

Kim Kash realtor ranking, p.7



Food distribution, p.9

12-Year-Old Fiona O'Brien Makes National Acro Team, World Alternate

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Greenbelt's Fiona O'Brien is only 12, but at the end of June she competed in a 13-19 women's trio, an elite level, in Acrobatic Gymnastics at USA Gymnastics' National Championships in Minneapolis. Fiona, a rising 8th grader at Dora Kennedy French Immersion, along with Juliet Hanks, of Huntington in Calvert County, a rising junior at Huntington High School and Gabby Zsakany, of Odenton in Anne Arundel County, a rising senior at Severn School, formed a 13-19 Junior Elite Women's Trio who won a medal in each of their competitions. They were named to the USA Gymnastics Acro National Team and named as alternates to the World Team.



Fiona O'Brien with her medals from the USA Gymnastics Championships in June

which is all on the floor and choreographed in partnership – typically involving a pair or trio and sometimes a quad.

Like most gymnasts, Fiona began with Artistic gymnastics but had to take a leave due to impact-induced injury. During her break she discovered the joys of Acrobatic. It involved a lot of core strength for balance and she found the choreography fun, says her mother, Jamie Krauk.

"They had a lot of ups and downs this season," injuries, "but they pushed pretty hard" and skipped a level.

National Championships

The elite level Acro gymnasts performed three routines at the USA Gymnastics championships last month. The first is Balance, involving varied positions, climbing and of course balance. The second is Dynamic, which involves throwing and flips. Then there are Finals, which combine Balance and Dynamic. For the elite level Acro, there is also an All-Around score. In the Minneapolis Championships, Fiona's trio earned Gold in Balance, Bronze in Dynamic, Bronze in Finals and Gold in All Around. It was a tight competition with the trio's

See FIONA, page 6

Creative Kids Take the Stage In The Cookie Caper Musical

by Emma Selmon

Greenbelt's Creative Kids have made their 2024 stage debut with a little history, a little mystery and no shortage of catchy tunes.

Two performances of The Cookie Caper, an original musical by Greenbelt Performing Arts Coordinator Chris Cherry, marked the end of the first session of the 2024 Creative Kids Camp at the Community Center on Friday, June 28. A musical exploration of the Greenbelt community, the charming and self-referential production weaves the various activities housed in the Community Center with reflections on

the history and values of the city.

The Cookie Caper opens with a crime: on the last day of the Creative Kids camp, nine dozen freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies are reported missing without a trace. Deducing that one of the staff members must be responsible, the campers take it upon themselves to solve the mystery of the missing desserts.

A series of clues steers the campers through various areas of the Community Center. They visit the pottery studio, the

See COOKIE CAPER, page 8



The child detectives of The Cookie Caper visit the Greenbelt News Review and consult the archives for clues.

City Council Authorizes \$33K To Update City Code, Charter

by Maurice Crawford

Greenbelt's municipal code was last updated in 2012 and needs revision. The Greenbelt City Council has been requested to authorize the city manager to enter into a contract with Municode for approximately \$18K. The scope of this contract includes recodification, regular code updates, moving the city code online and updating the language used in the code.

At the June 17 council meeting, Mayor Emmett Jordan pointed out that the city had planned to do this update in 2021 but Covid intervened. City Manager Josué Salmerón said the city code should be updated annually because the code needs to include any new ordinances passed by council, while the city charter should be updated every 10 years.

Councilmember Kristin Weaver wanted to know how it will interact with the improvements to the city's website and if the effort included the city charter. Salmerón responded they had not decided upon a platform for the new website but that this contract would also cover the city charter. Weaver asked about the accessibility of pdf documents in terms of being 508 compliant. Under the contract the city would

be responsible for providing pdf material to Municode and those documents that were compliant would remain so.

Salmerón clarified that the contract is for digitizing the city's code, not for changing it; however, there may be limited changes that could occur only after approval by council. For example, if there is part of the code that is not in compliance with federal law that would need to be changed by council.

All councilmembers voted in favor of the proposed contract.

Updating the Charter

As with the city code, the city charter is also in need of review and revision in order to reflect current laws and community needs. Council considered a proposal to authorize the city manager to make payments for services to the city solicitor not to exceed \$15K for a review of the city's charter. Salmerón said the time frame for this is 18 months but depends on council needs. This effort will involve council's input and there is a worksession scheduled on establishing a Charter Review Committee and the specific scope of work. Some aspects are already covered; for ex-

See CHARTER, page 10

Advertising Rate Change

Effective with the issue of August 1, 2024, the News Review will change its ad rates.

Classifieds

Base rate will be \$4 for the first 15 words and \$1 for each 1-5 additional words.

Display

The base rate (Tier A) will be \$10.90 per column inch.

The nonprofit rate for those qualifying will be \$7.70 per column inch.

Discounts are available for those placing at least 45 column inches per calendar quarter.

For further information see greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/advertising-2.

What Goes On

Monday, July 15
No City Council Meeting, Summer Recess
Wednesday, July 17
No Council worksession, Summer Recess

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS

As Adams predicted, Independence Day celebrations, including those in Greenbelt, feature "Rays of ravishing Light and Glory." See more photos from July 4th on page 16.

1776 Letter from John Adams

The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epocha, in the History of America.

I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. -- I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. -- Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction.

Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, July 3, 1776, the day after the Continental Congress actually voted for independence; the Declaration of Independence was dated July 4.

Letters to the Editor

Don't Ask About Gender

To register for a class, the Greenbelt Recreation Department's current class registration form asks for the student's gender.

The National Recreation and Parks Association states that embodying inclusion demands that no one is excluded or required to face additional rules or scrutiny to fully participate in park and recreation spaces, programs and services. The State of Maryland also has been one of the leading states in passing policies that affirm inclusion, including those surrounding gender.

Greenbelt was founded to provide a more inclusive, more equitable community.

Requesting the identification of someone's gender when they want to take a class on their own time and for their own enjoyment is not inclusive. Rather, requiring a student to identify their gender reflects a thoughtless reminder of a past era where society didn't recognize or honor those who identify as nonbinary. Greenbelt Parks Department's class form should drop the request for students to list gender as we all work together to become a more inclusive community.

Kimberley M. Knox

Thank You Public Works

I would like to give a big shout out to the men and women at the Department of Public Works. I walk around the lake almost every day, and I have noticed a big improvement in the condition of the lake path. It is more level, is easier to walk on and looks great. I know Public Works is often behind the scenes doing the thankless jobs that keep this city going. So, I'd like to say thank you, thank you and thank you!

Jason Martin
City resident and former Public Works employee

PGCPS Superintendent Responds to Complaint

Good Afternoon, Mr. Thompson, I hope that this message finds you well. Thank you for notifying us about the noise ordinance violations associated with the roofing replacement project at Greenbelt Elementary School. Please accept our sincere apologies for the [early morning] disruption caused to yourself and the Laurel Hill community by the activities of SGK Contracting. See the below email response

See **LETTERS**, page 12



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Kinds of Kindness

From director Yorgos Lanthimos (who directed *The Favorite* and *Poor Things*), this triptych fable follows a man without choice who tries to take control of his own life; a policeman who is alarmed that his wife who was missing at sea has returned and seems a different person; and a woman determined to find a specific someone with a special ability, who is destined to become a prodigious spiritual leader.

Janet Planet

In rural Western Massachusetts, 11-year-old Lacy (Zoe Ziegler) spends the summer of 1991 at home, enthralled by her own imagination and the attention of her mother, Janet (Julianne Nicholson). Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Annie Baker captures a child's experience of time passing, and the ineffability of a daughter falling out of love with her mother, in this singularly sublime film debut with outstanding performances by Nicholson and newcomer Ziegler.

Robot Dreams

In this animated feature, DOG lives in Manhattan and he's tired of being alone. One day he decides to build himself a robot, a companion. Their friendship blossoms until they become inseparable, to the rhythm of '80s New York City. One summer night, DOG, with great sadness, is forced to abandon ROBOT at the beach. Said critic Leonard Maltin of leonardmaltin.com, "Will they ever meet again? *Robot Dreams*, loosely based on a graphic novel by Sarah Varon, is a true original – one of a kind. That's a tribute to the storytelling skills of Pablo Berger and his collaborators."

The LEGO Batman Movie

There are big changes brewing in Gotham, but if Batman (Will Arnett) wants to save the city from the Joker's (Zach Galifianakis) hostile takeover, he may have to drop the lone vigilante thing, try to work with others and maybe, just maybe, learn to lighten up. Maybe his superhero sidekick Robin (Michael Cera) and loyal butler Alfred (Ralph Fiennes) can show him a thing or two.

The Matrix

Neo (Keanu Reeves) believes that Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne), an elusive figure considered to be the most dangerous man alive, can answer his question – What is the Matrix? Neo is contacted by Trinity (Carrie-Anne Moss), a beautiful stranger who leads him into an underworld where he meets Morpheus. They fight a brutal battle for their lives against a cadre of viciously intelligent secret agents. It is a truth that could cost Neo something more precious than his life.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com



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:
JULY 12th - 18th

Kinds of Kindness (R) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (164 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 4:30 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:45 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 4:45 PM, 8:00 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:45 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

Janet Planet (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2024) (110 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:45 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:45 PM
Wed. 5:15 PM

Robot Dreams (NR) (CC) (2024) (102 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 7:45 PM
Mon. 5:30 PM (OC)
Tues. 5:15 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sun. 5:30 PM
Wed. 7:45 PM
Thurs. 5:15 PM

The LEGO Batman Movie (PG) (CC) (DVS) (2017) (104 mins)
School's Out - Free!
Sponsored by Labbe Family Orthodontics
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 1:00 PM

The Matrix (R) (CC) (1999) (136 mins)
Cult Classic
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 8:00 PM



PHOTO BY NICK HALL

A great blue heron in the waters of Greenbelt Lake at Buddy Attick Park

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

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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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.

Community Events

Greenbelt Park Has Saturday Drumming

On Saturdays, July 13 and August 3, Greenbelt Park will offer a 7 p.m. Campfire Program: Drumming with Katy. Come to the campfire to hear the rhythm and beats of the drums. Leader Katy Gaughan facilitates a wonderful evening of drumming for all ages. Extra drums are available, and participation is encouraged.

Meet at 7 p.m. at the Campfire Circle in B loop in the Greenbelt Park campground. For more information, call 771-208-1588 or check the Park's website at nps.gov/grec.



Trumpet Players Needed

The Greenbelt Concert Band (GCB) is looking for more trumpet players to join this fall.

GCB is a volunteer adult musical organization dedicated to providing quality musical performances for residents of Greenbelt and surrounding areas. The band performs for civic and charitable activities, including concerts for veterans groups, retirement communities and nursing homes. It is composed of musicians from local communities and is open to all those with appropriate playing experience.

The Band rehearses Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center, beginning September 9.

For more information check the website, greenbeltconcertband.org, or Facebook page Greenbelt Concert Band.

Interested in joining? Email the director at director@greenbeltconcertband.org.

Health Screenings Offered at Legion

Residents living in and around Greenbelt can learn about their risk for cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis, diabetes and other chronic, serious conditions with affordable screenings by Life Line Screening. Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 will host this community event on Wednesday, July 24.

Screenings are affordable and convenient, but pre-registration is required. There is a fee; consultants will work with people to create a package that is right for them based on their age and risk factors. The American Legion is at 6900 Greenbelt Rd. Parking is free.

Call 1-877-237-1287 or visit the website at lifelinescreening.com.

Retro Town Fair At Labor Day Festival



PHOTO BY GREENBELT MUSEUM

Two proud botanical blue-ribbon winners from the 2023 Retro Town Fair

One of the Greenbelt Museum's favorite events each year is the Retro Town Fair, and it is returning on the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend, September 1. Beautiful veggies, needlework, baking and much more will be judged and showcased. Start planning entries now.

Much more information will be shared in the coming days, and the entry forms will be widely available on the Museum's website, greenbeltmuseum.org, and Facebook page and at the Co-op Supermarket checkout stands.

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, July 12 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 presents 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. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10824292.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 12 de julio 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. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrá 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.

Reel and Meal July 15: Saving Walden's World

On Monday, July 15 at 7 p.m., the Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café will feature Saving Walden's World, presented as a free sneak preview of this year's Utopia Film Festival. The film documents filmmaker Jim Merkel's life journey as a young arms dealer who has an ethical crisis when he discovers that his work harms families in less affluent societies. He begins a decades-long quest to redeem himself and to make the world a better place.

As Jim raises his young son Walden, a budding scientist, in an off-the-grid homestead, he questions whether those same people that his past-life's work targeted hold the keys to a sustainable planet.

A journey to three continents follows, where he meets powerful women who reshape their societies for the good of all. Places far from affluent – Cuba, Slovenia and Kerala, India – offer women free college, access to contraception, maternity leave, childcare, dentistry and healthcare. They offer all of these benefits, unimaginable in most of Jim's blue-collar America, along with a far smaller carbon footprint.

As Earth's temperatures soar, the stakes couldn't get higher. Come to the Café for this poignant, important film event. Merkel will be present to lead a discussion after the screening. To attend virtually, visit the New Deal Café website for Zoom registration: newdealcafe.com/events/reel-and-meal. For more information, see the film trailer link and other information on the website or call Frank Gervasi at 301-467-2418.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Creative Kids Campers Musical on Fridays



PHOTO BY GREENBELT RECREATION ARTS

Creative Kids participate in The Cookie Caper.

Greenbelt Recreation's Creative Kids Camp invites community members to attend free, family-friendly performances on the last Friday of each two-week camp session. Campers ages 6 to 12 and select staffers perform The Cookie Caper, an original musical written and directed by Chris Cherry, Greenbelt Recreation's performing arts coordinator.

When an entire batch of cookies mysteriously disappears, the campers at Creative Kids Camp decide to do some sleuthing. A series of intriguing clues leads them on a musical tour of discovery through the historic Greenbelt Community Center.

Performances take place at 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. in the Community Center gym on Fridays, July 12 and 26 and August 9. For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-397-2208.

City of Greenbelt arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltnmd.gov/arts.

Attention Filmmakers

Mark your calendars for the 20th anniversary of the Utopia Film Festival October 18-21. Submit your films! For questions contact the Festival organizers at UtopiaFilmFest20770@gmail.com or call GATE at 301-507-6581.

At the Library

Greenbelt Library regular hours 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 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2.

Storytimes

Friday, July 12, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10815010.

Wednesday, July 17, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10814985.

Thursday, July 18, 12:15 p.m., ages newborn to 2 Register at pgcmls.info/event/10814962.

STEM-tastic

Tuesday, July 16, 4:30 p.m., ages 8-12. Become a scientist by conducting hands-on, fun science activities using basic scientific principles. Learn about the different tracks animals make and how to identify visitors in your backyard. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10881331.

Ride and Read

Thursday, July 18, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity in while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGCMLS like Libby, Kanopy and Freegal to enjoy on the bike. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at pgcmls.info/event/10861112.

Writers Group Meets Friday, July 19

The monthly meeting of the Greenbelt Writers Group will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 19 in the Community Center. All interested writers are welcome. Open readings will be held and members will continue discussion of a potential joint writing project. For more information, email Barbara Ford at barb.ford@comcast.net.

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 7/11	FRI 7/12	SAT 7/13	SUN 7/14	
<p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">Charlie Owen & Pocket Change</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">7-9pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">Sweet soul & R&B</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">Jill Fulton Band</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">7-10pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">Nashville recording artist sings covers and originals with power and poignancy</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">DRUM CIRCLE W/ KATY GAUGHAN @ GREENBELT PARK, 330-5pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">Wild Anacostias</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">7-10pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">Funky Zydeco party band</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: #e67e22;">A NEW DEAL CAFE FAVORITES WEEKEND!</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">DEAF BRUNCH, 1030-12pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">The Nighthawks</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">6-8pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">DC's legendary band mixing blues, R&B and more!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; color: #e67e22;">FAVORITES WEEKEND!</p>	
MON 7/15	TUES 7/16	WED 7/17	TH 7/18	SPECIALS!
<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">REEL AND MEAL</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">7-9pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">A monthly film series exploring social justice issues</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">7-9:30pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">Sign ups at 6:30pm Express Yourself!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">PUB QUIZ</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">7-9pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">Come out and test your knowledge on topics from A to Z.</p>	<p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">Still Cookin'</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">7-9pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">A powerful medley of hot blues and rock</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">HAPPY HOUR</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">4-7pm</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">\$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: #0070c0;">WEDNESDAY</p> <p style="font-size: small; color: #0070c0;">\$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE</p>

Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot)com, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW!"

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THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.

Contact: jbeltower@yahoo.com. We promise: It won't hurt!

Greenbelt Access Television

July 13, Sat - July 19, 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 Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Ukraine Documentary Shorts
 From a day-in-the-life to war efforts, this is an incredibly moving selection of short films.

New This Month
What's New at Greenbelt Cinema? | July 2024
 July is jam-packed with exciting new films, beloved throwbacks, and special events at Greenbelt Cinema! Tune in to find out what you can expect to see!

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.

Obituaries

Leslie Davies-Hilliard



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Leslie Davies-Hilliard with her son Harrison

Leslie Davies-Hilliard died on June 23, 2024, surrounded by family, including her mother, sisters, three children and beloved husband. She was 70 years old.

Leslie was born on February 12, 1954, to Leslie Eugene ("Gene") and Gloria Davies. She was raised in Bryans Road, Md., as the oldest of 10 siblings. With such a large family came many adventures, and later she often spoke fondly of her time at home or at the family cottage by the Potomac. Her formal education would lead her to Charles County Community College and then briefly away from Maryland to earn a degree in marine biology from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1977.

She began her civil service career as a water tester for the local government in Florida. Wanting to be closer to family, Leslie moved back to the area and joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the Dalecarlia Reservoir in Washington, D.C. By 1987, she had begun work as an information management specialist for the Environmental Protection Agency. There she worked on the maintenance and design of webpages, from when the internet

was still in its early stages until her retirement in 2017.

In 1982, Leslie moved to Greenbelt, which she would call home for nearly half a century. She met and married her husband, Larry Hilliard, in 1985. Together they bought a home and raised three children here.

Leslie found inspiration from the people around her, from her love for animals and from lessons learned early about showing compassion for those in need. Though she often preferred to stay behind the scenes, she combined kindness with dogged persistence to give back – first with her family and then with the greater community as she made her way through the world.

Leslie's contributions took center stage, when, for over 10 years, she and her husband were active in Goddard's Music and Drama Club, where she took leading roles and gave award-winning performances.

Most often she used her strengths to give back to the local community. The proficiency with a sewing machine and knitting needles that she developed growing up in such a large family came in handy whether she was making costumes for her kids or scarves for a Holy Redeemer fundraiser. Her baking skills meant that bake sales were a success and her children were guaranteed to be popular on their birthdays. As a parent volunteer, she helped build and maintain the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team.

Leslie loved to travel. She brought her family along on va-

cations to Italy, Germany, Korea, Alaska, Hawaii and many stops in between. After her retirement, she took time to spend at her home away from home in Bozeman, Montana. She would stay there months at a time immersing herself in the local community. She valued the history of the area and exploring the open spaces.

Leslie adored animals. She opened up her heart to many living creatures, including adopted dogs. With bird feeders and a maintained garden that the deer enjoyed, she also looked after wildlife – intentionally or not.

Leslie is survived by sons Harrison and Wesley; daughter Haley; husband Lawrence; mother Gloria; brothers Chris, Greg and Peter; and sisters Sharon, Carol, Loraine, Theresa and Victoria. She is pre-deceased by her sister Charlotte and her father Leslie Eugene.



Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

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)
 301-474-5410
 Pastor Evelyn Romero
 See God's Grace in Action
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
Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School
www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE 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.
 *Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.
CELEBRATE WITH US
 135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

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+owner@groups.io](https://ccg1985+owner@groups.io)
cathcomgreenbelt.org

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

City Notes

Public Works, Rangers, Recreation, Arts, Museum and Police stayed busy with preparations, logistics and cleanup for July 4th festivities, Jazz Festival and Greenbelt Station's summer picnic.

City Manager and Planning staff met with Beltway Plaza leadership about the multifamily project; grading of the garage site is underway.

Human Resources welcomed four police academy graduates and processed their transfers. Public Information distributed press releases and answered media inquiries about Fire Department and EMS staff reallocation.

Animal Shelter residents are seven dogs and 13 cats.

The Aquatic & Fitness Center hosted a swim team meet and their Aqua Explosion event drew 48 participants.

At the Museum, Pride Day drew 30 visitors and Public Works worked on both garage doors.

Therapeutic Recreation created a lottery system for popular senior trips and facilitated a presentation on autism at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program's produce distribution served 238 households. In the first summer session of Community Nursing, eight nursing students served 16 residents.



Our sympathy to the large family and many friends of Leslie Davies-Hilliard, who died on June 23. Among her many other community contributions, she was a significant mother of the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team's Barracudas.

Congratulations to Fiona O'Brien and her teammates Juliet Hanks and Gabby Zsakany on their success at the National competition last month and being named to the USA Gymnastics Acro National Team.

Congratulations to Greenbelt's 15 and Under baseball team who ended their season undefeated with a 9-0 record.

Congratulations, also, to the Greenbelt Barracudas on their win at last weekend's swim meet.

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

LISTEN to the NEWS REVIEW
 Visually impaired may listen for free
 Call Metropolitan Washington Ear
 301-681-6636
 No special equipment needed

"However difficult matters are at present, and however close to the limits of their endurance some sections of societies are brought, humanity will ultimately pass through this ordeal, and it will emerge on the other side with greater insight and with a deeper appreciation of its inherent oneness and interdependence." – Universal House of Justice

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...
 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
 Romans 8:1

Sunday Worship Services
 10a-11:15a @ Eleanor Roosevelt High School (7601 Hanover Pkwy.)
MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation
 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
 Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield
 An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.
 Friday evening services at 8:00pm
 Saturday morning services at 10:00am
 Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities
 For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
 Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

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
 July 14, 2024 at 3:00 pm
Coming to Grips with Christian Nationalism
 Rob Boston with Worship Associate Carol Boston
 Christian Nationalism is an existential threat to American democracy. In this talk, Rob Boston of Americans United for Separation of Church and State will explore how those of us in progressive communities can best oppose this theocratic movement while honoring our core values.
 Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

County Schools Offer Free Summer Meals

Prince George's County Public Schools offers free meal service for children under age 18 through Friday, August 9. Breakfast is served from 9 to 9:30 a.m. and lunch from noon to 1 p.m. on weekdays. Meals must be eaten on site and dates and times are subject to change.

Springhill Lake Elementary School and Magnolia Elementary are among the 25 participating school sites.

Repair Café At MakerSpace

The next free Greenbelt MakerSpace Repair Café is on Saturday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Bring clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. See tools.greenbeltmakers.org for more information. Borrow tools and other things at the Tool Library on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.



March in the Parade On Labor Day

The Festival Parade will take place on Monday, September 2 from 10 a.m. to noon. The parade route is along Crescent Road, from Greenhill Road to Southway. Organizations, clubs and other groups are encouraged to participate. Visit greenbeltlaborday.com/parade for more information and to register.



Information Day Applications Open

The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee is accepting applications for Information Day, which will take place between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Saturday, August 31 in Roosevelt Center. Organizations, clubs, businesses and other groups are invited to share information with the public. Find out more and register at greenbeltlaborday.com/get-involved/information-day.



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.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

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



MEETINGS FOR JULY 15 - 19

Monday, July 15, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL SUMMER RECESS**

Wednesday, July 17, **NO MEETING - COUNCIL SUMMER RECESS**

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.

ELECTRONICS & STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Saturday, July 27, 9 am - 12 pm
Public Works Facility, 555 Crescent

RECYCLE YOUR OLD COMPUTERS AND OTHER ELECTRONICS!

Electronics Recycling - Accepted: CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires, power cords. NO - ALKALINE BATTERIES or CFLs; NO - TUBE TVs.

Expanded Polystyrene - White, block Styrofoam #6.
Clean - Cups, egg cartons, and food trays welcome.

PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$100 service fee. Contact: Yuck Old Paint, LLC 888-509-9825 (YUCK) or www.YuckOldPaint.com.

Contact Public Works at (301) 474-8004 with any questions or concerns.

GREENBELT DANCE STUDIO MINI-CAMPS

Greenbelt Community Center, Room 10, 15 Crescent Rd

For FREE tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center or call (301) 397-2208.

There are still spaces available in the Storybook Dance Theater Mini-Camp for ages 3 to 6 from 7/16-7/25 and the Ballet Dance Theater Mini-Camp for Ages 6-9 from 7/30-8/8.

Learn more in the Summer Activity Guide: <https://bit.ly/42UVwyD>.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

Tuesday, August 20, 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

Join us for our 'Back-to-School Health Fair! Meet organizations devoted to strengthening community connections - providing resources about health insurance, mental health services, and city educational programming.

Free dental screenings, vision screenings, fun activities and more! The first 100 families to register and attend will receive free school supplies.

Registration is required. We kindly ask that children be present at the event to receive giveaways.

To register, call (240) 424-0302 or visit <https://forms.gle/DjhpsAijaFd5zFBv7>.

¡Que iniciamos este año escolar con buena salud!

Conozca organizaciones locales dedicadas al fortalecimiento de nuestra comunidad - proporcionando recursos acerca del seguro médico, salud mental y programas educativos en nuestra comunidad. ¡Evaluaciones dentales gratis, exámenes de la vista gratis, actividades recreativas y más! Las primeras 100 familias que se registren y asistan recibirán útiles escolares o tarjeta de regalo para alimentos.

Para registrarse, llame (240) 424-0302 o <https://forms.gle/DjhpsAijaFd5zFBv7>.

OUR SPONSORS



CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

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

- Pink Pantry Opn Registration.** This quarterly program assists low-income Greenbelt residents to access free menstrual products. To register call (240) 424-0302 or email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.
- Greenbelt Nursery Project.** Our Greenbelt Nursery project is dedicated to supporting families with young children. We provide 6 Home Visits that offer personalized care and resources. To register call (240) 424-0302 or email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.
- Emergency Diaper Distribution.** Must register <https://forms.gle/NTFekFefAttjqsQt9>. Call (240) 424-0302.
- Produce Distribution** at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: July 18, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution** at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (*Greenbelt West Residents Only*)
Upcoming Dates: July 18, from 3 - 4:15 pm

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

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.

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.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS JULY 18 - TWO LOCATIONS

Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road: 1 - 3 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.

FREE CARES CLASSES

Stress Surfing. Wednesdays, July 17, & 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, 14, 21, & 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.

CREATIVE KIDS CAMP PRESENTS: THE COOKIE CAPER

Fridays: 7/12, 7/26, & 8/9. 10 am & 2:15 pm
Greenbelt Community Center Gym, 15 Crescent Rd

For FREE tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center or call (301) 397-2208.

Enjoy the original musical written and directed by Chris Cherry and performed by Creative Kids Camp.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION July 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/NTFekFefAttjqsQt9> or call Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302.



FEATURED PETS 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'm a 1-year old, big-hearted girl. I'm sweet and affectionate, easy going on walks, playful in the yard, and super smart. My favorite past time is splashing in the kiddie pool and taking long walks! My temporary foster family recently took me to the beach and boy did I enjoy catching waves and working around in the sand!

That's right, I'm fun loving, but I'm also eager to please and highly trainable. You can count on me to be intensely loyal and your best friend for life. Are you ready for me?

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



PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greenbelt, MD - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
(301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:

City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or council@greenbeltmd.gov.

Council Votes on Funds for Rec Facilities, Bus Stop Improvements

by Maurice Crawford

At the June 17 meeting Greenbelt City Council discussed and voted on several items including funding a Human Resources Information System (see upcoming article), pool repairs, updating the city's code and charter (see page 1), appropriations for Greenbelt West and bus stop improvements.

Open Space Projects

In Prince George's County the funds for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Program Open Space (POS) have been reduced from \$13.2M to \$4.7M, but the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) plans to encumber \$19M in FY 2025 leaving \$7M available for municipal use. Also, M-NCPPC staff is proposing to place all unencumbered funds in one pot that can be spent by M-NCPPC or municipalities in a given year.

Given these changes, staff recommends council support the submittal of two development projects to be included in the county's FY 2025 POS Annual Program: (1) Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Indoor Pool Deck Structural Repairs (\$1,650,000 with 90 percent being POS funded) and (2) Greenbelt Station Outdoor Recreation Facilities (\$275,000 with 90 percent being POS funded). These projects were identified in the Greenbelt Station Green Spaces Visioning Plan developed by the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) a nonprofit that works with municipalities to support community development. In addition, improvements would be made to the creekfront area off the Indian Creek Trail with a subsequent plan for the area and community feedback serving as a guide.

Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby said that since the POS funds come from a state transfer tax, as home sales are down so is the revenue from this tax. Another reason for the changes is that the county has a large unencumbered balance and other communities are interested in participating.

Regarding the second project, Councilmember Danielle McKinney wanted to know if the intent is to have NDC develop an actual plan. Hruby affirmed this.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts stated the POS was designed to purchase land to protect it but now we are just spending it on construction projects. He added, "This is pathetic, of course I'll be voting against this." In response, Hruby stated that the POS has evolved over time and now 25 percent of the program is required toward acquisition and 75 percent toward development.

Councilmember Jenni Pompei observed that the pool is not an outdoor space and asked if it is still considered eligible. It is, according to Hruby.

Resident Michael Hartman wanted to know about accessibility to the Indian Creek Trail. Hruby said that would be considered in the planning process but that some sites are more challenging in terms of accessibility than others. Another resident, Alex Campbell, asked whether expected community input referred only to NDC efforts or would be broader. Hruby stated that it would be broader and that Recreation and Parks would be

doing more outreach regarding this. Hruby also said it is very likely that these projects would be included in the county's request and expects to know their funding status by the end of June.

Bus Stop Improvements

The City of Greenbelt allocated \$150K of American Rescue Plan Act funds for bus stop improvements including shelters, benches, better accessibility and safety. City Planner Ryan Sigworth presented a list of 38 bus stops for improvements that were selected based on a 2013 Bus Stop survey plus Public Works and Metrobus ridership data. The funds need to be encumbered by the end of the year and the plan is to complete the improvements within two years. He also noted that bus stops along Greenbelt Road, a state road, were not included because more advanced planning is needed for projects on state roads.

All councilmembers voted in favor of the bus stop improvements.

Greenbelt West Fund

A first reading, an expenditure of \$50K for improvements at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center (SHLRC), was introduced. These funds originated from a fee-in-lieu agreement between Greenbelt and the Motiva apartment complex. City Manager Josué Salmerón said this expenditure is for FY 2025 and would be used for facility/programmatic improvements at SHLRC including floor work and replacing doors. This expenditure will be discussed at the July council meeting.

Rent Stabilization

Council discussed county bill (CB-55-2024), aimed at rent stabilization. This bill would cap yearly rent increases for buildings constructed prior to the year 2000 at 6 percent or the regional inflation rate plus 3 percent, whichever is lower. The bill was amended to cap rent increases at age-restricted and senior housing centers at a maximum of 4.5 percent and to prohibit landlords from imposing new fees for services and amenities in the midst of a lease.

Pompi raised this issue to council because the city has more than 5,000 rental units, hence the bill will have a significant impact on residents and landlords. She was concerned about the lack of vacancy controls, the exemption for units constructed after 2000 and the lack of fee controls. The overall sentiment expressed by council was that this bill needed more discussion and thought before being advanced. Council decided to contact County Councilmembers Ingrid Watson and Calvin Hawkins asking them to delay the vote. Nonetheless, on June 18 the Prince George's County Council Committee of the Whole voted unanimously to advance the bill.

Pollinator Proclamation

Jordan read a proclamation setting National Pollinator Week to June 17-25, 2024. City Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll provided an overview of what the city has been doing to support pollinators, especially native bees.



FIONA continued from page 1

cumulative All-Around score coming in just 0.04 above the next team's and that team 0.04 above the next, which, as Krauk points out, means there was a 0.08 difference between Gold and Bronze.

In addition to being named to the USA Gymnastics Acro National Team, Fiona, Juliet and Gabby were selected as alternates to the World Team. They have been training together as a trio only since the end of last September.

"It made me happy seeing how our hard work this season paid off," says Fiona. "Nationals was a fun experience as a new trio, and I'm excited to be named to the National Team with them."

The World Team

"Acro Gymnasts highest honor is World Team," explains Krauk.

The selections for the World Team were supposed to be made in January and the Championships were to be held in March in Israel. Due to the war, selections were moved to the National Competition and the 29th Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships will be held in Portugal in September.

Coincidentally, Fiona's family was heading on their summer vacation – to Portugal – the week after the National competition, a trip they planned in October last year. Since Fiona is now an alternate for the World team, which can expect a Proof of Readiness test on August 10, the family was told to find a gym in Porto for her to practice at because, although she can travel, she can't take two weeks off.

On August 10 the World Team gymnasts will meet via Zoom to compete and prove readiness. As an alternate, Fiona's trio has to be ready.

The National Team

"When I first started Acro, I looked up to the girls at the level I am now competing. I still can't believe what our trio accomplished this year. Our coach had a vision and our hard work paid off. I am beyond excited and honored to be representing the United States as well as our gym, International Elite, on the National Team," said Juliet. Gabby concurred, saying, "Winning the National Championship with Juliet and Fiona was a moment I will never forget, as it validated all our hard work and sacrifices, turning our dreams into reality. I am so proud to be a part of this trio."

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. 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, 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.



PHOTO BY JOHN CHENG, USA GYMNASTICS

From left, Gabby Zsakany, Juliet Hanks and Fiona O'Brien compete at the National Championships.



PHOTO BY ANDREA HANKS

From left, Juliet Hanks, Fiona O'Brien and Gabby Zsakany with their Acrobatic Gymnastic Junior National Team Plaques

In a non-Worlds year, the selection to Nationals would mean competing on Team USA internationally in the fall. This year the focus is Worlds, explains Krauk. Then the athletes will meet in Arizona in January for Winter Selection, where they'll compete and get re-ranked. Fiona's rank then will determine her assignments for international meets in the spring.

Then, next June, they'll compete once again at the National Championships for a place on the National Team the following year.

"I'm so proud of the girls for making the National Team in their first year as a trio together. We pushed them hard, and this season had its ups and downs, but they never stopped working," said their coach, Sarah Thomas.

2024 Greenbelt Outstanding Citizen Nomination Form

Submit this form (or something equivalent) by **July 29** to

Bob Zugby

Outstanding Citizen Committee

94 Ridge Road, Greenbelt MD 20770

or OutstandingCitizenGB@gmail.com

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Attach a statement (preferably printed or typed) explaining why this nominee deserves recognition as Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen.

You can include a list of organizations or activities in which the nominee has participated, including length of time, specific accomplishments, their impact upon Greenbelt or people within the City, and personal qualities that make the nominee special. Note this award is for **unpaid** volunteer work only.

Any supporting printed material is useful, but not required.

Others' testimonials are also helpful.

You may be contacted for additional information. If you prefer, send this form now and complete the statement later. The form and any additional information must be received no later than the **July 29 deadline**.

Nominated by:

Name(s) Signature(s) Telephone

We need your input—thank you!

Museum Hosts Lecture on Gardens

by Megan Searing-Young



PHOTO BY MARJORY COLLINS

Greenbelt residents work in their plot, May-June 1942. Farm Security Administration collection, Library of Congress

Learn about a unique aspect of Greenbelt's history at a Museum lecture on Thursday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. Unearthing Greenbelt's Historic Gardens explores the fact that although these spaces were part of the design plan from the start, they are mostly tucked away at the edges of town, easy to miss unless one knows where to look. But Greenbelt's community gardens are as much an integral planning component as the iconic superblocks, underpasses and pedestrian walkways. While some garden locations have remained exactly the same since the first hoe struck the dirt in 1938, others have been whittled away, moved, destroyed or lost. Using historic research and modern mapping technology, Greenbelt's historic gardens will be unearthed to tell their part of the story of Greenbelt's development over the past 90 years. The free event is co-sponsored by

the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum (FOGM), the Recreation Department and the City of Greenbelt. Pre-registration is not required, but is encouraged. Click on greenbeltmuseum.org/post/unearthing-greenbelt-s-historic-gardens to reach the registration page on Eventbrite.

The evening's speaker, Stephen Oetken, has been a volunteer docent, researcher, lecturer and walking tour designer for the Greenbelt Museum since 1999. A lifelong Greenbelter, with degrees in history and historic preservation, he enjoys researching Greenbelt's many fascinating storylines, and has even threatened to write a book someday chronicling the rich history of this planned community. Oetken has served on the FOGM board as both president and secretary, and on several Greenbelt Homes, Inc., task forces related to historic preservation. He lives in Greenbelt with his partner Matthew and their black lab Kona.

Local Realtor Kim Kash Ranked Fifth for Volume in Metro Area

by Randy Chow

In June, Kim Kash, a realtor for Compass – daughter of Howard Kash, who founded Kash Realtors – was ranked fifth individual agent by volume among all realtors in the D.C. metro area, by RealTrends Verified. The Washingtonian Magazine also recognized Kash as a top agent in 2022 and 2023.

Kash Realtors operated in this area throughout the 1960s to the 1980s. Kash's mother, Fann Kash, a company administrator, also sold real estate, and her father was "one of the earliest to renovate and resell."

When she was growing up, the real estate industry was dinner table conversation, as Kash puts it. But as a young girl, Kash wasn't interested in joining that conversation. "I didn't want to do that, that's boring," Kash remembers.

She studied English at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She wrote features and news stories for the Los Angeles Times. She wrote a duology of mystery novels about an Ocean City reporter exposing crime and corruption.

Ultimately, Kash found her calling in real estate, in a moment she describes as coming "full circle." She adds that the idea of renovating houses, as for her father, was what excited her most.

Kash has been a licensed Maryland, D.C. and Virginia realtor for six years, earning her license in May 2018. Asked about her recent awards and recognition, she attributes her success to where she lives: Prince George's County.

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items.



PHOTO COURTESY KIM KASH

Kim Kash, right, with husband Michael Cooney at the Georgetown waterfront

"Frankly, P.G. County is the best bet in the D.C. metro area," Kash says. "It's really affordable, easy to commute to D.C. or Annapolis, and people are starting to recognize that. I live here, I work here, I really advocate for this county. P.G. County is it."

Her personal belief in the importance of homeownership is something she keeps in mind as she connects buyers to prospective homes.

"It is the single most important investment that most people ever make," Kash says. "I see the importance of it for generational wealth and for people's success for a lifetime. I am helping people to do something I really, really believe in."

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

Many Candidates File for August 6 Special Primary for County Council

by Sharon O'Malley

Thirteen candidates have registered to run in a special primary election on August 6 to replace former Prince George's County Councilmember Mel Franklin (At-Large), who resigned in June amid charges of embezzlement, felony theft scheme and perjury.

Council Chair Jolene Ivey (District 5), a Democrat, of Bladensburg, was the first to announce her candidacy for the vacant seat.

Eight additional Democratic candidates filed by the July 5 deadline: Timothy Adams, mayor of Bowie since 2019; former Maryland Delegate Angela Angel; Tamara Davis Brown, of Clinton, who ran unsuccessfully for Maryland Senate in 2022; Leo Bachi Eyombo, of Suitland, who made an unsuccessful run for county council in 2022; Marvin E. Holmes Jr., of Upper Marlboro, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates representing



PHOTO BY ELEMENTSDIGITAL ON UNSPLASH

District 23B; Kiesha D. Lewis, of Bowie, a self-described federal government whistleblower; Judy Mickens-Murray, of Upper Marlboro, a former member of the county Board of Education; and Gabriel Njinimbot, of Laurel, who ran unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary for the District 4 congressional seat this spring.

Republicans

Republican candidates include Kamita Gray, of Clinton, a community and environmental activist; Michael Riker, of

Cheltenham, a retired police detective; Isaac Toyos, of Riverdale, a legislative affairs analyst for the federal government; and Jonathan White, of Upper Marlboro, a veteran who has worked in government security.

The winners of the Democratic and Republican primaries will face off on Election Day, November 5, when county residents will also vote for candidates for the U.S. House and Senate, and the presidency.

This article by Sharon O'Malley was first published by Streetcar Suburbs News (streetcarsuburbs.news/) and is reprinted with permission.



Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café
 Saturday July 20 from 10 am - 2 pm
 at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (volunteers needed as well). Bring your clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library Saturdays 10 am - noon,
 Sundays 11 am - 1 pm
<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>





The Greenbelt Community Foundation is seeking additional board members.

For more information or to apply, contact us at greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com

COOKIE CAPER continued from page 1

nursery school, the photography darkroom, the art room and the Greenbelt News Review office, each location featuring a song and dance by a different group of children.

A faction of the campers, who decide to lead their own independent investigation in search of the cookies, uncovers another mystery in the process: they stumble upon an old diary that had been hidden by one of Greenbelt's first schoolchildren.

The diary describes daily life in 1930s Greenbelt from the eyes of a child: rollerskating with friends in their new hometown, visiting the student-led "Gumdrop Co-op" store and admiring the bas relief panels depicting the preamble to the U.S. Constitution that adorn the school and community center. Details in the diary also prompt the campers to dig deeper into the city's history of racial segregation.

To find out how the mysteries of the diary and the missing cookies are solved, you'll have to catch the show yourself – and you might even get to sample the titular treats at the end of the hour.

The Cookie Caper is one of a varied collection of musicals Chris Cherry has written for the Creative Kids Camp over his 26-year tenure. Last performed in 2017, this particular show is a fun way to help the children learn and engage with the history of the community, Cherry said.

And while Greenbelt's history of cooperation is certainly reflected in the message of the show, the children also learned about cooperation through the process of putting the production together.

"Being in a musical show is a real lesson in cooperation because the sum is greater than the parts," said Cherry. "Everybody has a role to play, and they have to work together, and so it's a great way for them to learn to build community, be a part of something bigger than themselves and support one another."

There are six more opportunities to see The Cookie Caper this summer, at the conclusion of the second, third and fourth sessions of the 2024 Creative Kids Camp. Both morning and afternoon performances will take place on Fridays July 12, July 26 and August 9. Free tickets can be reserved in person at the Community Center business office or over the phone by calling 301-397-2208.



Children face monsters from the darkroom.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



They Do Review the News Review in The Cookie Caper.



Creative Kids Session 1 campers perform a scene from The Cookie Caper on Friday, June 28.

Jim Cassels Award Applicants For Greenbelt Projects Sought

by Donna Hoffmeister

Know a group with a project that could use some financial support? The Jim Cassels Community Service Award funds innovative local projects that benefit the Greenbelt community. Established in 2006, the award honors Jim Cassels, the leading founder of the Greenbelt Supermarket Cooperative and 1978 Outstanding Citizen. The funding can be utilized for either new initiatives or ongoing projects, potentially serving as seed money for ventures that become self-sustaining.



Jim Cassels

third Monday of each month. In 2020, the Prince George's Community Collaborative Resolution Center conducted workshops to help residents learn to resolve conflicts in a respectful manner. In 2018, the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts fostered creativity among fourth-graders at Greenbelt Elementary School by having them create shadow puppets and perform a Ukrainian folktale. In 2015, WAGS (Well-Wishers for the Animals of the Greenbelt Shelter) helped children and their parents recognize a dog's or cat's stress signals and to know what to do if approached by an unfamiliar dog off leash.

Since its inception, the Jim Cassels Community Service Award has spurred numerous impactful projects in Greenbelt. For instance, the Bilingual Pre-K Story Hour, an initiative by Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK), the 2023 award winner, has been promoting early literacy among children age 5 and under. On the second Friday morning of each month at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Greenbelt Library staff lead storytelling, singing and bilingual lessons in English and Spanish, engaging young minds in a lively educational experience.

Residents interested in applying for the award can find detailed information and the application form on the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket's website at greenbelt.coop. While paper applications are available at the Co-op Service Desk, online submissions are preferred. The deadline for the 2024 applications is September 15. Email project coordinator Donna Hoffmeister at donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net with any questions. The winner will be announced at the Co-op's annual meeting in November. By applying, residents can honor Jim Cassels' legacy and make a meaningful contribution to Greenbelt. Previous winners can apply again.

Other recipients include the Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café, which won the award in 2021. It used its grant to screen free, high-quality documentaries on social justice issues on the

Hollywood Comes to Greenbelt: Red Carpet Premiere July 21

Greenbelt native Jeremy C.Y. Butler is putting his hometown in the spotlight with his latest film, The Kidnapping: Raven Hill. Butler has seamlessly integrated Greenbelt into the movie's fabric, using the Community Center for auditions and featuring a pivotal scene at the beloved local eatery, Generous Joe's Deli.

The star-studded cast includes Jeremy C.Y. Butler, Shondell Johnson and Taylor-Lynn Certified. The highly anticipated Red Carpet Premiere will be held at the historic Greenbelt Cinema on Sunday, July 21 from 7 to 11 p.m.

For tickets and more details, visit TheKidnappingMovie.eventbrite.com.



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Councilmembers Offer Some Ideas for Planning Framework

by Michael Zelif

At the Greenbelt City Council July 1 worksession on developing a council planning framework, Mayor Emmett Jordan updated other members and the public on the decision by Prince George's County to reassign 30 career firefighters stationed in Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights as of June 30 (see the June 13 issue). Greenbelt's Fire and Rescue Chief Thomas Ray received notice of this impending change on June 4 and Jordan received notice on June 5. The mayor emphasized that three weeks was not enough time to prepare for this change, and the health and safety of Greenbelt residents is council's top priority. On July 1, Prince George's County Circuit Court denied a temporary restraining order to halt implementation. City Manager Josué Salmerón assured council and residents that new equipment will allow Greenbelt police to provide emergency services as the city seeks a balanced approach with the county. (See page 10 for the city's acquisition of Automated External Defibrillators.)

Planning Framework

Council then turned to devising a planning framework for setting priorities and encouraging greater participation by residents. Councilmember Danielle McKinney was thanked for her work putting together a packet of suggested steps, guiding questions, objectives and tools. These ideas came largely from discussions during a council retreat in January. In seeking common ground, councilmembers kept in mind the unifying work of the late Councilmember Ric Gordon.

McKinney emphasized that one objective of the framework will be to ensure that council is hearing from Greenbelt residents via multiple ways when seeking their advice and help. Councilmember Kristen Weaver added that a framework will provide new councilmembers with needed guidance. Tools within the framework will help track and show the impacts of city programs. Websites will show councilmembers' past and future activities which will enable residents to meet with members at relevant and convenient locations.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts wondered where money within tight budgets might come from to develop ideas generated through the framework, to which Weaver replied that not every idea requires funding. McKinney noted that implementation has already begun for some ideas that do not entail significant new costs. One main objective is to provide various means for allowing Greenbelt residents to identify problems, suggest solutions and then track the city's progress in responding to this information. Resident Michael Hartman emphasized the importance of showing citizens that attending town halls or worksessions pays off in results. Councilmember Jenni Pompei recommended engaging community leaders while also noting that what works for council may not work for them.

Within this context, council focused on the city's advisory boards, such as its Reparations Commission and Board of Elections. Asking what happens after council meets with these bodies,

Jordan noted that practices often go unrecorded. Consequently, Weaver noted, new members don't know what to do. Councilmember Silke Pope responded that the new framework's objective will be to make these practices more clear, detailed and efficient. Individual councilmembers often serve as liaisons to advisory bodies, and this needs to be structurally recorded.

Salmerón identified the problem of a lack of repository for institutional knowledge. The Reparations Commission, for example, wants a dedicated website for making its deliberations available. Weaver added that the website for the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan needs improvements. Pope noted that Hyattsville performs surveys to obtain residents' feedback. While the cost of providing such services via apps can be high, Salmerón pointed out that off-the-shelf solutions do sometimes exist and can bring those costs down.

Communication

McKinney reiterated the importance of finding ways to communicate outside of worksessions. For a more robust connection, Hartman recommended that council meet, for example, with merchants in the city's business centers. Liaisons from council should act as reality checks on advisory boards, he added, and the rough drafts of minutes from their meetings might be posted for commentary. Though councilmembers found complications in these proposals, they thanked Hartman for his input.

McKinney urged council to find ways to communicate with residents who don't have a lot of spare time. Jordan responded that challenges like this one require creative channels of communication, and not just the one option of attending council meetings.

See **COUNCIL**, page 10

City-Food Bank Partnership Feeds Hundreds Each Month

by Matthew Neus

Hundreds of Greenbelt residents lined up in cars outside the Community Center on Thursday, June 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. to receive free, fresh produce.

The event – held by the City of Greenbelt in partnership with the Capital Area Food Bank – occurs on the third Thursday of every month. The distribution is a part of the food bank's Mobile Market Program, an initiative aiming to give neighborhoods in and around Washington, D.C., access to “good, healthy food.”

To participate in the free distribution, Greenbelt residents can enroll in the program to be allowed to show up to the distribution any month they choose. Anyone that enrolls receives a card that is scanned each time that resident shows up. However, the produce given out is on a first-come, first-served basis each month, and it is not required for people to enroll before arriving at the distribution.

Each month offers a wide variety of food. This month the city received two types of produce, potatoes and cabbage. Canned goods were also handed out for those who arrived at the distribution.

The city's decision to partner with the Capital Area Food Bank through the Mobile Market Program offsets most of the costs associated with running the food distribution each month. All the produce provided by the food bank is free to the City of Greenbelt, leaving only the dry goods to be purchased by the city.

“We've been lucky enough to receive grants to help offset the cost of the food that we purchase,” said Christal Batey, an organizer of the distribution event.

Batey said that the city typically spends around \$1,500 each month on food not provided by the food bank. These funds come



PHOTO BY MATTHEW NEUS

A car is loaded with fresh produce at the Greenbelt Produce Distribution on June 20.

from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and have helped the distribution continue for the past two years. ARPA funding was generated because of the health impacts caused by Covid, and the city is continuing to use money from those funds today. While those funds must be allocated by the end of 2024, Elizabeth Park, Greenbelt CARES Director, said the city budget for 2025 will allow the food distribution to continue as is next year.

The event is normally well-attended with an average of 150 cars driving through the distri-

bution and an additional 100 people walking up to the tables to collect produce. Depending on food availability, some months the distribution runs out of food before the event ends.

“We encourage people [to participate], all you have to do is be a resident of Greenbelt,” Batey said. “No income qualifications or anything, no citizen status is required. Just be a resident of Greenbelt.”

Matthew Neus is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning at the Greenbelt News Review.

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COUNCIL continued from page 9

Pompi emphasized the importance of council showing that it has goals and then showing its progress toward meeting those goals. McKinney added that council needs to report every quarter on priorities. Jordan emphasized that council must show that its goals are not just aspirational, that it can overcome roadblocks, adjust to change and hold staff accountable. McKinney observed that even small steps can be important and should be documented. Weaver recommended that the city manager's weekly report become more objective based and focus on actions that move priorities forward.

The planning framework,

Weaver continued, will provide a process for documenting protocols, expectations and procedures that don't rise to the level of a rule. It will complement existing standing rules. Pope warned, however, against micromanaging. The council hopes to better support and track the objectives and meetings of advisory boards. Councilmembers also recognized the importance of making it easy for Greenbelt residents to, for example, report a pothole or a broken sidewalk. Whether by an app or a simple form, this information should be relayed through a unified system to the correct team within city government for a response.



PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

Brown-belted bombus on echinacea

Indoor Community Yard Sale July 27

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will hold its long awaited Indoor Community Yard Sale on Saturday, July 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 125 Crescent Road. Tell friends and neighbors to come and help support the fire department and auxiliary. There are many tables with lots of treasures for everyone. Refreshments and homemade baked goods will also be available for purchase. Tables are available for rent; see the classified ad for further details. Masks are not required, but may be worn if desired. The hall is handicapped accessible along with ample parking.

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City Acquires Eight AEDs, Days After Country Removes Firefighters

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Days after the loss of career firefighters from Greenbelt's fire department, the City of Greenbelt announced the acquisition of eight new Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to supplement their emergency response readiness. The additions are "in an effort to enhance response to cardiac emergencies and overall safety," said a city announcement. AEDs are applied to the chest to deliver an external electric shock to the heart. According to the American Heart Association, "AEDs help people who have a sudden cardiac arrest, which occurs when the heart suddenly stops beating regularly.... If not treated within minutes, cardiac arrest quickly leads to death." Currently approximately 80 percent of the emergency calls the fire department responds to are for emergency medical technician (EMT) assistance. Since the removal of the career firefighters, response times are expected to double from approximately four minutes to eight to ten.

The AEDs were purchased in two separate transactions. Four AEDs were purchased for police cruisers at a cost of \$9,176, and four bilingual AEDs (in English and Spanish) with wall cabinets were purchased to be installed at locations around the city at a cost of \$9,776, for a total cost of \$18,952.

With the addition of the eight new AEDs there are now 11 around the city in the following locations: the Youth Center (1), Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (1), Community Center (2), Springhill Lake Recreation Center (1), Police Department (1), Public Works (1), Schrom Hills Park Club House (1), Municipal Building (2) and the Co-op Supermarket (1).



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

New AEDs purchased by the City of Greenbelt

In addition to these locations, four AEDs were purchased to be installed in police patrol vehicles to ensure 24/7 emergency availability. At a Greenbelt City

Council meeting on July 8, it was also suggested that an AED might be kept with Park Rangers who patrol the city and are often at large gatherings.

CHARTER continued from page 1

ample, the use of gender-neutral language will be accomplished through the Municode contract, but other aspects need to be set by council.

Weaver said that some cities have a standing Charter Review Committee although Greenbelt does not. Councilmember Danielle McKinney suggested that at the Charter Review worksession she would like to see how this step fits within the larger process and how the public can have input on the effort. Councilmember Jenni Pompi pointed out that

the charter review process does not preclude council from amending it at any time.

Council voted unanimously in favor of the contract.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred July 1-7, 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 reported four mental health diversions, one involving suicide; seven domestic incidents, four with arrests; one Child Protective Services incident with arrest and one sexual assault. On July 5 near 5807 Cherrywood Lane, a girl who had left home before was reported missing.

Armed Juvenile Arrested

On July 7 at 10:55 p.m. near Old Calvert Road and Kenilworth Avenue, shots were reported. Officers stopped a speeding vehicle and found shell casings inside. The juvenile driver was arrested.

Assault

On July 2 at 6:01 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man's necklaces were snatched off his neck by another man who punched him several times. The suspect was located and identified, and second-degree assault charges were filed.

On July 4 at 8:52 a.m. near 6150 Springhill Terrace, two men surrounded a man as he exited his vehicle and told him not to move. He kept walking away, and the suspects went toward Springhill Lake Elementary School.

On July 4 at 10:15 p.m. near 161 Centerway, a man at a bus stop was shot five times in the arm and head with a BB gun by a young man riding in a silver Honda Civic.

Break-ins

On July 1 near 7474 Frankfort Drive, the HOA tool shed was broken into and tools were stolen.

On July 2 at 11:47 p.m. near 6103 Breezewood Court, a woman heard a knock on her glass patio door. The door was shattered; a man entered and then fled.

On July 5 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a bedroom window was open in an unrented unit, and the woman found inside was arrested.

Drug Transaction

On July 1 at 10:28 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a known suspect with outstanding warrants was witnessed apparently selling drugs. He was told to stop but ran away.

DUI

On July 6 at 5:26 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Kenilworth Avenue, a 2017 Infiniti crossed several lanes and medians and was facing the curb, airbags de-

ployed. The driver said he'd had a six-pack around midnight. After a field sobriety test, he was arrested for DUI.

Fraud

On July 5 near 6401 Golden Triangle Drive, two checks were altered and cashed with fraudulent names.

Juvenile Complaints

On July 2 at 10:28 p.m. near 9300 block Edmonston Road, a suspicious juvenile was reported but nothing was found.

On July 4 near 101 Greenhill Road, a boy threatened to shoot someone at the church after an argument while playing soccer.

Robberies

On July 1 at 11:24 a.m. near 6226 Greenbelt Road, a man withdrew money from the bank, and on his way to his vehicle, two men with a handgun grabbed the cash out of his hands.

On July 3 at 12:14 p.m. near 6038 Greenbelt Road, three people at the bank reported that three armed suspects took their money and fled in a gray Infiniti with a flat front tire and a broken rear window.

On July 5 at 7:55 a.m. near 6202 Springhill Drive, a man went to buy an iPhone from a private seller, but as he entered the building two men stole the money.

Theft

On July 2 at 11:16 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, video showed a man removing the security fob from a vacuum box and stealing it; and at 5:41 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, four girls hid merchandise in a bag and stole it. On July 3 at 6:29 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter was arrested. On July 4 at 2:28 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, three women with unpaid merchandise left in a white Hyundai Sonata with Maryland tags. On July 6 at 4:24 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man stole items in a reusable shopping bag; at 2:24 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, video showed a man stealing items; and at 7:03 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole merchandise and fled in a silver Hyundai. On July 7 at 11:30 p.m. near 6114 Breezewood Court, a resident ordered food; despite notification of its delivery, it didn't arrive.

Vandalism

On July 6 near 60 Crescent Road, a storm door on a house was broken; and at 11:21 p.m. near 6200 Greenbelt Road, a man broke a glass door with a shopping cart.

**Vehicle Crimes
Stolen Vehicles**

Five vehicles were stolen, including on July 3 near 8123 Bird Lane, a 2014 Mazda CX-5 (Md. 1EY2973), and near 6406 Ivy Lane, a rented car from Zipcar; on July 5 near 7931 Mandan Road, a gold 2017 Lexus RS (Va. TPT7604); on July 6 near 8162 Mandan Terrace, a gray 2019 Kia Optima (Texas STX7770); and on July 7 near 7518 Mandan Road, a 2020 Kia Sportage (Md. 2GA6969).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On July 2 near 6002 Springhill Drive, a 2019 Kia Forte was found with a broken window and damaged ignition. Near 6002 Springhill Drive on July 5 and again July 7, Hyundai Sonatas stolen in Prince George's County were recovered. On July 7 a stolen 2006 Honda Accord from near 9168 Springhill Lane was recovered in Washington, D.C.

On July 6 at 1:27 a.m. near 7800 Hanover Parkway, officers saw a vehicle driving with the lights off; later, juveniles were seen using it trying to steal other vehicles. One was apprehended and others ran away.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On July 3 near 7814 Hanover Parkway, a 2020 Hyundai Sonata had a broken window and damaged ignition.

Theft from Auto

On July 4, near 7726 Hanover Parkway, all four wheels were stolen from a Toyota Corolla; and near 6114 Breezewood Drive, tags were stolen.

Several vehicles had windows broken and items stolen: on July 1 near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a 2024 Dodge Charger; and near 7905 Brooks Place, a Hyundai Tucson with door damage; on July 4 near 8007 Mandan Road, a 2025 Honda Civic with a wallet stolen; near 7480

Greenway Center Drive, a 2013 Jeep Wrangler; near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a 2011 Nissan Altima had the trunk opened and items stolen; and on July 5 near 7446 Morrison Drive, a 2012 Kia Optima.

Vandalism to Auto

Windows were broken and doors damaged on July 3 near 7824 Hanover Parkway, and near 7714 Hanover Parkway on a 2017 Lexus ES350; and on July 6 near 7726 Hanover Parkway.

Larceny on the Rise, Accounts For Most Crime in Greenbelt

by Randy Chow

The reports of larceny in Greenbelt have increased 63.7 percent – from 3,565 total reports to 5,835 – from 2014 to 2023 according to the City of Greenbelt crime reports. The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines larceny-theft as the "unlawful taking, carrying, leading or riding away of property ... [that is] not taken by force, violence or fraud."

When asked what the department attributes the rising reported larceny trend to, Ricardo Dennis, a police spokesperson, doesn't have a definite answer.

Reports of larceny increased 25.2 percent between 2021 and 2022 and 21.5 percent between 2022 and 2023. A recent rise prompted the Police Department to take to social media in January this year to remind residents to stay vigilant and aware of their surroundings.

The number of reported larcenies from January to April of this year is 78.6 percent higher than the number of reported larcenies from January to April of 2014. Crime data for May and June of 2024 had not been publicly released at the time of this reporting.

Based on data from the last two years, Dennis said he does not anticipate the reports of larceny to continue to rise.

Between January 1 and June 25 this year, reports of larceny decreased by 23.6 percent from the same period last year, reported Dennis. Over that same time span, reported thefts from

auto have also decreased by 40.8 percent, but other reported thefts have increased by 13.3 percent.

Reports of larceny do not include reports of stolen vehicles. Reports of stolen vehicles have decreased 53.4 percent between January 1 and June 25 this year from the same period last year.

In order to reduce the risk of theft, Dennis advised residents to park in well-lit areas, avoid late-night ATM visits and walk in a group for safety.

"Always lock your car, don't leave your vehicle unattended, don't leave valuables – backpacks, purses, shopping bags – in plain view," Dennis advised.

On July 9, Greenbelt Police Department issued a crime advisory stating that the number of citizens falling victim to armed robberies has risen. (Armed robberies are not included in the category of larceny, which is theft without force.) Greenbelt Police Department noted a concerning trend known as "jugging," in which thieves stalk their victims at ATMs, stores and other locations and rob them when the victims are distracted, handling their cell phone or keys in a parking lot, for example. The department has allocated additional officers to combat these acts and is collaborating with other agencies. They warn Greenbelters to stay vigilant and aware of their surroundings.

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

Shooting on Hanover Parkway

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 9 and the early hours of Wednesday, July 10, two shootings took place on Hanover Parkway.

At approximately 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, the Greenbelt Police Department responded to a report of gunshots in the 7700 block of Hanover Parkway. Several juveniles were seen running from the area. A first suspect is described as a thin-built Black male wearing a gray shirt and black jeans. A second suspect was a Black male wearing a black hat and blue jeans.

A juvenile male was later found suffering from a gunshot wound at an area hospital. He was later confirmed to be a victim of the shooting on Hanover

Parkway that day but was unwilling to share information with detectives when questioned. He was discharged from the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

At approximately 2:45 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10, a second shooting took place, this time at the 7800 block of Hanover Parkway. During this no-contact shooting a juvenile was robbed but uninjured.


If you have any information, please call 301-474-7200.



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Letters cont'd from p.2

from our Department of Capital Programs regarding the contractor's noise ordinance violation at Greenbelt Elementary School.

[Thompson sent a letter published in last week's News Review, concerning the 3 a.m. starting time of the contractors.]

Upon receiving notification of the contractor's noncompliance on June 26, we promptly alerted SGK Contracting of their violation and reiterated their contractual obligation to adhere strictly to all requirements, which include the adherence to the county and city noise ordinance code requirements. PGCPs does not condone or tolerate any contractor's disregard to our jurisdiction code requirements. The violation on June 26 was the first notice received for violating the City of Greenbelt's noise ordinance and we will continue to monitor this project to ensure continued adherence to work hours. As of this email and per your email confirmation, there hasn't been any further noise ordinance violations beyond June 26.

With regard to your question, "Does SGK Contracting receive a bonus if the roofing work is completed on or before a set date?" the answer is no. None of PGCPs' construction contracts, including the agreement with SGK Contracting, incorporate provisions for incentives and/or bonuses for early completion. Rather, there are standard provisions/penalties to address any delays in completing the work beyond the agreed-upon contract

timeline, which is standard for all construction contracts.

Once again, please accept our apologies for the inconvenience caused. If you have any further questions and/or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Capital Programs at 301-952-6548 or via email at capital.programs@pgcps.org.

Email from PGCPs Superintendent Millard House II

Silver Linings

Irony can be cruel and it can be joyful, sometimes both. The Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team (GMST) is an institution in and around the Prince-Mont Swim League since 1957 when GMST joined as a Charter Member. Just three years from now, a Barracuda 70-year event is probably being planned based on the swimming success of the June 29 inaugural GMST homecoming that was organized by the Aquatic Booster Volunteers. Many parent volunteers are absolutely essential to run a successful Summer Swim Meet. So, when the Barracuda family heard of the death of two stalwart mothers Leslie Davies-Hilliard and Tinh Huynh they were at first saddened but quickly came to support the Barracuda families that grieved. Kateri Baker and Jill Lau of the current GMST families were swimmers in the '90s and early 2000s and Cuda Moms now. They too have lost parents but the cheers and the memories live on.

Larry Hilliard

Cat Visits St. Hugh Church During Sunday 11 a.m. Mass

by Mary Ann Tretler

On Sunday, May 26, Kotu (King of the Universe/named by Greenbelt Animal Shelter), an adult male domestic medium-hair cat, decided to come into St. Hugh Church. Kotu had been hanging around outside of Grenoble Hall all week. Just before the 11 a.m. Mass, he decided to enter through the side door of the church. The ushers, Matthew Davino and Matthew Dobson, attempted to catch Kotu, but he was too fast. He jumped onto the altar and headed for the sacristy. The sacristy doors were closed so that Mass could start.

After Mass, Dobson found Kotu on the St. Joseph side of the sacristy, sitting on the counter, looking very scared. Greenbelt Animal Control was closed for the Memorial Day weekend and Prince George's County Animal Control had no idea when they would be able to come. So, the St. Hugh family came together to help. Joan Hayden had an animal-carrying cage in her truck and some snack



PHOTO COURTESY MARY ANN TRETLE

Kotu the cat visits St. Hugh church.

food. We tried to entice Kotu into the cage but had no luck. In the meantime, Robin Pitts was on the Greenbelters site to put the word out about this lost cat, in hopes we could find its owner.

I called JoEllen Sarff, knowing she was a cat owner, to see if she could help. She came right over to church with comfort items for

the cage and cat food. Brave JoEllen came into the sacristy and immediately picked up Kotu and put him in the cage. JoEllen said he hugged her and was very affectionate and gentle. She gave Kotu food and water, which he immediately ate and drank. She also put a small litter box in the cage.

Around 3 p.m. we called the county animal control to let them know we would take care of Kotu over the holiday weekend at Hotel St. Hugh and take him to Greenbelt Shelter on Tuesday. JoEllen kindly agreed to come twice a day to clean the litter box and give Kotu food and water. She and Betty Triplett came faithfully to care for Kotu Sunday, Monday and Tuesday morning. Betty said Kotu loved sitting in her lap and was very laid back.

Kotu was taken to Greenbelt Animal Shelter Tuesday morning and now awaits a new home. Kotu is house-trained and neutered, has all his vaccinations and comes highly recommended by the St. Hugh Church family.



PHOTO BY KATERI BAKER

A welcome to alumni and photos of the swim team through the years at the June 29 swim meet

GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

Greenbelt Farmers Market






Sundays 10a - 2p

Southway and Centerway



GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

Stamp Out Hunger Close to Home

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing its food collections, as scheduled below:

Sunday, July 14 – by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Saturday, July 20 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill

Sunday, July 21 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village, 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road

Sunday, July 28 – by 4 p.m. for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on July 28 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to your porch.); by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive

Monday, July 29 – by 10:30 a.m. at the leasing office of Pinnacle Properties 32 Crescent Road.

LEGAL NOTICE

Crown Castle is proposing to register a 105-foot tall monopole telecommunications tower at the following site: 3620 Church Road, Bowie, Prince George's County, Maryland (38° 56' 23.36" N, 76° 46' 6.59" W). The proposed lighting on the tower is paint with red lights. Any interested party that believes the proposed action may have a significant impact on the environment may file a Request for Environmental Review (Request) to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Such Request may only raise environmental concerns. Information regarding the project may be found under file number ASR# A1303572 on the FCC website www.fcc.gov/asr/applications. The Request must be filed with the FCC within 30 days of the notice being posted on the FCC website. The FCC requires that all Requests be filed electronically at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. The Request must also be served upon Crown Castle by mailing a copy to 2000 Corporate Drive, Canonsburg, PA 15317 ATTN: Regulatory Department. 24-001955 / DMG

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Sports

GMST Beats Indian Head Swim Team

by Matthew Neus

The Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team (GMST) narrowly defeated the Indian Head Swim Team, 292-286, on Saturday, July 6 at Lackey High School Pool. GMST has won all but one of

their meets this summer. The team will host its final meet of the season on Saturday, July 13, against Accokeek Swim Team at

the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center outdoor pool beginning at 8:30 a.m.



Girls 11-12 50-Yard Breaststroke
First Place: Eliana Hebert (38.20)
Third Place: Linah Capers (47.77)

Boys 13-14 50-Yard Breaststroke
Second Place: Oscar Gaycken (41.20)

Girls 13-14 50-Yard Breaststroke
First Place: Tea Rippon (35.69)
Second Place: Morgan Parks (40.39)

Boys 15-18 50-Yard Breaststroke
First Place: Noah Brittain (30.81)
Third Place: Karthik Dwivedi (34.25)

Girls 15-18 50-Yard Breaststroke
Second Place: Mia Johnson (36.45)

Boys 9-10 25-Yard Backstroke
First Place: Silas West (20.03)
Third Place: Shivam Dwivedi (23.76)

Girls 9-10 25-Yard Backstroke
First Place: Maggie Brown (21.51)
Third Place: Sophia Roberts (25.28)

Girls 11-12 50-Yard Backstroke
First Place: Adyson Kerdock (39.87)
Second Place: Anabelle Downs (42.90)
Third Place: Eva Owe (53.22)

Boys 13-14 50-Yard Backstroke
Third Place: Owen Hebert (42.46)

Girls 13-14 50-Yard Backstroke
First Place: Lucy Murray (33.69)
Second Place: Mia Moore (34.00)

Boys 15-18 50-Yard Backstroke
First Place: Joseph Stokes (30.70)
Third Place: Karthik Dwivedi (31.41)

Girls 15-18 50-Yard Backstroke
First Place: Kira Moore (33.15)
Second Place: Seren Lerusse (35.26)

Boys 8 & Under 25-Yard Backstroke
First Place: Joshua Downs (37.63)
Third Place: Jet Allen (38.15)

Girls 8 & Under 25-Yard Backstroke
Second Place: Emilia Tallack (26.09)
Third Place: Veronika Avanova (29.16)

Boys 12 & Under 100-Yard IM
Third Place: Ronan Jackson (1:45.28)

Girls 12 & Under 100-Yard IM
First Place: Eliana Hebert (1:15.09)
Second Place: Mabel West (1:26.60)

Boys 13-14 100-Yard IM
Second Place: Oscar Gaycken (1:17.65)

Girls 13-14 100-Yard IM
First Place: Tea Rippon (1:12.38)
Second Place: Lucy Murray (1:17.80)
Third Place: Maya Francis (1:23.36)

Boys 15-18 100-Yard IM
First Place: Noah Brittain (1:01.94)
Second Place: Joseph Stokes (1:07.83)

Girls 15-18 100-Yard IM
First Place: Mia Johnson (1:09.38)

Mixed 8 & Under 100-Yard Freestyle Relay
Second Place: Veronika Avanova, Jet Allen, Elizabeth Moore and Joshua Downs (1:55.66)

Boys 9-18 200-Yard Freestyle Relay
Second Place: Silas West, Judah Lookhong, Oscar Gaycken and Noah Brittain (2:07.44)

Girls 9-18 200-Yard Freestyle Relay
First Place: Maggie Brown, Eliana Hebert, Mia Moore and Kira Moore (2:06.89)

Boys 18 & Under 200-Yard Medley Relay
Third Place: Kellen Murray, Jun Chang, Louis Roberts and Kyan Jamison (2:27.53)

Girls 18 & Under 200-Yard Medley Relay
First Place: Mia Johnson, Tea Rippon, Mia Moore and Kira Moore (2:08.13)
Third Place: Seren Lerusse, Tru Rippon, Mia Downs and Morgan Parks (2:20.13)

Boys 10 & Under 25-Yard Butterfly
Second Place: Silas West (18.39)

Girls 10 & Under 25-Yard Butterfly
Second Place: Maggie Brown (21.14)

Boys 11-12 50-Yard Butterfly
Third Place: Judah Lookhong (47.47)

Girls 11-12 50-Yard Butterfly
First Place: Anabelle Downs (39.16)
Second Place: Mabel West (39.64)

Boys 13-14 50-Yard Butterfly
First Place: Oscar Gaycken (33.44)

Girls 13-14 50-Yard Butterfly
First Place: Lucy Murray (33.26)
Second Place: Mia Downs (33.95)

Boys 15-18 50-Yard Butterfly
First Place: Joseph Stokes (27.14)
Third Place: Kevis Hsu (29.34)

Girls 15-18 50-Yard Butterfly
Second Place: Mia Johnson (30.96)

Boys 8 & Under 25-Yard Freestyle
Second Place: Joshua Downs (30.09)

Girls 8 & Under 25-Yard Freestyle
First Place: Elizabeth Moors (20.76)

Boys 9-10 50-Yard Freestyle
Second Place: Shivam Dwivedi (41.35)

Girls 9-10 50-Yard Freestyle
Third Place: Maggie Brown (43.36)

Boys 11-12 50-Yard Freestyle
Third Place: Judah Lookhong (35.71)

Girls 11-12 50-Yard Freestyle
First Place: Eliana Hebert (30.26)
Second Place: Adyson Kerdock (34.78)

Boys 13-14 50-Yard Freestyle
Second Place: Kyan Jamison (32.97)

Girls 13-14 50-Yard Freestyle
First Place: Mia Moore (27.27)
Second Place: Tea Rippon (28.31)

Boys 15-18 100-Yard Freestyle
First Place: Karthik Dwivedi (54.73)

Girls 15-18 100-Yard Freestyle
Second Place: Kira Moore (1:05.41)

Boys 8 & Under 25-Yard Breaststroke
First Place: Jet Allen (1:11.68)

Girls 8 & Under 25-Yard Breaststroke
First Place: Elizabeth Moore (31.88)
Second Place: Emmeline Bedford-Dillow (32.93)

Boys 9-10 25-Yard Breaststroke
Second Place: Silas West (22.94)

Girls 9-10 25-Yard Breaststroke
Second Place: Christine Kamdem (25.43)

Boys 11-12 50-Yard Breaststroke
Third Place: Ronan Jackson (44.13)

Greenbelt Babe Ruth Wraps Up Regular Season with Home Victory

by Ian Gleason



PHOTO BY CURRY ROSE HOSKEY

The Greenbelt Babe Ruth 15U team shakes hands after their victory over the Laurel Bolts at Laurel High School.

The Greenbelt Babe Ruth 15 and Under team concluded their regular season on Tuesday, July 9 with a home victory over the Marlboro Mustangs. The 15U team ended their season as regular season champions with an undefeated record of 9-0. Throughout the undefeated season the team was rarely challenged behind strong pitching from CJ Fuller, Mason Keaton and Junior Pedroza among others. Sanjay Chelliah, Corey Schmick, Chris Saavedra and Grant Nelson were major contributors to a high-powered offense.

Greenbelt players will represent the majority of the Prince George's County 15U All-Star

team which will be traveling to Milroy, Pa., this coming weekend for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament, with 12 out of 15 All-Star selections coming from Greenbelt.

The 18 and Under team finished their season with a loss to the DC Grays. The 18U team finished with a 5-5-1 record. Lincoln Beasley, Christian Moyer and Giovanni Velasquez were important members both on the pitching mound and at the plate. José Cruz and Ewan Stark were defensive centerpieces for the 18U squad which looks to infuse some of the upcoming 15U players into their roster next season.



PHOTO BY GREG FISANICH

A fox pauses by Lastner Lane.

PUBLIC POLICY VOLUNTEERS

The University of Maryland's Legacy Leadership Institute on Public Policy, in partnership with the State of Maryland, is looking for volunteers age 50+ to serve as volunteer legislative leaders during the 2024-2025 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Classroom training begins in September for 12 weeks, two days per week, at the College Park campus, with site visits to the state complex in Annapolis.

The volunteer assignment will be for a minimum of two days per week, starting in Jan. 2025, in the Annapolis offices of various senators and delegates. For more information or for an application, contact Wesley Queen at wqueen@umd.edu or call (301)-405-2529.

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Advertising Rate Change
Effective with the issue of August 1, 2024, the News Review will change its ad rates. See page 1 for details.

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NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.
DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).
ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.
AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Travels with the Greenbelt News Review



PHOTO COURTESY THE MILLER FAMILY

The Millers brought the News Review to Corfu, Greece, when they traveled there for a family wedding in May 2024.



PHOTO COURTESY GREG AND CATHY FISANICH

Greg and Cathy Fisanich share the News Review from Oahu, Hawaii.



PHOTO COURTESY CAROL SLATIN

The News Review is ferried across Lake Michigan by Carol Slatin.



PHOTO COURTESY OSCAR VELASCO

From left, Greenbelters Adrian Velasco and his dad Oscar Velasco with coffee bean roaster Guillermo Felix Dardano Schimmel, "cupping" (coffee tasting) in a roastery in Santa Tecla, El Salvador

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Greenbelt Celebrates Fourth With Music, Fireworks, Community

by Matthew Neus

As the sun began to set in Greenbelt on Thursday, July 4, community members convened at Buddy Attick Park for the finale of the city's Fourth of July celebrations.

A group played with a wiffle ball and a bat on Braden Field, similar to the famous baseball scene under the fireworks in the movie *The Sandlot*, and families walked along the path from the field and tennis courts toward Greenbelt Lake. Kids raced along the gravel path as people set their chairs and blankets along the lake's banks. Some ventured out onto the water in kayaks, eagerly awaiting the culmination of the day's celebrations.

The festivities kicked off at the bandstand at Buddy Attick Park earlier in the evening with performances from a drum circle led by Katy Gaughan and the Greenbelt Concert Band. The crowd grew and grew leading up to the fireworks display.

Once the sky was dark enough, the first blast shot into the air. A colorful burst appeared high in the sky a few seconds later. A large display of fireworks followed.

While some residents drove to experience the fireworks, others had the benefit of being within walking distance to the park. It's something those that live in Greenbelt appreciate.

"I really like the whole feeling of Greenbelt in the sense that, from where I live to [Buddy Attick Park], it's about a 15 minute walk," said Kirk, who just recently moved to Greenbelt. "Everyone I encounter along the way usually says 'Hi!'"

The sense of a close-knit community was a driving force in people attending the Independence Day celebrations. Families, from grandparents to grandchildren, brought stadium chairs and picnic blankets to spend time with one another and take in a colorful display of bursting and sparkling explosions.

"You feel like you're in a place ... it's coherent, it's cohesive," Kirk said. "But I think Greenbelt is even more, as Gertrude Stein said, 'There's no there there, but there's a there here.'"

This Greenbelt tradition started in 1938, less than a year after the town was founded. It has since been toned down from the original all-day affair, but certain values have still carried on – like a sense of community and fireworks.

Every year Greenbelters look forward to this festive summer tradition. The day allows the community to connect and come together, from playing wiffle ball to watching fireworks together.

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Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.



Fourth of July fireworks over Greenbelt Lake

PHOTO BY MATTHEW NEUS



Will Wertz enjoys the Greenbelt fireworks in this photo by his mother.

PHOTO BY HEATHER NORDEN



Bombs bursting in air are reflected in the Lake.

PHOTO BY PO-YU CHOU



The large crowd enjoys the firework display.

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER



The waters of the Lake reflect the fireworks bursting above.

PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS



Is this Greenbelt's stand-in for Boston's Liberty Tree?

PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS



The crowd gathers at Greenbelt Lake in preparation for the Fourth of July fireworks.

PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS