in disrepair, and due to the avalanche of issues and violations, there are dozens of vacancies in the 178-unit complex. "The units that experienced significant water damage initially remain vacant and will stay unoccupied until

See **APARTMENTS**, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, June 10

No City Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 12

7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Pepco Street Lights Project, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

performers, drag bingo and more. According to Kellen Cole, 11, whom Gordon appointed as last

See **PARADE**, page 7

Letters to the Editor

Higher Standard?

At the June 2 New Deal Café annual meeting, the Board of Directors announced they are once again negotiating with a new vendor to manage its restaurant operation. This was the same day their current vendor, the Greenbelt Co-op, held a party celebrating its 40th anniversary. It was clear the board made this announcement without coordinating with their current vendor.

Also described at the meeting was how the Co-op has invested \$180,000 in its Café restaurant operation. Co-op paid expensive utilities and rent to keep the Café open with expanded hours of operation while being a reliable employer providing livable wages – all during the leanest years in modern history of the restaurant business.

Consider the Café's series of restaurant operators over the years. If I recall correctly, every contract has ended in a soured relationship of disputes and poor communication. The one consistent aspect has been the Café board's willingness to throw each of their partners under the bus. I ask the Café to think carefully and operate in good faith before crudely ending yet another relationship, this time with one of the most financially stable and longstanding Greenbelt cooperatives. This change would leave Co-op with no opportunity to recoup its investment in Roosevelt Center after finally reaching sustained profitability in the past five months. While many corporations are setting new lows in business ethics, I feel cooperatives and their members should hold themselves to a higher stan-

dard of values and act as trusted partners in the community.

*Johanna Goderre
(former director of the Co-op Board)*

JEDI Audit Report Is Excessive

I read the lengthy 94-page JEDI audit report, and it is not suited for Greenbelt with its 240 employees (full- and part-time staff, seasonal and city council).

Do Greenbelt employees really need Tribesby's flawed DEI critique? Was this a wise use of our tax dollars? We want our city's funds spent on our First Responders keeping us safe. We want the trash picked up, the potholes filled, the street lights fixed, the sidewalks repaired, the city vehicles maintained, the city's salaries and bills paid, the parks and recreation programs maintained and managed, the city's buildings and infrastructure maintained or upgraded. Our city staff have plenty to do. We have a HR department and an advisory board to handle grievances and employee relations issues.

Demographically our city and city council have become more diverse over the past 15 years. Many of our city's upper-level administrative positions are now filled by people of color. On page 63 the report states 61 percent of 54 staff actually completed the survey which is about 15 percent of total city staff. So Tribesby bases their findings on a sampling of staff.

The JEDI report references "White bubble, Whiteness, White characteristics and White default" attributes (see pages

12, 13, 76, 91 and 94). The term "marginalized groups" is mentioned over 60 times and prefers the term 'threats' to suggestions or recommendations. It gives the impression that Greenbelt is a terrible place to work.

Eighteen state governments have rolled back or defunded DEI programs and staff. Some have enacted legislation restricting or abolishing the use of funds for DEI efforts in public schools and universities. Successful lawsuits by employees have redressed their grievances when they were adversely impacted by DEI policies.

In recent years DEI criteria used in training programs and hiring practices have been downsized and curtailed in businesses and corporations throughout the country as cost-cutting measures and the bottom line take priority. They recognize

See **LETTERS**, page 6



- Pete Reppert, June 16, 2016

Correction

In last week's story on the city's quest for input on DEI goals, we misstated the city's demographics, saying that Greenbelt is now almost 75 percent people of color.

The correct percentages are, approximately: Black Americans 50 percent, White Americans 25–28 percent, Spanish speakers 12 percent and Asians 5 percent.

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.

Greenbelt News Review

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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 and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
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.



Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
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 = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES: JUNE 7th - 13th

Babes (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2024) (104 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 3:30 PM (OC), 6:00 PM
Tues. 8:15 PM
Thurs. 8:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Mon. 2:45 PM, 5:15 PM
Wed. 8:00 PM

Wildcat (NR) (2024)
(108 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 1:00 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 5:45 PM
Wed. 5:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

Ezra (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (100 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 2:30 PM (OC)
Wed. 8:15 PM
Thurs. 5:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Sat. 7:45 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Tues. 8:00 PM

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Babes

Inseparable childhood friends Eden (Ilana Glazer) and Dawn (Michelle Buteau), who grew up together in NYC, are now firmly in different phases of adulthood. When carefree and single Eden decides to have a baby on her own after a one-night stand, their friendship faces its greatest challenge. Directed by Pamela Adlon, writer, director and star of the acclaimed FX comedy hit *Better Things*, the film delves into the complexities of female friendship with a blend of laughter, tears and labor pains. Said critic Courtney Small of Cinema Axis, "A hilarious and resonating work, Adlon crafts one of the summer's must-see comedies."

Wildcat

Directed and co-written by four-time Academy Award nominee Ethan Hawke, the film invites the audience to weave in and out of celebrated Southern Gothic writer Flannery O'Connor's mind as she ponders the great questions of her writing: Can scandalous art still serve God? Does suffering precede all greatness? Can illness be a blessing? In 1950, Flannery (Maya Hawke) visits her mother Regina (Laura Linney) in Georgia when she is diagnosed with lupus at 24 years old. Struggling with the same disease that took her father's life when she was a child and desperate to make her mark as a great writer, this crisis pitches her imagination into a feverish exploration of belief. As she dives deeper into her craft, the lines between reality, imagination and faith begin to blur, allowing Flannery to ultimately come to peace with her situation and heal a strained relationship with her mother.

Ezra

The film follows Max Bernal (Bobby Cannavale), a stand-up comedian living with his father (Robert De Niro), while struggling to co-parent his autistic son Ezra (introducing William Fitzgerald) with his ex-wife (Rose Byrne). When forced to confront difficult decisions about Ezra's future, Max and Ezra embark on a cross-country road trip that has a transcendent impact on both their lives. Directed by Tony Goldwyn, who also appears in the film alongside additional cast members Vera Farmiga, Rainn Wilson and Whoopi Goldberg, the film is an endearing and often funny exploration of a family determined to find their way through life's complexities with humor, compassion and heart.



Community Events

At the Library

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2.

Storytimes

Friday, June 7, 12:15 p.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630206.

Monday, June 10, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630160.

Wednesday, June 12, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10630235.

Intro to Medicare

Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m., ages 18+ (adult). New to Medicare? Find Medicare confusing? Want help navigating options for Medicare coverage? This program offers education and guidance about Medicare for individuals turning 65 and current beneficiaries. Program topics include: Medicare coverage options, prescription drug plans, supplemental coverage, Medicare Advantage plans, Medicare savings programs, plan finder guide and Medicare frauds/scams. Presented by the Department of Family Services State Health Insurance Assistance Program. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10373100.

Summer Prince George's

The Washington Nationals and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) are partnering to present Summer Prince George's (SPG), a program for all ages that runs from May 20 through August 15. More than a traditional summer reading program, SPG encourages children, teens and adults to read 30 minutes each day, attend Library programs, explore the Library's physical collection of materials as well as a wide range of streaming movies and music in the 85+ online Library resources and participate in interactive social media challenges. Library customers may register for the SPG challenge at pgcmls.info/summer and log reading, event attendance and online resource activities to earn badges and prizes. This year's prizes include tote bags, T-shirts, vouchers for Washington Nationals tickets and grand prizes. Those interested can pick up an SPG paper card to track activities or register for the challenge on PGCMLS's Beanstack app.

Artists Reception At New Deal Café

An Art Reception will be held at the New Deal Café on Sunday, June 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. Come view the art and meet the artists featured in this year's display for the Green Man Festival. The theme of the Festival was Dragons of the Earth: Where Myth Meets Nature. This is a group show with beautiful pieces of art, some of them for sale. Light refreshments will be served. The art show closes on June 30.

Golden Age Club

At the Golden Age Club meeting on June 12, member Eva Choper will present The Effect of the Upheaval in Europe and World War I and World War II on a Jewish Refugee Immigrant Family, the story of her family. Members and guests are invited to this special presentation.

Other events for the month are the June birthday celebration on June 19 and BINGO on June 26.

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets every Wednesday at 11 a.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. Guests and prospective members are always welcome.

Fiveplay Still at GAC

This weekend, June 7, 8 and 9, the Greenbelt Arts Center presents the second week of Fiveplay, a dramedy about polyamory and the modern family. The show times are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. On Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, the understudies will have the chance to perform. On Sunday, June 9, all supporting personnel and audience members are required to wear masks. This gives those who want or need to limit their exposure to health risks an opportunity to see the show. In the lobby during performances, patrons will find artwork by local artist Alindwa Kamala and, in GAC's online gallery, they will find stained glass art by David Heintzelman (greenbeltartscenter.org/online-gallery-david-heintzelman). Tickets are required for the performances. Visiting the art gallery is free. For more information, go to greenbeltartscenter.org or email info@greenbeltartscenter.org.

Emerald City Pride Festival, Parade

Saturday, June 15, 11 a.m. Parade Meetup at Spellman Overpass on Gardenway led by Greenbelt Honk Situation!

Noon to 3 p.m., Festival at Roosevelt Center with live DJ, Drag Queen and King performances, informational resource tables, free on-site STI testing

8 p.m. Drag Bingo with D'Manda Martini at Beltway Plaza; must be 21+



MAD Theater Presents A Spring Variety Show

Goddard Space Flight Center's Music and Drama Club (MAD) will present a spring show entitled Auditions, Affairs and Aliens, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15 at the Goddard Visitor Center, 9432 Greenbelt Road. The show, which is the result of MAD's spring workshops for aspiring singers, actors, directors and playwrights, will consist of short scenes from a variety of plays and songs from musicals.

For more information and tickets, visit madtheater.org.

GIVES Meeting

The next Quarterly Membership Meeting for GIVES (Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service) is set to take place this Saturday, June 8, in the Community Center, Room 202. All members are invited to attend. GIVES will be voting for board members for the next two-year term, June 2024 to June 2026. There will be a brief meeting for all office volunteers following the regular membership meeting.

Kiddos Read, Play At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, June 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and families.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 14 de junio a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

Poetry in the Garden At Schrom Hills Park

The Poetry in the Garden group will be meeting on Sunday, June 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. in the clubhouse of Schrom Hills Park. The public is invited. Bring a poem to share with the group. Discussion and refreshments will follow. For more details, contact Effie at 443-415-1053.

Working Together To Stamp out Hunger

Greenbelt PORCH collects donations of nonperishables and hygiene products and bring them to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry, making neighbors helping neighbors possible all year long. Donations must be placed by front doors in containers marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. The pantry cannot accept open containers or food that has expired.

Sunday, June 9, by 11 a.m. for 1 and 8 Courts Ridge Road, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent Road and 1 to 2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, June 15, by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, June 16, by 4 p.m. for 9, 11, 12 and 13 Courts Ridge Road; for Boxwood Village and for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on June 16 and he will come to your porch.

Monday, June 17 by 10:30 a.m. at the Leasing Office of Pinnacle Properties.

Sunday, June 30 by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome; especially needed are coordinators in Greenbelt East. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, email Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Jewelry Sale Returns At Mishkan Torah

After an interruption by Covid, Mishkan Torah is again holding its Jewelry Sale. It will take place on Sunday, June 23 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with handbags and scarves, as well as many new items. Mishkan Torah is located at 10 Ridge Road.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Access Television
June 8, Sat - June 14, Fri
 Verizon FiOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
 (School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
 Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station
 Featured Performance (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
The Joe Louis Story (1953)
 A biological drama about none other than Joe Louis, one of the greatest and most influential boxers of all time, and his rise to fame.

New This Month
Pride Flag Raising Ceremony
 To kick off Pride Month, the City of Greenbelt held a Pride Flag Raising ceremony on May 31st, 2024. This ceremony was dedicated to the memory of Councilmember Brandon 'Ric' Gordon.

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...) for new video productions.

This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am - 10pm;
Sunday 9am - 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 6/06	FRI 6/07	SAT 6/08	SUN 6/09	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30-10pm Join the jam!	Mauvin Gray & The Graye Line Band SPCL TIME: 7-11pm Celebrating Prince's birthday! A great night of purple majesty	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE, 3:30-5PM Little Red & The Renegades 7-10pm Zydeco, Nawlins funk	DEAF BRUNCH, 10:30-12NOON ART RECEPTION, 1-3PM Eleanor's New Deal Cabaret presents PRIDE! 6-8pm	
MON 6/10	TUES 6/11	WED 6/12	TH 6/13	SPECIALS!
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT 4-9pm Discounts for members!	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 7-9:30pm Sign ups at 6:15pm	Blue Spruce 7-9pm Hard driving traditional bluegrass. An ear-popping delight!	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm The Seth Kibel Quartet 7-9pm High energy klezmer	HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.
Contact: jbelttower@yahoo.com. We promise: It won't hurt!

Obituaries

Wanda Ann Opsasnick



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Wanda Opsasnick

Wanda Ann Opsasnick died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at the age of 91.

Wanda was raised in Scranton, Pa., where she was educated in public schools and graduated from Central High School in 1950. That summer, shortly after finishing school, she met the love of her life, Stephen Opsasnick of Dunmore, Pa., at the swimming pool at Nay Aug Park in Scranton. The couple wed in September of 1951 at St. Michael's Lithuanian Catholic Church in Scranton. After a short stay in Dunmore they moved to Washington, D.C., where, for the next six years, they lived in the Northeast and Southeast sections of the city. They began raising a family of three children. In 1957 they moved to Greenbelt, purchasing a GHI home in the 13 Court of Hillside Road. In January 1965 the family relocated to Boxwood Village and became one of the first families to move into what was then a brand-new development.

Wanda was a member of St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic

Church where she regularly attended mass and sang in the church choir. For many years she chaperoned luncheons and other events at St. Hugh's Catholic School, where her children were students. She was a dedicated homemaker and throughout the 1970s and in the early 1980s was employed as a librarian at the Greenbelt Library.

Wanda enjoyed cooking for her family, completing crossword puzzles, playing bingo and slot machines, reading magazines and novels, shopping at local malls and watching game shows on television. Throughout her time in Greenbelt, she was active in community and social affairs.

Wanda was predeceased by her husband of 60 years, Stephen Opsasnick, who died in 2011. She is survived by three children: Stephen J. Opsasnick, Deborah Ann Kemp and Mark Anthony Opsasnick; one granddaughter, Lauren Kemp; and other friends and relatives.

A private memorial service will be held for Wanda at All Souls Cemetery in Germantown, Md. at a future date. In lieu of flowers, friends of Wanda may consider making a donation to St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church.

Pamela A. Brown

Greenbelter Pamela A. Brown, 75, died on May 3, 2024. Pam graduated from DuVal High School and had a long career at Goddard working in the Test & Evaluation Division, the Project Support Division and the Personnel Services Branch. She leaves behind her sister, Kathy Kleiman and nieces Jennifer and Karen Kleiman. A service will be held on Saturday, June 15 at 2 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 6905 Greenbelt Road. In lieu of flowers, a donation in her name may be sent to Holy Cross.

Mame Ellis

Mame Ellis, a Greenbelt centenarian, died on June 3. She was just a few days short of her 103rd birthday. Mame had remained an active member of St. Hugh's Catholic Church and a volunteer in its food pantry as well as a member of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club. The funeral will be at St. Hugh's on Thursday, June 13 at 10 a.m.

James "Cliff" Bordas

A true Greenbelter for 71 years, James "Cliff" Bordas, has died. James was born and raised in Greenbelt. His funeral will be held on Monday, June 10 at 10 a.m. at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department. A full obituary is planned.



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
 Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
 301-474-9410
 Pastor Evelyn Romero
 Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
 Celebrate hope with us.

St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
 301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
 Worship & Sunday School
 at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road
 We are an
 Open and Affirming
 Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Join Us Sunday
10:15 AM
for Worship
and Church School
www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
 - Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
 - Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
- Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US
 135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



FLAG continued from page 1

Jordan to a crowd of about 50 people.

The Pride flag was placed directly below the Greenbelt flag, where it will stay for the entirety of June. After reading the city's pledge, Jordan invited others to speak.

"Here in Greenbelt, [the Pride Flag Raising is] a tradition that all of us look forward to, and this community has continued to be on the frontline of progress for this county," said Delegate Ashanti Martinez, who represents Prince George's County in the Maryland General Assembly.

"I'm incredibly proud to represent a county such as this, where people understand that it's so important to be welcoming, it's so important to be inclusive and that love matters more than anything else."

Antonio Driver, the LGBTQ-IA+ liaison for Prince George's County, said that, although County Executive Angela Alsobrooks couldn't attend, her administration fully supports the LGBTQIA+ community. The administration intends to make further progress



Chalk art celebrating Pride by Vijay Parameshwaran

in representing the community, Driver added.

A moment of silence took place for the late Councilmember Ric Gordon, as members of the Public Works Department raised the Pride flag. Gordon organized Greenbelt's first-ever Pride Festival in 2022 and added the Pride Parade in 2023. The annual tradition of raising the Pride flag was Gordon's idea, Jordan said.

This year a Pride Parade will start at the playground by Spellman Overpass on Gardenway on Saturday, June 15 at 11 a.m. Post-parade festivities will take place from noon to 3 p.m., Jordan added.

Randy Chow is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the News Review.

"Do not allow difference of opinion, or diversity of thought to separate you from your fellow-men, or to be the cause of dispute, hatred and strife in your hearts. Rather, search diligently for the truth and make all men your friends."
 — 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
 Philippians 4:19

IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
 10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation

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 Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

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Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
 Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

June 9, 2024 at 3 p.m.
The Potter's Wheel

Rev. Ann Kadlecek with Worship Associate Jacqui Walpole

As our shared developmental ministry draws to a close, this is the first of two services that will explore this transitional moment for Paint Branch. With the help of Paint Branch singers and chalice dancers, we'll begin to look backward at where we've been together, and forward toward what is yet to come. The second service on this theme, and the last with Rev. Ann, will be June 30.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT
MASS
 Sunday 10:00 a.m.
 City Council Room
 25 Crescent Rd
ALL ARE WELCOME!
 OR - Join us on ZOOM!
 For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owneregroups.io](https://ccg1985+owneregroups.io)

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
 Biblical
 & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
 Sunday School 9:15am
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Join Greenbelt's Advisory Committee on Education

by Janet Mirsky

Those interested in the education of young people in Greenbelt may be concerned about declining test scores, lack of funding, school boundaries, safety policies or other issues. For an opportunity to contribute to schools and help shape education policy, join the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), one of the city's 14 committees and advisory boards.

First chartered in 1994 by the Greenbelt City Council for the purpose of encouraging and supporting educational excellence for children and students attending schools in Greenbelt, ACE has space for nine citizen members on its committee and is currently staffed with three members. The committee is appealing for additional citizens who are willing to serve.

ACE engages and meets with the principals and PTAs of each of the Greenbelt schools to discuss and address goals, challenges and issues that impact our students. ACE organizes and initiates annual awards events for outstanding teachers and students from each Greenbelt school, including scholarships for college-bound seniors from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. This past year ACE assisted council in using American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide scholarships to more than 20 students for post-secondary education. Finally, ACE administers block grants to each Greenbelt school to provide enrichment materials and experiences not included in the Board of Education budget.

Any Greenbelt resident is welcome to attend the committee's open monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Come join in and/or volunteer as a member to keep Greenbelt's schools strong.

Janet Mirsky is the chair of Greenbelt's Advisory Committee on Education.




Greenbelt Farmers Market



Sundays 10a - 2p
Southway and Centerway



GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org



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anacostiatrails.org



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 JUNE 10 - 14

Monday, June 10 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**

Wednesday, June 12 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - PEPCO STREET LIGHTS PROJECT**

Thursday, June 13 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

In advance, the hearing impaired are 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. 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 www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT JOB FAIR

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 12 - 2 PM
Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road

The City of Greenbelt will be hosting a Job Fair on Saturday, June 8, from 12 - 2 pm at Beltway Plaza.

Join us for our semi-annual Greenbelt Job Fair! Learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Sign-up today as an employer or job seeker to join us in this semi-annual event.

Contact Deji Ayoku at dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov or by phone at (202) 740-6473.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobfair for more information or to register.



FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS

JUNE 20 - TWO LOCATIONS

Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

June Registration Open

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST REGISTER EACH MONTH.

Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent's name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate.

To register: <https://forms.gle/FKU13omL9YEm3VDW8or> or call Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302.



CHESAPEAKE BAY AWARENESS WEEK

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 10 AM - 1 PM

Greenbelt Forest Preserve

Be a part of the community effort to rejuvenate the forest understory in Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive species and install native trees and shrubs in the understory.

Register at <https://ow.ly/Mtix50RYQIt>.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019.

To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.

Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- Dementia Friendly America Webinars, May - June.
- Emergency Diaper Distribution. Must register <https://forms.gle/fEGq7ScdrUdZgCgy9>
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)
Upcoming Dates: May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms and see ads on this page!

FREE CARES CLASSES

Habit Shift Mindset, Tuesday, June 11, 1 - 2:30 pm, 15 Crescent Rd
Single-session program that focuses on how habits are cultivated and how they can be changed or eliminated.

Stress Surfing, Wednesdays, July 10 - 24, 11 am - 1 pm, 15 Crescent Rd
Three week program that focuses on the science of stress and stress management.

Dining with Diabetes, Wednesdays, August 7 - 28, 15 Crescent Rd
Four week program that focuses on diabetes management through nutrition.

Register with Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

ARTFUL AFTERNOONS OUTDOOR PAINTING PARTY

Sunday, June 9, 1 - 3 pm, FREE Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Enjoy an outdoor painting party! All ages. FREE.

Details at <https://bit.ly/3UH0hsY>.

GREENBELT ARPA GRANT PROGRAMS

Applications Deadlines Extended Through August 30, 2024

To view grant programs, or to see how other ARPA programs are helping your community recover from the COVID-19 pandemic visit us at www.engagegreenbelt.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD WALK & TALK

Greenbelt Station's Central Park
Thursday, June 20, 6:30 pm

Join us as we walk the Greenbelt Station Neighborhood.

You are invited to join us for a neighborhood walk and talk with Chief Bowers, City Manager Josué Salmerón, and members of City Council. This is a fantastic opportunity for us all to connect directly and learn more about the efforts being made to ensure the well-being of our community.

This event is designed for open dialogue, so please feel free to come out and share your thoughts and concerns. Issues that matter to you are important to us as we work towards building a safer, more united community.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



FEATURED PET

AMETHYST

Ready for Adoption? Call (301) 474-6124

Meet me at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter, Saturdays, 11 am - 3 pm.

Hey now! My name is Amethyst. I am an 11 month old big-hearted girl who is still learning and growing. I love cuddling my stuffies, splashing in the kiddie pool and taking long walks! My friends at the shelter say I am very affectionate, easy going on walks, playful in the yard, and super smart. I still need help with my potty schedule, but I am quickly catching on and eager to please.

I am intensely loyal and ready to be your best friend for life. Are you ready for me?

Call (301) 474-6124 or email animalcontrol@greenbeltmd.gov!



Letters cont'd

merit and qualifications should take precedence when it comes to hiring regardless of ethnicity, race, gender or identity.

Greenbelt doesn't need a California-based social justice firm (Tribesy) telling Greenbelt how bad it is.

Robert Snyder

Thanks for Reporting

I want to thank you for reporting on the progress of the water tower next to my house. It helps me stay informed and I very much appreciate the reporting. I used a snippet of your article to start a conversation with WSSC so I could personally get more information. A big thank you from me and my family to you and all the staff for being a steadfast member of our community.

Daniel Gomez

Thank You

I have been cycling in Greenbelt for 30 years. I recently had a hard crash on Saturday, June 1 at the intersection of Ridge Rd. and Gardenway. I'd like to thank the two gentlemen who came to my aid. After they got me up off of the pavement, they made sure that I (bloodied) and the bike were OK. One offered to shuttle me home if needed and one stayed with me as I remounted the bike and rode home. I really appreciate their help.

Dan Byrd

Sound Issues At Senior Forum

I attended the full-house forum for seniors Saturday, but found most of the flow of information blocked by the sound system. I would have fared better if it had been as one, two, three hundred years ago: Each would speak slowly, clearly and loudly and could be more expressive with hands and arms and face free of the clutter and view-blocking of a sound system.

Bill Norwood

Creative Arts Student Awards

The Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, in collaboration with the Prince George's Lynching Memorial Project, will host the Social Justice and Creative Arts Student Awards ceremony in recognition of June-teenth in Greenbelt, on Saturday, June 15 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 201.

The public is invited to join in celebrating talented high school youth from throughout Prince George's County high schools. For additional information email blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com.

GCC Hosts Family Fun Day June 9

Greenbelt Family Fun Day at Greenbelt Community Church is set for Sunday, June 9 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to bring lawn chairs and a picnic to enjoy the afternoon's free entertainment, including water fights in designated areas so children (and others) can get wet, a visit from fire fighters with their fire truck and police officers with a squad car so picnic-goers can see the equipment up close and a concert from the church's own rock band, the Relics, starting at 1:30 p.m. Greenbelt Community Church is located at 1 Hillside Road.

APARTMENTS continued from page 1

we conduct a final walkthrough," explained City Manager Josué Salmerón.

"I'm satisfied with the progress, but it's slow going," said longtime resident Audrey Johnson. "It's going to take time to get to what we remember." "Not all of us have good A/C or even working A/C," said resident Hannah Gould. "The swimming pool is not opening by Memorial Day because of resurfacing."

In spite of the challenges and upheaval at Charlestowne North, residents, community leaders and city officials banded together to save a part of Greenbelt. "I really

appreciate [Josué Salmerón's] efforts," Johnson said of the Greenbelt city manager. "He's been reliable and approachable. He's done an outstanding job. The City of Greenbelt, too." As for the future, Salmerón stated, "Now that Freddie Mac is the owner of the property ... they intend to continue the relationship with Tarantino ... to have them be the property management for Freddie Mac. They've shared with me that their intent is to ultimately sell the property. At the moment, they are stabilizing [it]."

The new rental license for the property will start on September 1.



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The Greenbelt Arts Center presents

FIVEPLAY

written by Erica Smith | directed by Rocky Nunzio

SECOND WEEKEND!

June 7-15

Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm
Sunday June 9 at 2pm

Ticket pricing:

[\$24 General Admission]
[\$22 Senior/Military] [\$12 Child/Student]





Call (301) 441-8770,
visit greenbeltartscenter.org,
or scan the QR code to
purchase tickets!

NEW DEAL continued from page 1

The Co-op has started to see some profitability and its board thinks the service they're providing to the community is worth it, Gillotte told the News Review. Though either party could leave the contract with three months' notice, there was no expectation that they would do so, at least on the Co-op's part, said Gillotte, who felt at that point they were in agreement. Gillotte had been anticipating future talks about the next contract to begin later this summer. Thus, the news late last week that the Café is in negotiations with a new vendor and wanted to let Gillotte know came as a surprise. Though they'd met with other potential vendors prior to the year-long contract, Gillotte said there was no indication to him that they were continuing down that path.

Hartman told the News Review that the Co-op knew the Café was looking at other vendors but agreed that the news they were engaged in "a deeper exploration with a vendor," including "discussion of terms," came unexpectedly. "Furtherance of our discussions wasn't really solidified until right before the [annual] meeting," explained Hartman of this new development. He also believed the Co-op had understood this was the reason for making the exit clause available to the Café.

An article on page 1 of the February 1 issue of the News Review noted that the Café was advertising on their website for a new vendor able to take over within 90 days. That article, just after the Café and Co-op had signed a one-year contract, reported the Café Board of Directors found the contract didn't meet the Café's financial needs and the arrangement was not sustainable for the long term. Discussions with vendors were reported to be in early stages at that time and Café Treasurer Dorian Winterfeld was quoted as saying, "We're still waiting for our knight in shining armor!"

Café Financial Concerns

The Café has been making a profit for a little while, but the last time it had any income from Café operations was March 2020, when it had to shut everything down by order of the county council, Hartman told the News Review. Since then they've survived on government grants, ARPA grants, Covid grants, donations and things of that nature and they managed to keep their doors open for four years, he said. The Café is now generating some income from the 4 percent surcharge that was implemented a few months ago but doesn't see anything from profits. "The surcharge was designed so we can keep the doors open," said Hartman. It pays the rent. Other expenses the Café faces include the music coordinator, licensing fees for songs played by perform-

ers, and insurance, among other things. The weekly advertisement in the News Review is paid for by a member, said Hartman.

The Café is concerned about its financial stability, Gillotte understands. Currently the rent is largely being paid by the 4 percent surcharge, so that's helped a lot in the months since it was implemented. "They have some thoughts that we should be contributing more, besides covering most of the expenses," Gillotte told the News Review, but he's proud of what they've been able to do so far.

"I'm really proud of the accomplishments we've had at the New Deal and the service to the community and would be sorry to see that go," said Gillotte. The view of the Co-op is that they plan to continue until January 21, 2025, per their contract, unless they hear differently from the Café, he said. They'd be in a position to start talking about a new contract in the fall, in preparation for next year, said Gillotte, but he was unable to say what changes it might include. He would also caution the Café to make sure any potential vendor is able to deliver what they say they will.

As for the Café's position, nothing new has been signed with anyone but they are in negotiations, said Hartman. Much may now depend on the decisions of the new Café board, which was elected at the annual meeting on Sunday, and its officers, including a new president, who were elected by the board on Monday.

New Deal Café Elections

The New Deal Café held its annual meeting on Sunday, June 2. It has elected a new board and audit committee.

Board

John Campanile, president
Brandon Cole, secretary
Alan Parker, treasurer
Jay Bellamy, member
Lisa Milani, member

Audit Committee

Michael Hartman
Rex Wingerter



GREENBELT News Review
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Auditions, Affairs, and ALIENS
The GSFC Music & Drama Club presents:
A Spring Show of Music and Drama
June 14 & 15, 2024
Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.
At the NASA Goddard Visitors Center,
9432 Greenbelt Rd.
Tickets: www.madtheater.org

PARADE continued from page 1

year's Pride Parade Grand Marshall, she is excited for this year's festival, but misses her friend. "He was fun to be around and made me feel special," she said.



Some Pride Parade attendees in 2023

PHOTO BY JAMES WISNIEWSKI

Cole, who identifies as queer, says that such events are particularly important for young people in the LGBTQIA+ community. "It makes them feel recognized and accepted when being young and in school, especially if that experience isn't very happy because you're teased about being gay or lesbian or queer. So, if you can participate in these types of [Pride] events, it makes you feel included and like they're celebrating you," said Cole.

Funding remains a particular challenge this year, since Gordon financed the first two Pride events mostly on his own, without city funding. Johns reported that the initiative was important enough to her husband that he was willing to take on that burden. When planning for the inaugural event in 2022, he briefly engaged with city leaders but quickly found it would be faster to work outside the local bureaucracy, said Johns. The approach also allowed him to bypass those who Higgs believes have been overly cautious in the past about supporting what some may see as a divisive issue.

Instead, to pull off the first two Pride events, Gordon and his committee maneuvered behind the scenes, leveraging Gordon's contacts and the personal relationships he had built with state and local officials, to include the Greenbelt Police Department and other community organizers to

ensure the events were promoted, celebrated and safe.

"Ric doesn't wait for people, he just does," says Johns.

She's certain her husband would be proud of this year's events, but wants to see more recognition for his efforts, as well as more buy-in from the city. This includes a banner that celebrates Pride in June and the inclusion of all people, just like there is for the Labor Day Festival, the Farmers Market and other local activities.

For his part, Higgs wants "someone in Greenbelt who notices and acknowledges the vision and helps see it through from the city's standpoint."

According to Mayor Emmett Jordan, "Ric was definitely ahead of everyone." He also reports that the city is fully supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community. The city sponsored this year's raising of the Pride flag on May 31 (see page 1) and signing of the Pride proclamation. Regarding financial support, Jordan advised that there are avenues for community groups to gain access to public funding by applying for and gaining status as a Recognition or Contribution Group.

According to the city's Policy and Information Guide for Recognition Groups, approved groups gain access to some city facilities, limited publicity, as well as the ability to apply for project

or operating grants. Such grants can then be applied to festivals, tournaments and other community service initiatives. Jordan was unaware, however, if Gordon or this year's Pride committee applied for financial support through the city.

When asked about including Pride initiatives in the city's annual budget development process, he said that there are human resource limitations, but it's mostly that nobody has asked. Still, he's comfortable with the level of support the city has provided, mostly through the Public Works and Police Departments, and is open to more. "The Greenbelt way is to come together and do things," Jordan says.


In the long term, especially going into an election year, Johns wants to ensure that all members of the city council openly espouse inclusivity and are supportive of all community members, including the LGBTQIA+ community.

"We deserve to know who we're voting for," she says.

Ultimately though, Johns looks forward to this event and honoring her husband's memory.

"Ric was always more about the people and less about the politics. It was important to him that everyone be seen, heard and recognized. That is his legacy."

The Pride Festival will take place on June 15 from noon to 3 p.m. in Roosevelt Center. Those interested in sponsoring or donating to this year's event, can email thespace@freartforall.org.



PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Meetings of the GHI and GDC Boards of Directors on June 13, 2024

GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- Approve Minutes of the Closed Meeting Held on March 21, 2024
- Financial Matters
- Legal Matters
- Review Wi-Fi Service Contract
- Contract for Parking Lot Asphalt Repairs
- Personnel Matter

GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:30 p.m. - open to members and visitors

- Statement of a of Closed Meeting held on May 30, 2024
- Statement of a Closed Meeting held on June 13, 2024
- Trust Ownership Request for two GHI units
- Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on March 21, 2024
- Review Status of the Member Outreach Committee
- Establish Court Liaisons Task Force
- Discuss System for Member Feedback
- Discuss WAMATA Better Bus Plan
- Member Suggestions Concerning the Yardi Member Portal
- Review Financial Report
- Compensation Review
- Approve Motion to hold a Closed Meeting on July 11, 2024

GDC Stockholders' Meeting – starts at 7:45 p.m. - open to members and visitors

- Approve Minutes of the GDC Stockholders' Meeting Held on June 1, 2023
- President's Report re: GDC's Operations for the Year 2023
- Election of Board of Directors for 2024-2025

GDC Open Meeting – starts after the GDC Stockholders' Meeting ends - open to members and visitors

- Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on January 18, 2024
- Review 1st Quarter 2024 Financial Report

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtd-uuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

A Review

Fiveplay: A Spectacular Look At Polyamory, Love and Family

by Melanie Iversen

Writer Erica Smith has shown her talents full on with this production. Director Rocky Nunzio adds expertise and the cast completes the extraordinary package at the Greenbelt Arts Center.

The play, described as “an affectionate look at polyamory and the modern family,” brings to light some controversial aspects of relationships and contains adult language and innuendos. This writer was curious to see how adult topics such as consensual non-monogamy and a play about family problems that spanned relationships, jobs and money could entertain.

Five minutes in, I was in awe of the writer’s ability to take a topic like polyamory and present it to a diverse audience without awkwardness.

A fantastic play to see in June, when we celebrate Pride, Fiveplay shows the audience that regardless of who you love, who you share intimacy with or who you choose to grow a deep friendship with, the components are the same.

Families are made in different ways – sometimes through blood,



Jenny Oberholtzer (Avery), Nadia Palacios (Keegan) and Michael Angeloni (Sawyer)

- Photos by Rachel Duda



Jillian Blair (Emerson) and Jenny Oberholtzer (Avery)

audience. As characters’ individual stories are revealed, the audience is rescued from the intense weight of hard, heavy moments by sarcasm and comedy. The balance was perfect.

The message was clear: build connections through openness and trust and authenticity and you may end up with a safe place full of people who understand and value the similarities and differences in each other. Commonalities are as unexpected as a paranormal paranoia that becomes a strong binding thread.

This group of actors portrayed the importance of respect for each other 10 times over. Laughing, learning, sadness and understanding give way to wonder and the wish to be a part of such a connected and caring group. The performance is a riveting experience.

Fiveplay is running at the Greenbelt Arts Center through Saturday, June 15. Information about the play and tickets can be found at greenbeltartscenter.org.

sometimes through choice. The actors as well as the characters they play show us examples of connection and community bonding.

The play intermingles performance and interaction with the

Car Careens Out of Control, Hits Walls, Frightens Many

by Erica Johns

At approximately 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4, a medical emergency led to a serious car accident on Ora Glen Drive. A Toyota Camry first collided with a brick wall at Greenbelt Post Office, then crossed Ora Glen Drive, passed Bank of America and came to a stop when it hit another brick wall at the office building at 7601 Ora Glen Drive. The car traveled across curbs and hit signs on its way, leaving debris and an oil trail from Bank of America to its stopping point.

Bill Robinson, who was in the area at the time, said people were parking and exiting their cars near where the vehicle ran into the wall and alerted each other to the oncoming car.

Greenbelt Police Department told the News Review an older, female driver experienced a medical emergency and was transported to the hospital. Witnesses said the driver was conscious when emergency personnel removed her from the car.

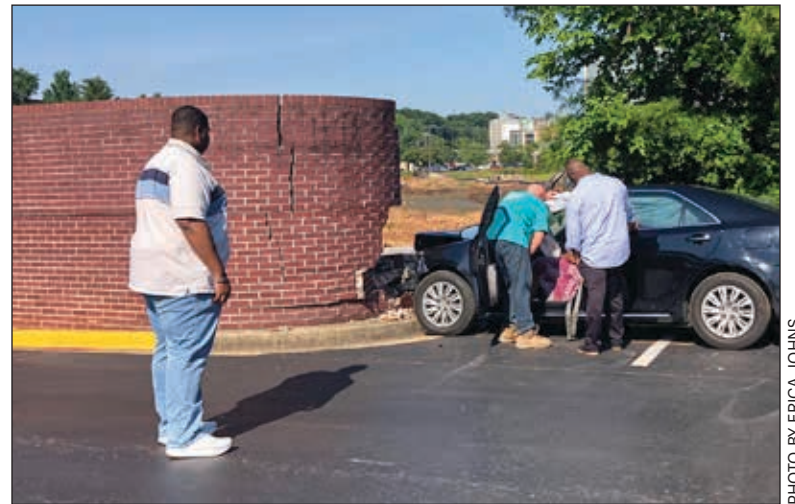


PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

At approximately 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 4, a medical emergency led to a serious car accident on Ora Glen Drive in Greenbelt.

Book Sale Seeks Sale Coordinator

The Greenbelt Elementary School PTA has held its beloved Used Book Sale for more than 50 years at Greenbelt’s Labor Day Festival. This summer, the PTA is planning a paid position for someone who will help coordinate the sale; specifically, a person or organization to coordinate and recruit volunteers. See the ad in this issue. The Book Sale is the only PTA fundraiser for the school year and has allowed the purchase of a variety of things that support students and teachers, including art and music supplies, field trips and teacher appreciation gifts. It is also a cherished community event that makes high quality books available at an affordable price for the broader community. The coordinator need not be affiliated with Greenbelt Elementary School to apply for this position. Contact: booksalespta@gmail.com.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred May 27-June 2, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reports three deaths; seven domestics, three with arrests and one with a mental health diversion; an additional mental health diversion; and two noncritical juvenile missing person cases, one resolved.

Robberies

On May 27 at 3:06 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was approached by two men behind the mall near the theater. One pointed a handgun at the victim and demanded his belongings. When he did not comply, he was hit with the handgun and punched by the second suspect, and fell to the ground. The suspects fled.

On May 31 at 6:04 p.m. near 5825 Cherrywood Lane, a man parked his car in the parking lot, and another man opened his front passenger door and asked him for a lighter. The man got out of his vehicle, and exchanged words with the other man, who said to give him his stuff, lifted his shirt, and reached into his waistband. The man ran, and the other man was not found.

Break-in

On May 30 at 3:46 a.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, multiple stores had the front exterior glass doors shattered. A man was seen on live surveillance cameras walking through the location. Several of the stores reported cash missing.

Assault

On May 27 at 6:36 p.m. near 9100 Edmonston Court, during an outing, a caregiver said it was time to leave, and the man he cares for struck him in the face. The caregiver wanted to document the incident but didn't press charges.

On May 27 at 7:19 p.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Greenbelt Road, a pedestrian was assaulted at the bus stop: a man threw ice cream and soda on her, then struck her on the top of the head before fleeing the scene.

On May 31 at 12:13 p.m. near 9111 Springhill Lane, a man was walking along the sidewalk when four unknown suspects exited a vehicle and began to strike him; they were speaking Spanish and appeared to be high-school age.

On June 2 at 8:32 p.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, two female employees engaged in a physical

altercation, and one allegedly grabbed a knife briefly in self-defense before dropping it. Both parties refused medical aid and were advised on how to pursue charges against each other.

DUI Arrests

On May 31 at 1:46 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and the Beltway, officers saw a vehicle facing the wrong direction in traffic; the driver turned in the middle of the roadway to face the right way. Officers stopped the vehicle, smelled alcohol, and the driver had a flushed face and bloodshot eyes. When asked how much he'd had to drink, the driver started counting to four and then said he didn't remember. After sobriety testing he was arrested for DUI.

On June 1 at 7:16 a.m. near 8020 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a vehicle was blocking both lanes of traffic, and the driver was asleep in the driver seat. He gave off a strong odor of alcohol and said he had been drinking at a friend's house. Results of sobriety testing led to his arrest.

Fraud

On May 30 at 6:13 p.m. near 550 Crescent Road, over a span of months a woman sent a man she met online large sums of money and compromising photos of herself. When she realized it was a scam and refused to send more money, the man threatened to post her photos online.

On May 31 near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, someone gained access to a bank account and withdrew funds without authorization.

On June 1 near 11 Laurel Hill Road, a woman received a call stating that she was late on her electric bill and needed to pay it immediately or power would be cut off. After sending money through an app, she discovered she had been scammed.

Theft

On May 28 at 10:08 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man driving a white Chrysler van with D.C. tags, left without paying for a mattress topper and a blender.

On May 29 at 9:17 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items.

On May 30 at 3:48 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, officers stopped a woman as she was

leaving a store and recovered stolen items. She was arrested on a warrant from Prince George's County and taken to Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On May 30 at 11:27 a.m. near 5220 Stream Bank Lane, a door camera recorded a man taking a package.

On May 31 at 9:08 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two men were looking at shoes; both grabbed a pair from the display table and left the store.

Trespassing

On May 28 at 7:14 p.m. police officers responded to the Greenbelt Aquatic Center for a trespassing complaint about two disorderly women who had been asked to leave earlier in the evening. At approximately 5:45 p.m. that evening officers had responded to the women's changing rooms in the Aquatic Center and escorted the two disorderly women from the building. The women threatened staff, yelled and used profanity. They continued to yell at officers and shout curse words in the parking lot. Both women have been banned from the property.

Vandalism

On May 31 at 12:23 a.m. near 6025 Springhill Drive, a juvenile was throwing objects and breaking windows.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: May 28 near 211 Lakeside Drive, a silver 2016 Hyundai Veloster (Md. 6GD5781); May 31 near 6460 Capitol Drive, a red 2017 Hyundai Elantra (D.C. GV2927); and June 2 near 9011 Breezewood Terrace, a silver 2017 Hyundai Elantra (Md. T1729428).

Theft from Auto

On May 28 near 7815 Mandan Road, a catalytic converter was stolen. On June 1 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, wheels were stolen from a 2024 Toyota Rav4. On June 2 near 7909 Mandan Road, a tag was stolen (Va. TMS7424).

Vandalism to Auto

On May 28 near 7501 Mandan Road, a window was broken on a 2020 Lexus IS.



Our sympathies to the family and friends of Wanda Opsasnick, who lived in Greenbelt for 67 years and was active in St. Hugh's Church and the church school, which the Opsasnick children attended.

Condolences to the family and friends of James "Cliff" Bordas who died recently.

Condolences, also, to the friends and family of Pamela Brown, who had a long career at NASA and loved her Holy Cross church community.

Condolences to the family and friends of longtime Greenbelter Mame Ellis. Mame will be especially missed in the St. Hugh's community and the Golden Age Club.

Congratulations to Greenbelter Alan Elliott upon his graduation from Key School in Annapolis. While at Key, he twice finished in the top five for the year in countywide math competitions, was a member of two MIAA C Conference championship baseball teams and was recognized as one of Key's outstanding geography students by the University of Maryland's Geographical Sciences Department. He has been admitted as a College Park Scholar to the university, where he plans to begin studies this fall.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

Extension of Public Comment Period for Draft Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assessment for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) Traffic and Utilities Mitigation Prince George's County, Maryland

All Interested Parties: The Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 United States Code Section 4321 *et seq.*), herein after known as NEPA, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations that implement NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR], Parts 1500 to 1508). NEPA requires that federal agencies consider the potential environmental consequences of proposed and alternative federal actions in their decision-making process.

The draft EA is currently available for review and comment and the public comment period began on 30 April 2024. In response to public request, BEP has extended the public comment period to 21 June 2024 and comments will be accepted until that date. The document can be viewed on the BEP Replacement CPF project website at: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/BEP/>. Hard copies of the document can be reviewed at the Prince George's County Public Library, Beltsville Branch and Greenbelt Branch, as well as the Vansville Community Center, during open hours during the public comment period. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments for consideration by 21 June 2024 to: ATTN: BEP EA, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District Planning Division, 2 Hopkins Plaza, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201; or send via e-mail to: BEP-Updates@usace.army.mil.

Extensión del período de comentarios públicos del proyecto de evaluación ambiental

Evaluación medioambiental para la mitigación del tráfico y los servicios públicos de la Oficina de Grabado e Impresión del condado de Prince George, Maryland

A todas las partes interesadas: La Oficina de Grabado e Impresión (BEP, por sus siglas en inglés) ha preparado un proyecto de evaluación ambiental (EA) de conformidad con la Ley de política ambiental nacional de 1969 (sección 4321 y concordantes del título 42 del Código de los Estados Unidos), en adelante denominada NEPA, y los reglamentos del Consejo de Calidad Ambiental (CEQ, por sus siglas en inglés) que regulan la NEPA (partes 1500 a 1508 del título 40 del Código de Regulaciones Federales). La NEPA exige que las agencias federales consideren las posibles consecuencias ambientales de las iniciativas federales propuestas y alternativas en su proceso de toma de decisiones.

El borrador de EA está actualmente disponible para revisión y comentarios. El período de comentarios públicos comenzó el 30 de abril de 2024. En respuesta a la solicitud pública, BEP extendió el período de comentarios públicos hasta el 21 de junio de 2024 y se aceptarán comentarios hasta esa fecha. El documento se puede consultar en el sitio web del proyecto CPF de reemplazo de la BEP: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/BEP/>. Se puede consultar la versión impresa del documento en la Biblioteca Pública del condado de Prince George, en las sucursales de Beltsville y Greenbelt, así como en el Centro Comunitario de Vansville, en horario de atención al público durante del período de comentarios públicos. Se invita a las partes interesadas a presentar observaciones por escrito para su consideración hasta el 21 de junio de 2024. Podrá dirigirlas a la siguiente dirección: ATENCIÓN: BEP EA, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District Planning Division, 2 Hopkins Plaza, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201; o se pueden enviar por correo electrónico a BEP-Updates@usace.army.mil.

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#1 in Sales for Greenbelt from 2017-2023

Sports

Spring Sport Success: ERHS Raiders Post Impressive Spring Campaigns

by Patrick Gleason

The spring sport season has ended at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, with much to celebrate. Punctuated by the softball team's march to the state final, the season produced a plethora of successes. Both the boys and girls lacrosse teams won league, county and region championships before falling in the state quarterfinals.

Track and Field

On the track, the girls 4 x 200 relay placed first in the state championship meet thanks to the speed of Lauryn Djaouga, Camille Watford, Jasmine Davids and Chizu Onwukwe. Davids also earned a bronze medal in the individual 200-meter dash. The girls 4 x 100 relay finished fourth overall while setting a personal record at the state meet with a time of 47.67; freshman Kennedy Boykin joined Djaouga, Watford and Davids for the event. Djaouga also ran her fastest time of the season - 14.57 seconds - in the 100-meter hurdles, good enough for a sixth-place finish.

The Raiders were impressive in the field events as well. Tatiyana Black won the girls discus while Journy Phillips won the shotput. In the team competition, the girls fell half a point short of third place, while the boys finished in 10th behind junior Nasib

Bundu's victory in the long jump.

Tennis

Meanwhile, the boys and girls tennis teams won both the county and region titles, powered by freshman Ivanna Canesa who finished second in the state. Amelie Helfrich and Kennedy Matthews advanced to the state tournament in girls doubles, joined by Leon Bailey and Spencer Smith in boys doubles and Michael Bielec and Anna Grim in mixed doubles. However, Canesa stole the show with victories over Shloka Tambat of Urbana and Abbie Znamirovski of Perry Hall en route to her state final appearance. Canesa defeated Tambat 2-6, 6-2, 1-0(8) and Znamirovski 6-1, 6-1 before dropping her final match to Broadneck's Olivia Melnychuk 6-4, 6-0. Next season, Canesa hopes to win the first Raider tennis title since Katelyn Stokes in 2010.



Jasmine Davids, Chizu Onwukwe, Camille Watford and Lauryn Djaouga celebrate their 4x200 state championship victory on May 20 in Landover.

PHOTO BY DIAMOND PLAYER



Ivanna Canesa poses after winning the county championship at Watkins Park on May 10.

PHOTO BY DAVID BARNES



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Greenbelt Weekend Was Busy, Vibrant, As Charter Celebrated

by Randy Chow

Greenbelt Day Weekend celebrated the city receiving its charter on June 1, 1937. Greenbelt was the first municipality in the state to have the council-manager form of government. The weekend had a festive atmosphere and was full of events that saw crowds at the Lake, the Community Center and its lawn, and Roosevelt Center.

On Saturday, June 1, a police wellness walk around Greenbelt Lake kicked off the day and raised awareness about wellness and mental health. It was followed by a “Reptiles and Amphibians” event, led by Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll and the park rangers, also at the Lake, which shared the mysteries of the ectotherms that call Greenbelt home.

Later, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee hosted guest speakers in geriatric care and estate planning and elder law in a question-and-answer session about navigating the complexities



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

This past weekend, 46 immigrants from 28 countries became U.S. citizens at a ceremony in Greenbelt.

of aging.

On Sunday, June 2, in addition to Greenbelt’s regular bustling Farmers Market – at which one

may have caught a glimpse of News Review volunteers – there was a naturalization ceremony, an outdoor painting party for all ages and skills for this month’s Artful Afternoon, ukulele music and a combined concert from Greenbelt Concert Band and Greenbelt Community Orchestra, which included a performance of Aaron Copland’s music for *The City*, which was partly filmed in Greenbelt in 1938.

To celebrate Greenbelt Day Weekend the Greenbelt Museum hosted an open house, a chance to see how an average Greenbelt family lived in the 1930s to 1950s, and the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket celebrated its 40th birthday with a local vendor fair.

Randy Chow is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the News Review.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Attendees at the police department's Wellness Walk on Saturday, June 1

Concert Band, Community Orchestra Perform for Greenbelt Day Weekend

by Mary Moien

Music, both formal and informal, was everywhere to be found on Sunday, June 2. There was standing room only to hear traditional and new groups perform in the Community Center. They were the Greenbelt Concert Band, the Trombone Choir, the Clarinet Choir (each a subset of the band) and the Greenbelt Community Orchestra. The Community Orchestra completed its inaugural season with this concert.

The Trombone Choir welcomed the audience with a brief program including *Let It Be* and *Moon River*. The full concert band, under the direction of Joan Rackey, engaged the audience with a wide range of music, including selections from *South Pacific* and *Annie* among other works. There were a number of children in the audience and Rackey encouraged them to chime in when the band played music from Disney’s *Moana*. As the band portion of the concert was running a little long, Rackey announced that only a brief selection from *Les Misérables* would be performed. The Clarinet Choir completed this section of the concert with rousing renditions of *Putting on the Ritz* and *Music*



Greenbelt Community Orchestra performs Aaron Copland’s music from the 1939 film *The City*, with narration by Ian Blackwell Rogers.

of the Night.

The Greenbelt Community Orchestra then took the stage under the shared direction of two conductors, Derek Maseloff and Seth Glabman. Two works of Aaron Copland were featured, *Outdoor Overture* and *The City*. In addition, two traditional sea shanties and *Frolic* by Hubert Parry were performed. Many Greenbelters were already familiar with *The City* as Greenbelt was featured in

the documentary film that included Copland’s work. To provide a context for *The City* music, narration was artistically performed by Ian Blackwell Rogers. Several standing ovations concluded the concert and especially the announcement of the successful completion of the orchestra’s inaugural season.



Artful Afternoon

Friends, Families and Strangers Search for Their Inner Creative

by Laura Charleston

Every month, seasoned and first-time artists of all ages gather to indulge in Artful Afternoons, hosted by Greenbelt Recreation Arts. They take place at the Community Center on the first Sunday of the month and at Springhill Lake Recreation Center on the second Sunday. Last Sunday, June 2, the tables on the Community Center lawn were filled with friends, families and strangers, as creative spirits enjoyed an outdoor paint party hosted by artist Racquel Keller. Beside the painters Rachel Cross led a ukulele musical performance and sing-along serenade.

Attendees praised the inviting spaces of Artful Afternoons and how they united the community.

“Nobody is turned away. And I think there aren’t enough spaces like that in society in general. So it’s really important to have places where people can go and just be, for free, and have no other expectations of them,” said Greenbelt Councilmember Jenni Pompei.

Keller helped attendees express their creativity on paper and provided tips for enhancing their artwork.

“There’s a real joy that comes to getting in touch with your inner creative,” said Keller. “I believe everybody is ... creative.”

Keller cherishes meeting new people and helping them reach for their full artistic potential. As a social person, she found the pandemic limited her ability to connect with others. During that time she hosted virtual art classes, allowing her to maintain connections and continue to help others unlock their creativity.

“As an instructor ... I’ll say I’m picking up the damage that other people have done to my students in the sense of saying, ‘Oh, you’re not good at that,’” said Keller.

Greenbelt Recreation Arts has a history of hosting engaging activities and various art classes. But Artful Afternoon was created to bring the community together.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLON

Rachel and Mia enjoy plein air painting during this month’s Artful Afternoon.

“We have families who come. We have families who come with little, tiny toddlers. We have single friends come together. Councilmembers, people of all ages come out and make art together,” said Amanda Demos Larsen, the visual arts coordinator.

Violet Yashinski is a 9-year-old artist who draws inspiration from Sanrio characters and Pokemon. She is fascinated by drawing as it is a fun activity that helps her relax and calm down. “I just find it really fun and each design on the different cards really inspires me to do different art styles,” Violet said. Along with her little sister, Amelia Yashinski, and her mother, Melissa Yashinski, for Violet, Artful Afternoon was a fun kickoff to summer before going to the pool.

Greenbelt Recreation Arts has recently introduced an additional day of Artful Afternoon each month at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. On June 9, a further outdoor paint party will be held there, with two sessions: from 1 to 2 p.m. and from 2 to 3 p.m. Further information and a link to registration is available at greenbeltmd.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/8102/18.

Laura Charleston is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.



PHOTO BY LIN ORRIN

City Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll leads a Reptiles and Amphibians 101 interpretive program near the peninsula at Buddy Attick Park on Saturday, June 1, describing the common traits of frogs, toads, salamanders and snakes.