

GHI bicyclists social, p.10



GSA equipment theft, p.13

## Mail-In Ballots Not Yet “Received” Cause Concern for Greenbelters

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

### Returned ballot

One Greenbelter visited the News Review office to share their concern about a returned mail-in ballot the day before the election. Others tracking the status of their mail-in ballots sent from Greenbelt are concerned they still haven't been marked as “received” weeks later. A representative from the Prince George's County Board of Elections says that sometimes mail can take a while and all ballots postmarked by election day will be counted.

On the afternoon of Mon-

day, November 4, a Greenbelt resident received a piece of mail that disturbed him. On the eve of the contentious election, his daughter's absentee ballot had been returned, with a “Return to Sender; Insufficient Address; Unable to Forward” note stuck to the official envelope. Lawrence Anderson was shocked. If it had arrived the day after the election rather than the day before his daughter would have been disenfranchised, he said. His daughter is currently in India.

See **CONCERNS**, page 6

## Council Votes to Remove Armrests from City Benches

by Maurice Crawford



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The divider has already been removed from the bench near the library on Crescent Road on Tuesday, November 5.

At the October 28 Greenbelt City Council meeting, Councilmember Jenni Pompi requested that council discuss removing armrests on four benches clustered around the Municipal Building, where the armrests were used as dividers to prevent anyone from lying down. Councilmembers Amy Knesel and Rodney Roberts agreed with removing the armrests, with Roberts feeling that if the armrests are kept on those four benches they should be on all the benches and that targeting a few benches doesn't solve anything.

Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope were able to provide a historical context for the placement of the armrests: a person had been using

those benches as a bed for over a year, they said. Attempts by city staff and Greenbelt CARES to provide resources to assist this person were rebuffed. Ultimately, the situation became violent and the individual was jailed, said Pope, and that situation was the reason for the armrests, a decision, she said, that was “very difficult.”

Councilmember Danielle McKinney was grateful for the context and wondered if there had been any feedback from the community since council has begun discussing this again. In September 2020 council voted down a similar motion put forward by then-mayor Colin Byrd, who

See **BENCHES**, page 12

### My Point of View

## A Bike's Eye View of Safety

by Jeff Lemieux

I've been riding my bike around Greenbelt for decades. Over the years, the city has made some improvements, particularly in Greenbelt West. The new roundabout at Cherrywood Lane at the Greenbelt Metro entrance has made things much better for bike riders, walkers and drivers. The new section of the Indian Creek Trail that cuts from Cherrywood Lane and Breezewood Drive over to the Greenbelt Station neighborhood and to Branchville Avenue is a big improvement for Greenbelt bike commuters to the University of Maryland and points south.

However, we have a lot more to do. Here is my Top Five list of additional ways Greenbelt could make bike riding (and walking and bus riding) safer, easier and more dignified.

1. Build a new roundabout at Cherrywood Lane and Ivy Lane, in front of the new Motiva Apartments. This intersection has a lot of speeding traffic and complex turns. A roundabout would help calm traffic. (Note: this should have been done before the apartments were opened – does the Motiva developer have any com-



PHOTO COURTESY, JEFF LEMIEUX

Jeff Lemieux

munity improvement funds in escrow?)

2. Install flex posts and “floating bus stops” on Cherrywood Lane. Greenbelt scoped out a visionary “Green Street” concept for Cherrywood Lane years ago, but nothing has been done. In the meantime, we should mimic what College Park has done on Rhode Island Ave. between University Boulevard and the Beltway: double-stripe the bike lanes, use flex post signs to protect the

bike lane near intersections and driveways and build out floating bus stops, so the buses don't need to pull into the bike lanes to pick up passengers.

3. Widen and repair the sidewalk on the north side of Greenbelt Road between Lakecrest Drive and Walker Drive, including adding a floating bus stop near Walker Drive. This is the dilapidated sidewalk that runs in front of the American Legion, under the Beltway, and in front of the new Royal Farms. This would allow access by bike from central Greenbelt and points east to Greenbelt Park. (Again, this should have been done as a condition of opening Royal Farms. Is any developer funding available?)

4. Widen the sidewalk on the north side of Greenbelt Road between Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) and the Greenbelt city limit just past Mandan Road and put speed humps on the right turn ramps. This would mark the beginning of the proposed Greenbelt East Trail, which would ultimately connect Greenbelt with Goddard Space Flight Center and

See **SAFETY**, page 10

## City's JEDI Team Calls for Action Over Councilmember's Behavior

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On August 29, the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Action Team – a group of city employees that has 13 members, with all departments represented – sent a memo to City Manager Josué Salmerón. The memo was titled, “Addressing Adverse Behavior from Council Members During Council Meetings.” In opening, the team said they were writing regarding “the continued pattern of disrespectful and verbally abusive behavior exhibited by Councilmember Rodney Roberts,” which, they say, was “again” observed during the council meeting on August 12 and the council retreat on August 14. Those discussions related to engine replacement and maintenance of a city K-9

vehicle, for which the city was quoted \$16,000. The memo from the JEDI group alleges that Roberts spoke in “a disrespectful, demeaning and abusive manner to Deputy Chief Tim White and about the city's Public Works Department.”

During the August 12 meeting Roberts repeatedly said of the Sport Chevrolet dealership, “They'll sell you anything that you'll buy.” Roberts argued that a new engine could be bought for \$4,000 and installed by Pub-

lic Works mechanics, who could learn to install the engine if they didn't know how to: “Get a book and teach yourself as you do and let them expand their knowledge a little bit. Let your mechanics learn,” he said. He called the recommended replacement cost a “rip-off” and said “Chevrolet is taking advantage of you, of us, of the taxpayer.” Roberts also said, “My problem is that Sport Chevrolet will tell you anything

See **JEDI**, page 7

### What Goes On

**Monday, November 11,** Veterans Day, City Offices closed  
**Wednesday, November 13,** No City Council Meeting, NLC Fall Conference

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for more information.

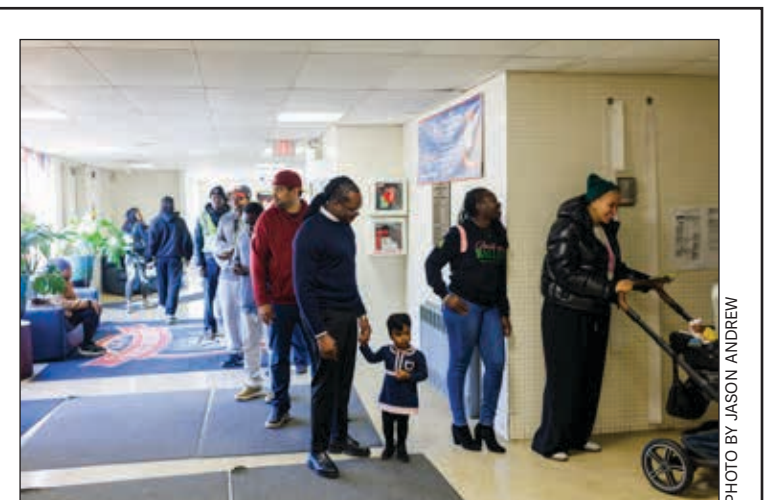


PHOTO BY JASON ANDREW

Maryland State Senator Alonzo T. Washington waits in line with his wife Rohey and daughter Zaina to vote at Springhill Lake Elementary School on November 5. See more, page 7.

# Letters to the Editor

## A Misnomer

Thank you for your coverage of the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan update. Your story reflects the character of the meeting well.

For future stories, I'd like to request a greater degree of care in the titles used for landscape design professionals: In the October 31 story, the News Review referred to Scott Scarfone as a "landscape designer." A more accurate title is "landscape architect."

In the state of Maryland, the title of "landscape architect" is protected based on licensure.

The terms are not interchangeable because licensure requires a professional degree, a period of supervised practice and passing the national licensing examination. The title "landscape architect" conveys a degree of agency and competence in our profession, which the title landscape designer does not.

(My connection to Greenbelt is that: I am a Greenbelt resident, a member of PRAB and was quoted in the story.)

*Matt Sickle, PLA (Professional Landscape Architect)*

## Reparations?

I want reparations for murder! My ancestors came from Germany to Texas in 1845 and settled in the Texas Hill country in my hometowns of New Braunfels and Fredericksburg. The Ger-

mans never believed in owning slaves. The saying of the day was that it was cheaper to hire a German than a slave. During the Civil War, the Germans in Texas Hill country sided with the North. The young men refused to fight for the Confederacy. As a result, Confederate soldiers conducted night raids into their homes. They hung and killed the men. What is worse, murder or slavery? My entire family and relatives were set back a generation.

I was the first one in my family to get a college degree. I did it the hard way and took the road less traveled. I have personally worked hard for everything that I have accomplished and achieved. I graduated at the very top of my high school class only due to hard work. I attended a military service academy. I was nominated as one out of more than 150 applicants. Appointed one out of five. No one ever helped me along the way. I was raised in blue collar America. Everything I have accomplished was due to hard work and many hours of research and studying. I don't believe in handouts and I don't want them because that doesn't stop the basic problem.

Regardless of one's background or race, those that see themselves as victims develop a negative view of life, where they feel that they don't have any control over what happens to them.

*Randy Crenwelge*



Veterans Day

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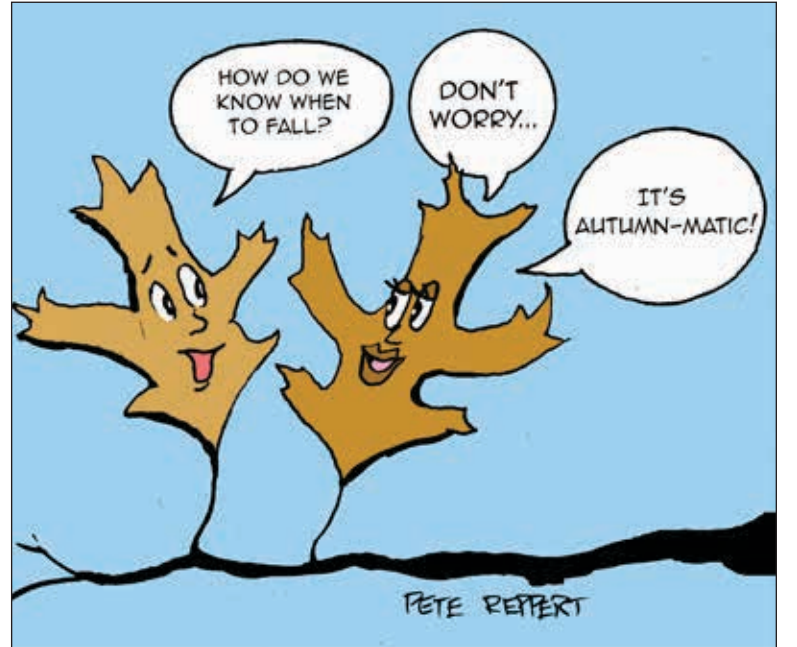
**SHOWTIMES:**  
NOVEMBER 8th - 14th

**Blitz** (PG-13) (CC) (DVS)  
(2024) (120 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM  
Sat. 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC)  
Mon. 5:00 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sat. 5:30 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM  
Tues. 5:15 PM  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

**Conclave** (PG) (CC) (DVS)  
(2024) (120 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 5:00 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM  
Sat. 8:15 PM  
Sun. 2:15 PM  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Tues. 8:00 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM  
Thurs. 5:15 PM

**Me and Orson Welles**  
(PG-13) (2008) (114 mins)  
Sponsored by GAC's The Rude Mechanicals  
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Sat. 1:00 PM



- News Review, November 3, 2022

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Electronically, that is.  
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**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.

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## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

**Blitz**  
From director Steve McQueen, the film follows the epic journey of George (Elliott Heffernan), a 9-year-old boy in World War II London whose mother Rita (Saoirse Ronan) sends him to safety in the English countryside. George, defiant and determined to return home to his mom and his grandfather Gerald (Paul Weller) in East London, embarks on an adventure, only to find himself in immense peril, while a distraught Rita searches for her missing son. Said critic Justin Chang of NPR, "Blitz, while not exactly a movie for children, is nonetheless a story about a child, and it has powerful moments of wonderment, humor and even joy."

**Conclave**  
The film follows one of the world's most secretive and ancient events: selecting the new Pope. Cardinal Lawrence (Ralph Fiennes) is tasked with running this covert process after the unexpected death of the beloved Pope. Once the Catholic Church's most powerful leaders have gathered from around the world and are locked together in the Vatican halls, Lawrence uncovers a trail of deep secrets left in the dead Pope's wake, secrets which could shake the foundations of the Church. Critics' consensus, according to Rotten Tomatoes: "Carrying off papal pulp with immaculate execution and career-highlight work from Ralph Fiennes, Conclave is a godsend for audiences who crave intelligent entertainment."

**Me and Orson Welles**  
After a chance encounter, theater-loving teen Richard Samuels (Zac Efron) gets the opportunity of a lifetime when famed director Orson Welles (Christian McKay) gives him a small role in his 1937 production of Julius Caesar. Unexpectedly thrust into the heady world of the stage, Richard finds himself surrounded by ambition, clashing egos and sheer brilliance.

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- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.  
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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

## At the Library

The library will be closed Sunday and Monday, November 10 and 11, to recognize Veterans Day. Greenbelt Library's 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.

### Storytimes

Come for stories, songs, fingerplays, more.

Friday, November 8, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11866466](http://pgcmls.info/event/11866466).

Wednesday, November 13, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11866432](http://pgcmls.info/event/11866432).

Thursday, November 14, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11866448](http://pgcmls.info/event/11866448).

### Pre-K Story Hour/Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder

Friday, November 8, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling. Friends and family welcome! Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contrar cuentos. Amigos y familiares son bienvenidos. Hosted by Greenbelt Library staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK).

### Talk Health

Friday, November 8, 11 a.m., ages 18+. Free blood pressure screening session. Attendees can get their blood pressure checked and bring their medications for a personalized review. Open to all. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11663028](http://pgcmls.info/event/11663028).

Friday, November 8, 12:30 p.m., 18+ (adult). Talking with your doctor. Bring a lunch for a learning opportunity to discuss important health topics. Each session will provide a short presentation followed by an opportunity for discussion, a 20-minute energetic and low impact seated exercise class, and a five-minute mindful meditation practice. Perfect for all levels of fitness. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11663123](http://pgcmls.info/event/11663123).

### Bibliop Dance Party

Saturday, November 9, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Little ones can bust a move and shake their sillies out. Bring parents or caregivers and prepare to boogie and bop until all drop. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11270436](http://pgcmls.info/event/11270436).

## GVFD Community Indoor Yard Sale

The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary will hold its last of the season Indoor Community Yard Sale on Saturday, November 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the fire hall, at 125 Crescent Road. Come help support the Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary. Refreshments, as well as homemade baked goods, will be available for purchase. Tables are still available to rent. See the classified ad for details.

Masks are not required but may be worn if desired. The fire hall is handicapped accessible and has designated parking in the rear.

## Arts Advisory Board Meets Tuesday, Nov. 12

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, November 12 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include public art and board recruitment. Greenbelt citizens who may be interested in joining the board are encouraged to attend. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, email: [alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov).

## Greenbelt Orchestra Free Concert Nov. 10

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give a free concert in the Community Center gym on Sunday, November 10 at 4 p.m. The program will include Dvorak's New World Symphony, as well as Fanny Mendelssohn's Overture, a tango by Carlos Gardel, Florence Price's Adoration and one of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances. All are invited. Find out more about the orchestra at [greenbeltorchestra.org](http://greenbeltorchestra.org).

## Scouting for Food

Pack 202 Cub Scouts have been busy sticking flyers on doors for their annual Scouting for Food community service project – so busy that they have run out of stickers. Anyone who lives in Greenbelt and did not receive a sticker but would like to donate, drop off a donation this Saturday, November 9 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the labeled donation table in the back of the St. Hugh of Grenoble Church parking lot or email [GreenbeltPack202@gmail.com](mailto:GreenbeltPack202@gmail.com) with address (center city only) for a 9 a.m. Saturday morning porch pickup.

## Dance for Hurricane Relief at Legion

Help those in western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene and have a good time doing it by attending a special dance being held at Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 on Friday, November 8 from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Local band The Relics will be providing the music, as will band member and DJ Rick Ransom.

Contributions will be collected for the organization BeLoved Asheville, which is an all-volunteer direct relief standard operation dedicated currently to providing shelter and immediate needs to those displaced. Cards will be provided to be signed by all attending who want to send a personal message to the people of the area who are trying to recover from this devastating natural disaster.

## Greenbelt Chess Club Meetings for November

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, November 12, November 19 and November 26. The meetings will take place at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, go to [tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m](http://tinyurl.com/ycy2nz4m) and complete the brief form. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com).

## Reusable Bag Giveaway



PHOTO BY JEFF WARNER

A reusable tote bag from MCF

Maryland Christian Fellowship Community Church (MCF) will donate 1,000 reusable tote bags to Greenbelt residents at various locations on Saturday, November 16, from 11 a.m. to noon. "For many families, paying for bags or purchasing reusable bags is yet another challenge in an already difficult journey," says Pastor Jeff Warner of MCF. The tote bags, measuring 20" by 13" by 8", will be offered in person at the Co-op, Safeway, Giant and Target.

## Gardening Opportunity

Love to garden or want to give it a try? Come by and meet other volunteers at the Three Sisters Center Garden this Saturday, November 9 between 9 and 11:30 a.m. The garden is directly behind the Community Center – come give it some love. A plant-based brunch will be provided. For more information, email [ghadams58@gmail.com](mailto:ghadams58@gmail.com).

## Mahjongg Now Played Wednesday Afternoons

Those with some experience with American mahjongg are welcome to come play on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. in Room 109 in the Community Center.

For those who would like to learn the game, Abby Crowley will be offering a free four-week class in 2025. Look for more information when the Winter Activity Guide is available.

## Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, November 8, at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy, nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family.

### Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 8 de noviembre a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrán libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.



## Français, s'il vous plaît: French at the Café

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the New Deal Café every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages, all levels of fluency are welcome.

## This Week at the New Deal Café

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

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TH 11/07	FRI 11/08	SAT 11/09	SUN 11/10	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf's Blues Show and Sit-In Jam 6:30-10p Sign up and JAM!	Billy Coulter Band 8-11pm Blurring the line between Roots Rock and Power Pop	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE, 3:30-5pm Honky Tonk Casanovas 8-11pm Entertainment mix from country to soul	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a-12noon Brother Bill Quintet 6-8pm Blues & gospel inspired jazz from the 50's and 60's	
MON 11/11	TUES 11/12	WED 11/13	TH 11/14	New Deal Cafe
Membership Appreciation Night 4-9pm 10% discount on beer/wine for members	Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 7-9pm Sign-ups at 6:30pm. Express yourself!	Blue Spruce 7-9pm A dynamic bluegrass band featuring Hall of Fame Tom Gray	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Bobby Thompson 7-9pm Powerful blues, funk and jam	UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

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

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Thank you for your understanding - NDC Board

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.



# Obituaries

## Ralph E. Webb

Ralph E. Webb, Ph.D., of Ridge Road, died on July 25, 2024. The son of Homer H. and Adelaide L. Webb of Ellicott City, Ralph was born on Jan. 15, 1941. He was a 1959 graduate of Howard High School, and earned B.S. (botany, 1964), M.S. (entomology, 1967) and Ph.D. (entomology, 1972) degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park.

In 1964, Ralph married Helen "June" McArthur of Arlington, Va., and was hired as a student employee with the Ornamental and Truck Crop Entomology Laboratory at the Beltsville Agricultural Center, where he spent his entire career. Ralph was the author or coauthor of more than 200 research publications that were collectively cited over a thousand times in the scientific literature. He was a Fellow of the Washington Academy of Sciences, a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and inducted into Sigma Xi. Ralph was a member of Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served for many years as the treasurer and chair of the administrative council. He and June were avid gardeners, growing most of their own vegetables. Ralph also enjoyed chess, classical music and good conversation.

Ralph was predeceased in 2023 by June, his wife of 59 years, and his brother Thomas Webb.

Ralph is survived by daughter Helen F. Webb, Ph.D. (Thomas "Chris" Murphy) of Massachusetts, son UA Local 602 Instructor Matthew T. Webb (Jo) of Greenbelt, sister-in-law Ardella Webb, grandchildren Erin, Genevieve, Sophia and Garrett and many nieces and nephews.

Gifts may be made in Ralph's name to the religious institution of one's choice, or to WETA.

A celebration of Ralph's life will be held on Saturday, November 9 at 11 a.m. at the New Deal Café. A visitation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. and a meal will follow.

## Jane Smidinger



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Jane Smidinger

Longtime Greenbelt resident Jane Smidinger, 87, died on Sunday, October 20, 2024. She fought a courageous battle with advanced chronic lung disease for many years – although never a smoker – and for the past half decade, she was also compromised with chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML).

Jane grew up in Reisterstown, Md. Her parents, Julia and Frank Burkholder, owned one of the first pre-convenience stores at their Sunoco filling station and a repair garage located right on Reisterstown Road. Jane graduated with a nursing degree from Union Memorial Hospital in Baltimore and started her career as an R.N. in their emergency room. She then transferred to become

a surgical nurse at Johns Hopkins Hospital. She married Peter Smidinger and lived in Baltimore, where they started a family. After 13 years, they relocated to Lanham to be near Goddard, where her husband worked. Jane, the matriarch of the family, was an exceptional mother and took great pride and satisfaction watching the generations of her children grow and succeed.

Following her separation from her husband, she returned to nursing at Parkdale High School in 1974. While she worked there, one of the students brought a gun into the school and shot and injured a teacher. Jane was the first medical worker on the scene to give aid to the teacher, who survived the gunshot wound. Shortly thereafter, Jane transitioned to the Prince George's County Health Department as a Public Health Nurse and worked there for 25 years until she retired.

She moved to Greenbelt in 1978 to a wonderful court on Ridge Road and raised her two children there. She enjoyed the neighbors, the nearby park and walking her dogs along Ridge Road and in the park for many years. Jane loved socializing and playing bridge with her mates. Recently she moved to an assisted living facility in Rockville and enjoyed her time there, sharing meals with fellow residents. She was a pet lover – both cats and dogs – and bequeathed a sum to the Greenbelt Animal Shelter.

Jane is survived by her sole

See OBITS, page 12

## Thanksgiving Service Choir Rehearsals

A combined choir is preparing for this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration. Rehearsals will be held at Greenbelt Community Church on Thursdays, November 14 and 21 and Monday, November 25, all beginning at 7 p.m. under the direction of Susan Breon. The Thanksgiving Celebration is scheduled for November 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the same location.



Our condolences to the family and friends, especially the residents of 73 Court Ridge, of longtime Greenbelter Jane Smidinger, who died on October 20.

Sympathy also to the family, friends and colleagues of Ralph Webb, who died on July 25.

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



PHOTO BY MEGAN LAMASNEY

Fall perfection at the Lake

"Rely upon God. Trust in Him. Praise Him, and call Him continually to mind. He verily turneth trouble into ease, and sorrow into solace, and toil into utter peace."

– 'Abdu'l-Bahá



**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church  
**40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt**  
 Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors  
 Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc  
 301-474-5410  
 Pastor Evelyn Romero  
**Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Celebrate hope with us.**

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
 11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
 301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org  
 Welcomes you each Sunday for  
 Worship & Sunday School  
 at 10:00 AM

**Greenbelt Community Church** UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 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 GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 • Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*  
 • Sunday Mass:  
 ◦ Sat vigil 5pm\*  
 ◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
 • Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.  
 \*Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.  
**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
 135 Crescent Rd.  
 www.sthughofgrenoble.org

The Bible Says...  
**The Ten Commandments #9-You Shall Not Lie**  
 Exodus 20:16  
  
**Sunday Worship Services**  
 10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)  
**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  
**November 10, 2024 at 3:00 pm**  
**When the Saints Go Marching In**  
 Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Lula Beatty  
 The U.S. military contains almost every kind of race, gender, sexuality, spirituality, class, and political perspective; in many ways, the military community also embodies our country's ability to transform itself, for better or for worse – no matter who happens to be Commander in chief.  
 In the spirit of our November theme (Transformation) and Veterans Day, we'll reflect upon the transformational shadows and light of military chaplaincy – through the prism of the proud few who are UU.  
 Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS**  
 Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
 City Council Room  
 25 Crescent Rd  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
 OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
 For ZOOM link:  
 CCG1985+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 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](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



### MEETINGS FOR NOVEMBER 11 - 15

Monday, November 11, **NO MEETING - VETERANS DAY**

Tuesday, November 12 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, On the Agenda: Buddy Attick Park Master Plan - Recap of City Council Work Session

Tuesday, November 12 at 7 pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, On the Agenda: Approve Agenda/Minutes, Meet Prospective Member(s), Murals - Adriene Lim

Wednesday, November 13, **NO MEETING - NLC FALL CONFERENCE**

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](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov). This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



### GOBBLE WOBBLE Thursday, November 28, 9 am

Join us for the Gobble Wobble Family Fun Run & Walk, a Thanksgiving morning community tradition! Bring your family, friends, and neighbors. Participants meet at the Greenbelt Youth Center and the course takes them on the Buddy Attick Park Lake path. Get some exercise and have fun before your Thanksgiving feast!



SCAN TO REGISTER

Participants receive a Gobble Wobble shirt, medals for top finishers, and medals for youth participants. Online registration ends November 27 at 5 pm. For registration assistance, call (301) 397-2200 or email [aphelan@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:aphelan@greenbeltmd.gov).

Early registration ticket prices: Individuals \$20; Family 4-Pack \$70. Day of race tickets: Individuals \$25; Family 4-Pack \$90.

Register at <https://bit.ly/gobblewobble24?r=q> or visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). Race packet pick-up is Wednesday, November 27, 9 am - 8 pm at the Youth Center.



### GREENBELT EMANCIPATION DAY PROGRAMS

**Reparations/Repatriation - Perspectives**  
Saturday, November 9 / 1-3 pm, Greenbelt Library Auditorium  
Panelists: Dr. Raymond Winbush, Morgan State University (Local/National Perspective); Dreisen Heath, Human Rights Watch (International Perspective); Rico Newman, Member of Choptico Band of Elders - Piscataway-Conoy Tribe of Indians (Indigenous Perspective)

Presented by the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, Prince George's County Office of Human Rights, Greenbelt Recreation, and the Greenbelt Museum.

### VETERANS DAY PROGRAM

Monday, November 11, 11 am / Roosevelt Center

Join us Monday, November 11 at 11 am at Roosevelt Center, 131 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770, for the annual Veterans Day program co-sponsored by the American Legion Greenbelt Post 136 and the City of Greenbelt.

### SHOP WITH A COP FUNDRAISER

Thank you for being so supportive and generous!

The Greenbelt "Shop with a Cop" fundraiser challenge coin is now available for \$20.

Each year, the Greenbelt Police Department proudly participates in "Shop With a Cop," fostering community spirit and support. To raise funds for this heartwarming event, a challenge coin has been created in the shape of an ornament, showcasing the Greenbelt Police Department badge adorned with lights on one side and the year of the event on the back.

We welcome donations and all proceeds go directly to the Greenbelt Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" program which supports families in the Greenbelt community. We couldn't do this without your support.

Donations can be made online by visiting <https://ow.ly/mg6h50Tzs6P> or by emailing [rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov).



### LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2024-2025

Week	Location	Holiday
November 4-8	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	
November 11-15	Boxwood	Veterans Day November 11
November 18-22	Woodland Hills	
November 25-29	Lakeside	Thanksgiving November 28 & 29
December 2-6	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	
December 9-13	Boxwood	
December 16-20	Woodland Hills	
December 23-27	Lakeside	Christmas December 25
December 30 - January 3	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	New Years Day January 1

### HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, November 11, in observance of Veteran's Day  
**THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.**

### REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE Week of November 11

Monday Route - Collected Tuesday  
Tuesday Route - Collected Wednesday  
Wednesday Route - Collected Thursday  
Thursday Route - Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, November 15.

### EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

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/mkmAzJf6toZ6Xuhg8> or call Brendy Garcia Maddox at (240) 424-0302.

### FEATURED PETS

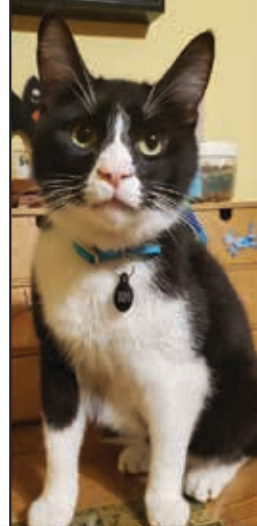
#### JUNIOR

Ready for Adoption?  
Call (301) 474-6124

Halloween may be over, but Junior is still wearing his tuxedo costume! 6-year-old Junior (now affectionately nicknamed Juni) has insulin-dependent diabetes, but he doesn't let that slow him down. While administering an insulin shot might seem scary, Junior takes his medicine like a champ.

Junior's foster says he's a gentle soul. He's super affectionate and loves to be wherever the household action is. His favorite activity is sitting by the door or window and watching the local wildlife and ongoing outside (he's a great neighborhood watch). He also gets along with everyone he meets - including his cat and dog foster siblings!

If you're interested in adopting jazzy Juni, call (301) 474-6124 or [animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov)!



### FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

#### UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - TWO LOCATIONS

**Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Lower Parking Lot:** 1 - 3 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia Maddox at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center:** 3 - 4 pm, [registration](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or register online at <https://forms.gle/RFBH8oYgCiKjvrCM8>.

### PROPOSED COUNCIL VACANCY PROCESS

The proposed Council Vacancy Process legislation will be introduced for a first reading on **November 18**. A public hearing on the proposed Council Vacancy Process will be held on **December 9**.

The Greenbelt Board of Elections has proposed two options for the Council to consider in the event of a vacancy on City Council. If "Option 1" is chosen, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the Election Code. Alternatively, if "Option 2" is selected, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the City Charter. Both options will follow the proposed timeline for filling the vacancy as follows:

#### 1. VACANCY OCCURS (REASON: DEATH, RESIGNATION, INCAPACITY, OR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE):

- Determine the timing of the vacancy in relation to the next election

#### 2. MORE THAN 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

##### Special Mail-in Election:

- Candidates must file nomination papers.
- Ballots are mailed to voters.
- Voters have 30 days to respond.

#### 3. BETWEEN 60 AND 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

##### Council Majority Vote:

- Seat filled by majority vote after a public hearing.

#### 4. Within 60 Days of Next Election:

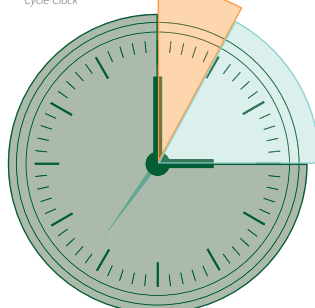
##### Council Discretion:

- The seat may remain vacant or may be filled at the Council's discretion.

#### 5. SIMULTANEOUS VACANCIES:

- If three or more vacancies occur simultaneously, a special election is required.

Two (2) Year City Election Cycle Clock



### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/elections](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/elections)

OR scan the QR code below



### 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](mailto:countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-4131

#### Office of the County Fire Chief

[tdgreen@co.pg.md.us](mailto:tdgreen@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 883-5200

#### At-Large County Council Member Hawkins

[At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us](mailto:At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us)  
(301) 952-2195

#### County Council Member District 4

[councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us](mailto: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](mailto:council@greenbeltmd.gov).

### LEAF PRINT WORKSHOP

Sunday, November 10  
1 - 3 pm

Leaf Print Workshop Free autumnal art activity for all ages! Sign up here to participate in an Artful Afternoon workshop on Sunday, 11/10, 1-3pm, at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center: <https://bit.ly/4duvgvp>.

More arts program information at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts).

### 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 **Advisory Committee on Trees, 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!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

# CONCERNS continued from page 1

Maryland’s State Board of Elections website states that mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before November 5 and placed in a dropbox or hand delivered to the local board of elections by 8 p.m. on election day. On Tuesday morning Anderson placed the returned ballot in a drop box for his daughter.

At the Prince George’s County Board of Elections, L. Hall told the News Review that Anderson’s daughter’s ballot in the general election had already been counted on October 29 and only one ballot had been issued to her. The returned ballot was likely from the special election back in August, she said. Still, an election envelope marked undeliverable is cause for concern. Anderson expressed particular concern that a returned ballot could be used by a losing candidate to declare voter fraud.

People can track their mail-in ballots online at voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/Voter-Search. More than one Greenbelt resident who mailed their ballots from the Greenbelt post office did just that and became concerned they had not been marked as received or counted.

Another Greenbelter, Vicki Cheeseman, mailed her ballot from the drive-up mailbox at Greenbelt post office on October 14 before heading to Europe, “in case anything happened.” She was back in time for election

day and concerned about its fate, since it still wasn’t marked as received, let alone counted. Her ballot status online remains “Ballot sent.”

“It’s a little frustrating,” Cheeseman told the News Review. “This is the first presidential election I can vote in since getting my citizenship.” Cheeseman was able to speak with someone at the election board who told her that if it was mailed on October 14 she probably should expect it to have been processed by now but that they do have a lot of ballots there and are “backed up.” They suggested she call Greenbelt post office to see if they can find it. Instead, Cheeseman went to the Community Center to cast a provisional ballot.

Nelson Gibson was another Greenbelter casting a provisional ballot on Tuesday. Gibson’s mail-in ballot, like Cheeseman’s, had not been marked received in the online tracking system. Gibson also placed his ballot in the outdoor drive-up mailbox at Greenbelt post office, doing so on October 11.

Asked if voters should be concerned if their mail-in ballot hasn’t yet been received or counted, Hall said, “not necessarily. Sometimes they take longer than normal to get here.” As long as they were postmarked by election day they will be counted, said Hall.

# Greenbelters Receive Intimidating “Voter Report Card” Mailings

by Bonnie Schrack

Numerous Greenbelt residents were among the Marylanders who received an unusual mailer in the past week. The letter, headed “Voting Report Card for ...” includes a table listing names, addresses and a record of whether or not they voted in four recent elections, starting with the recipient’s own information and followed by their neighbors, though with names and house numbers redacted. As a footnote points out, this is publicly available information often used by political campaigns.

The mailing says it is meant to “share who does and does not vote in an effort to promote election participation.” Following the table it states, “We will be reviewing these records after the election to determine whether or not you joined your neighbors in voting.” Since the hint at surveillance of voting habits could cause alarm, the News Review decided to investigate.

The organization sending these mailers is the Center for Voter Information (CVI), an arm of the Voter Participation Center (VPC), a nonprofit with the aim of increasing voter registration and voting.

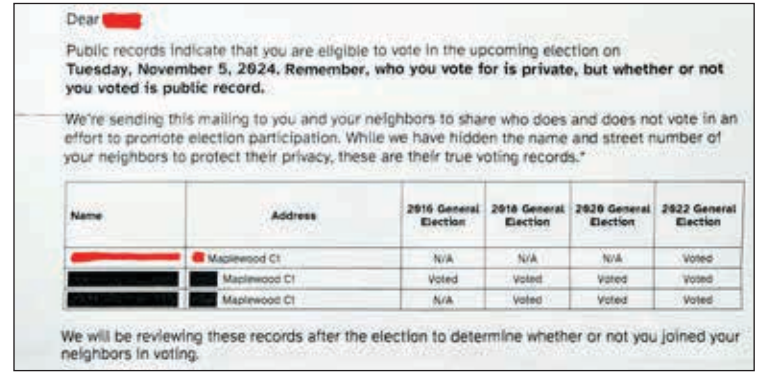


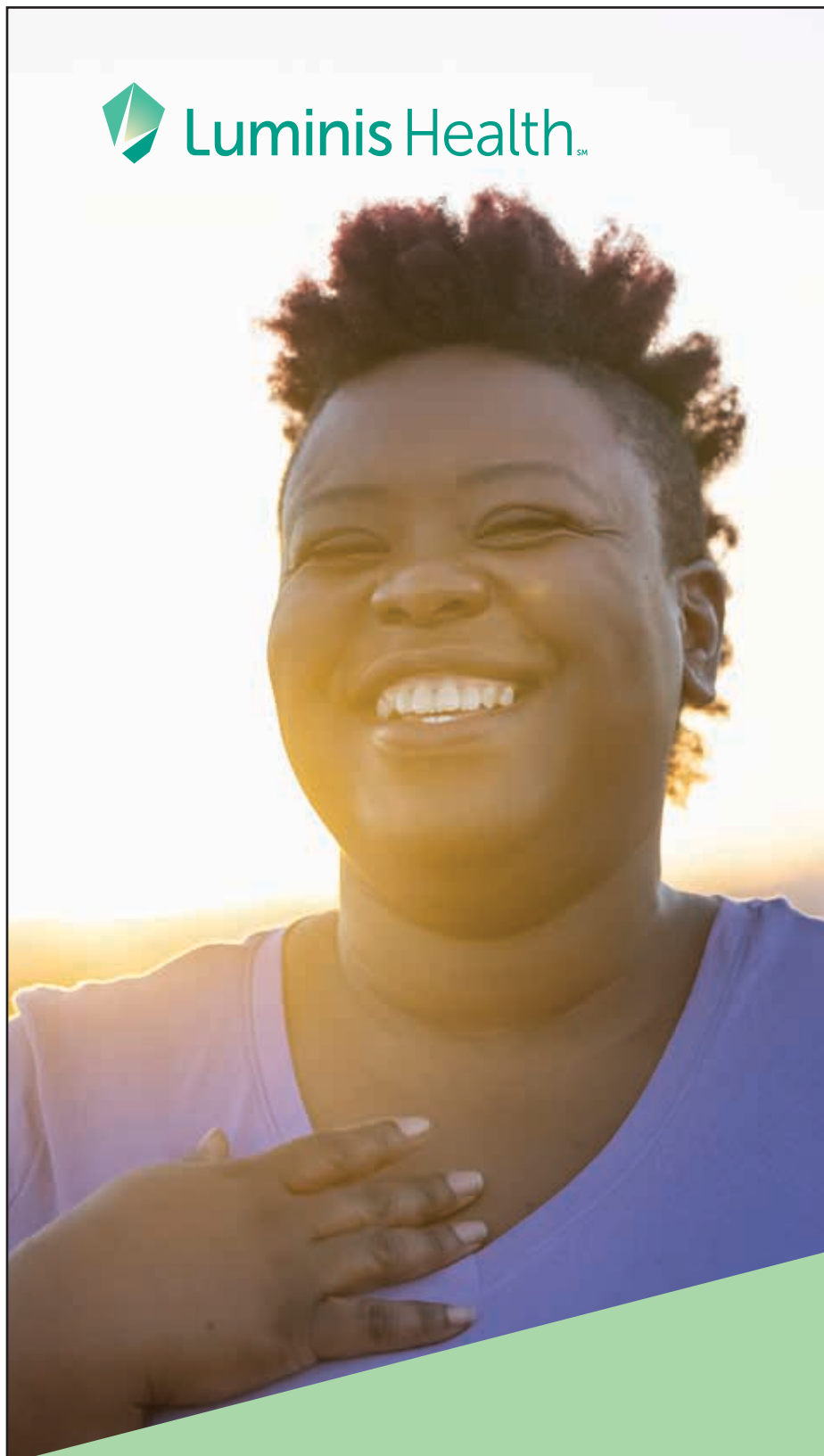
PHOTO BY NEWS REVIEW STAFF

One letter received by a resident (red redactions made by the News Review; black redactions original to the letter)

On October, 31, Maryland’s Attorney General Anthony Brown issued a cease-and-desist letter to the nonprofit group responsible for the mailings. Brown’s letter states that recipients have been made to feel intimidated and threatened and are concerned about their privacy and security. “Influencing and attempting to influence the choice to vote and method of voting by threats and intimidation is unlawful under Maryland and Federal Law,” notes the Attorney General and “CVI/VPC’s attempted influence constitutes intimidation and threat because it appeals to publicly shaming and humiliating a voter

by citing the voter’s specific voting records and the voting records of their neighbors.”

Controversy has followed CVI/PVC due to their aggressive methods and some missteps such as sending mail-in ballot applications with the wrong addresses on the return envelopes. However, the majority of their campaigns have not violated any laws and have succeeded in their aims on a large scale, with millions of the mail-in ballot applications they sent out being used in voting in 2020. They have previously worked closely with other mainstream groups seeking to promote participation in elections.



## Expert Fibroid Care, Right in Your Community

At Luminis Health, we understand that living with uterine fibroids can be challenging. Regardless of the symptoms you’re experiencing, it’s essential to understand that fibroids are treatable, and you have options.

### If you are having any of these symptoms

- Extreme periods & bleeding
- Stomach and pelvic pain
- Leg and back pain
- Pain during sex
- Fatigue
- Digestive issues
- Frequent urination

Your pain and discomfort could be related to fibroids.

### Locations

Luminis Health Ob-Gyn Greenbelt  
(301) 982-0657

Luminis Health Ob-Gyn Bowie  
(410) 224-1133



Visit [Luminis.Health/Fibroids](https://Luminis.Health/Fibroids) to learn more about minimally invasive treatments with **less pain and less recovery time.**

# Though Many Voted Early, Plenty Turned Out Election Day

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Tuesday morning a line of citizens spilled out of the Community Center waiting to cast their ballot in the presidential election. When polls opened at 7 a.m., over 50 people were waiting. At approximately 7:35 a.m. one of the scanning machines jammed and was out of operation for several hours. People shouldn't have had to wait as long as they did, a judge there told the News Review, but they were very gracious about it. "We were slammed from 7 a.m. 'til about 10:30 a.m." agreed another Community Center judge.

At Springhill Lake Elementary at 9 a.m. people were waiting approximately an hour in line to cast their ballots.

The early morning hours appeared to be the busiest at the centers across Greenbelt. During the day people trickled in and out, with volume picking up a little after 5 p.m.

Despite the large turnout of early voters, the number of Greenbelters casting ballots in person on election day rivaled that of previous years, said a chief judge at the Community Center location, who thought the volume similar to 2008 when Obama ran for election (against John McCain).



1002 people cast ballots at the Community Center on Election Day.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

At 8 p.m., as the polls were about to close, two people got in line and were helped through same-day registration to be able to vote. When polls closed at 8 p.m. 1002 people had cast ballots at the Community Center; 721 of the voters were registered Democrats, 71 were registered Republicans, 185 were unaffiliated and a small number of others were registered as Green Party, Libertarian or other.



Voting at the Greenbelt Community Center

## JEDI continued from page 1

and they'll charge you anything. And if you're dumb enough to take that, then you are."

The JEDI team says Roberts' statements "disparaged the skills of the Public Works Department and implied that our colleagues were 'dumb' for accepting the vendor's quote." The memo also complains that "similar behavior amongst councilmembers has been ongoing for some time and employees have previously been instructed to simply tolerate it rather than address it directly." They also point to Greenbelt's Community Pledge and the city's DEI goals, and that "the Tribesby Audit highlights how such behavior negatively impacts employee morale, creativity and full participation in the workplace." Tolerating this behavior will undermine the city's efforts to build an inclusive and supportive environment, states the memo.

The five recommended actions from the JEDI team are:

1. Employees should be empowered to address the behavior in real time using constructive dialogue skills, rather than being expected to endure it.

2. As a reminder to council, read Section 6, Item 2b and Item 8 in the Standing Rules (see box).

3. The City Council should censure councilmember Roberts for his ongoing inappropriate conduct. Additionally, moving forward the City Council should censure any councilmember or meeting attendee for inappropriate conduct such as the behavior described.

4. Senior city management must take an active role in intervening and preventing this behavior in council meetings and other settings to ensure a safe and respectful work environment for all staff.

5. All councilmembers should participate in dialogue training to improve communication skills and foster respectful interactions.

The call to censure Roberts was placed on the agenda for the October 28 council meeting but postponed to the November 18 meeting, as requested by Roberts, who wanted time to consult with lawyers, and some residents who wanted to know the context of the allegations of unbecoming behavior against Roberts (see the article on this page).

(For more about the JEDI Action Team and its creation see the May 9 issue.)

### Standing Rules for The City Council

VI. Duties and Privileges of Members

2. b. Members of Council shall not raise personnel matters pertaining to alleged improper performance or conduct of any city employee(s) or Council appointee(s) at a public Council meeting. Any concerns about the conduct or performance of any city employee(s) or Council appointee(s) shall be brought to the attention of the City Manager, or a closed session of Council may be requested to discuss the personnel matter.

8. Disorderly Conduct or Violation of Rules

A member of Council indulging in any language or conduct unbecoming a Councilmember shall be called to order by the presiding officer and, in such case, the offending member shall lose the floor and shall not proceed without the approval of a majority of members present. The Council may, by a vote of not fewer than six members, expel a member from a meeting for disorderly conduct or the violation of Council rules.

# Council to Consider Alleged Unbecoming Conduct of Roberts

by Maurice Crawford

At the October 28 Greenbelt City Council meeting, the agenda included "Addressing unbecoming conduct of a councilmember." Councilmember Kristen Weaver requested the item be on the agenda in response to a staff grievance.

Council received a memo from the Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Action Team to "express concern regarding the continued pattern of disrespectful and verbally abusive behavior exhibited by Councilmember Rodney Roberts" (see article on page 1). The attachment to the agenda item called for "a public rebuke of Mr. Rodney Roberts for conduct unbecoming a councilmember, including making disparaging and insulting comments about city staff in a public meeting and negatively impacting the morale and productivity of staff and the overall environment in which the city functions."

Council voted to postpone discussion until the November 18 meeting. The reasons for the postponement were, first, Roberts requested the delay because he wanted time to meet with legal counsel and review documents. Second, members of the public and some councilmembers felt that information regarding the alleged incident had not been made

available in a timely manner. Greenbelt resident Bill Orleans was especially vocal in his objection to discussing this matter when the public had not been given access to the information surrounding the issue. Resident Stephanie O'Brien also objected to its inclusion on the agenda without first sharing appropriate documents.

Councilmember Silke Pope said council did not get together to discuss next steps but it was a discussion between three or four people. "We all should have been at the table," said Pope. Weaver said she believed council has had several conversations about this and argued council and Roberts have had the memo for several weeks, that Roberts had had "much time to look at it," and the item has been on the published agenda since early in the prior week.

Roberts said he was concerned about references to other behavior of his that is not documented. He also said he did not receive notice about the current allegations until days after the rest of council, at an executive session.

Council voted 5 to 2 to postpone the item, with Councilmembers Weaver and Jenni Pompei opposed.



I believe strongly in Prince George's as the smartest buy in the DC metro area. Be in touch if I can help with real estate anywhere in the DMV--and especially in Prince George's County!

**Kim Kash of Compass**  
Washingtonian's Face of Prince George's County Real Estate

**Kim Kash**

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**COMPASS**

## Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ, (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.



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# Worksession Covers Streetlights, Legislative Priorities, Bond Bill Projects

by Daniel M. Thies

On Wednesday, October 23, Greenbelt City Council held a packed worksession spanning multiple topics.

## Streetlights

Streetlights have a major impact on Greenbelt's finances, environment and public safety. An executive summary included in the council agenda packet noted that streetlighting is the city's single greatest use of electricity and therefore a significant recurring cost. Councilmembers noted that excessive artificial lighting also negatively impacts local wildlife by disrupting the movement and behavior of nocturnal animals. At the same time, inadequate lighting is a safety risk; City Manager Josué Salmerón pointed out that there have been two car crashes this year in Greenbelt in which poor illumination was a contributing factor.

A recent inventory of the city's streetlights found that Pepco had been overcharging the city thousands of dollars each month. Over 100 streetlights that Pepco invoiced the city for were disputed as being in another jurisdiction or using less electricity than Pepco was billing for. In some cases, the streetlights were even being powered by city buildings. When presented with these findings, Pepco acknowledged it had been overbilling the city. As a result, the city will receive over \$87,000 in credits to compensate for the last three years of overcharging, and the city's monthly bill has been reduced by over \$2,000.

Council discussed whether the city should transition to light-emitting-diode (LED) streetlights. Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that council has wanted more LED streetlights installed for years. LED streetlights have been found to reduce energy usage by 72 percent and are capable of many "smart lighting" features, such as dimming at set times to reduce light pollution and using motion sensors to increase illumination when roads are active. Some of these features have already been implemented at Schrom Hills Park. Luisa Robles, the city's sustainability director, noted that reducing energy usage also reduces the city's carbon footprint. Councilmember Rodney Roberts was concerned that LEDs' harsh blue light may have negative effects, but intended to research if that aspect could be reduced.

If the city upgrades to LED Smart Streetlights, council will have to decide how it is to be done. Pepco will roll out its upgrade proposal for light fixtures in November. The cost for these light fixtures is unknown, but given the savings due to their energy efficiency, Salmerón expects the upgrade will pay for itself over time. However, the city could purchase the light fixtures without Pepco. Though this would require some legwork for city staff to work out the logistics, Salmerón believes this would be more cost-effective than going through Pepco. He also believes that further savings are possible if neighboring jurisdictions participated in a municipal collaboration to upgrade and maintain their streetlights.

A precise cost comparison depends on what Pepco proposes,

which is why the city will wait for more information before making a decision. Hyattsville, which is further along in its streetlight upgrade plans according to Salmerón, is similarly waiting for Pepco's price point to be announced before moving forward. The day after this worksession, Greenbelt shared its findings with Berwyn Heights, College Park and New Carrollton at the Four Cities meeting.

## Legislative Priorities

Darrell Carrington next reported to council on behalf of Carrington & Associates LLC, the law firm serving as the city's legislative advisor. The firm tracks legislation related to council's priorities at the county and state level – such as the city's opposition to the maglev project and Beltway expansion – and recommends how the city can advocate for those priorities. Some of the city's 2024 legislative priorities have been easy to advocate for because they complement programs that policymakers are already working on; for example, programs that address the underlying socioeconomic issues leading to juvenile crime align with Governor Wes Moore's push for juvenile justice reform. On the other hand, legislation granting zoning authority to municipalities seems to be a tougher sell at the county level. Instead of pushing for a complete overhaul of the county's zoning laws, Carrington believes an incremental approach is more likely to gain traction.

Potential additional legislative priorities were discussed. Similar to the city's current priorities, many that were discussed complement efforts by policymakers. A policy to ban noisy muffler modifications is likely to get vocal support in the future given County Councilmember Tom Dernoga's bill to collect data on vehicle noise. If and when that bill passes, information from that program can be used to quantify the extent to which noisy vehicles are an issue. Other priorities require council to work out their collective position. Councilmember Kristen Weaver brought up that Dan Gillotte – general manager of Greenbelt's Co-op Supermarket – asked council to write in opposition to a bill that would fine retailers for shopping carts found beyond their area. While council sees flaws in the bill, as it doesn't consider stores like the Co-op which do not have their own parking lot, they also recognized that the bill responds to an ongoing issue. Resident and former councilmember Judith Davis pointed out that Greenbriar is frequently littered with shopping carts from Greenway Center.

Advocating on these issues in a timely manner was emphasized by Carrington. Testimony from elected officials is valued when there are hearings on legislation, and Advocacy Day, when city councilmembers go to Annapolis to meet with legislators, is particularly persuasive. Though it requires coordination among councilmembers and legislators, meeting with legislators early can build momentum for causes, as lobbyists can reinforce the takeaways from that meeting multiple times over the course of a year.

For legislation moving through the General Assembly, Carrington referred to key deadlines. Though the deadline for pre-filing a bill is November 1, the deadline for State Senate bill filing is February 7, 2025. Although the deadline for bond bill programs is in December 2024, Carrington said that advocating for those programs "should have been done yesterday," as there will be fewer bond funds to go around next year. With the upcoming election in mind, Jordan reminded council that there are multiple legislators who have been favorable to the city. During the lame duck period between Election Day and swearing in new legislators, the city may ask outgoing legislators to make the most of their ability to make earmark requests on behalf of the city.

## Bond Bill Projects

Considering the limited bond funding that will be available for capital investment projects next year, council discussed projects to consider prioritizing. The Community Center's faulty elevators and need for structural renovation were both considered. When asked which of the projects was more pressing for the Community Center, Salmerón stated that, "from an operations perspective, the largest headache" is the building's elevators, as their loss of use is already disruptive for programs in the building. While the building's structural issues are significant, collapse is not imminent. Converting streetlight fixtures is also a priority, though the exact amount and how it is to be done is yet to be decided and the program may also get alternative funding from energy-efficiency credits. A program to redesign the Springhill Lake Recreation Center's office space was also seen by council as long overdue, given its current state.

Like funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, funding from bond bills is only awarded to capital investment projects that fit certain criteria. For example, although the city applied for bond bill funding for assessing the use of the newly acquired Armory, no funding was awarded, as bond bills do not cover feasibility studies. Also, bond bills do not cover renovation alone, so while renovating the Recreation Center's office space may suffice, the program application will also involve altering the floor plan.

## 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. 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.

# Kayak Tour Highlights Greenbelt Lake Scenery

by Erica Johns



Some of the approximately 30 people who took city park ranger-led kayak tours of Greenbelt Lake on October 26, to see the lake and its animals and plants from the water

Experienced kayakers and the newly curious kayaked around Greenbelt Lake at Buddy At-tick Park on Saturday, October 26, in a first-time event hosted by Greenbelt Recreation park rangers, Greenbelt Therapeutic Recreation and Greenbelt Public Works. Approximately 30 people arrived between noon and 3 p.m. for free tours led by Ranger Patrick Mullen and Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll for up-close water views of the lake's beauty, animals (turtles and cormorants) and plants (including beech and

native sassafras) amid peak fall foliage colors.

The turnout was larger than expected, which Mullen, Carpenter-Driscoll, Interim Therapeutic Recreation and Inclusion Coordinator Priya Gardner Lemieux and other rangers handled by conducting three tours to accommodate everyone. There were both single and tandem kayaks available, with the tandem kayaks dedicated to families. Some participants brought their own kayaks. Mullen said the city plans to make the kayak tours a regular event.



Some of the single and tandem kayaks available for participants



Kayaks ahoy! Participants paddled around the lake in a counterclockwise circuit from the dam spillway.

- Photos by Beth Ramacciotti





# Greenbelt Business Alliance Contemplates Opportunities

by Cathie Meetre

At a breakfast meeting of the Greenbelt Business Alliance on Wednesday, October 16 at the IHOP restaurant in Greenway Center, Alliance members and guests welcomed John Mason, the city's new economic development officer. In addressing the group, Mason listed an impressive resumé working for several local governments within Maryland, but somehow always gravitating back to Prince George's County. He spoke of his fondness for the area and his keen awareness of the opportunities and challenges facing its municipalities. Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Danielle McKinney were present along with City Manager Josué Salmerón and Public Information Officer Chondria Andrews.



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

Greenbelt's new Economic Development Officer John Mason addresses the Greenbelt Business Alliance.

Mason spoke specifically of the challenges facing Greenbelt with the potential advent of the new FBI facility and the development of additional housing to accommodate the influx of new workers. He related this specifically to the concept of a transportation-oriented development model centered on the Metro station.

### Mixed-Use Development

In response to questions about the growing trend toward mixed-use development, he noted that plans for the area around the FBI location and the already-approved development at Beltway Plaza were both indicative of the integrated workplace, dwelling and shopping model that was replacing the strip and covered malls typical of the latter part of the 20th century. He hoped that the demand created by the FBI building would support more restaurants and fill now-empty office space. He hopes, he said, to help develop a city where the people who live here want to shop, eat and recreate here instead of driving to other locations to spend their money.

### Challenges and Trends

In the ensuing discussion among participants, concerns were expressed relating to the economic challenges of medical practices. Also noted were the number of small independent retailers in Beltway Plaza.

In particular, the division of the city into three areas by major highways was a topic, not for the first time – with speakers agreeing it brought difficulties in creating the feeling of a single city. Weaver and McKinney both chimed in on the possibility that the armory, recently purchased by the city for \$1 and ripe for redevelopment, might include the possibility for a mixed-use focal point (due to its strategic location central to all three city areas).

### Transportation Themes

The prospect of better intra-city communication and transportation by bus, bike and foot came up as a factor in the future well-being of the city and its businesses. In the same vein, there ensued a discussion of possibilities for enhanced bus services to shuttle people around the city without using cars – especially given recent proposals by WMATA of reducing local services. Salmerón described current usage of the city's Connection Bus service – which serves seniors, the disabled, groups making small out-

ings and the dial-a-ride service as well as summer camp activities. A participant also mentioned MetroAccess as a service for those with transportation issues.

### Why Not Like Europe?

Although most city bus transportation is now oriented toward seniors, the possibilities of a more diversely targeted service was promoted by Caitlin McGrath of the Greenbelt Cinema, who noted that her many years living in Europe made her wonder why the reliable and frequent bus services typical there couldn't be replicated in Greenbelt. Fielding this, Salmerón noted that, like so many things, it was a question of funding. He said, however, that a more expansive service could be explored and also that the city was intent on getting a bike

station at Metro similar to those already near the police station, in the Greenbelt Station development and by the Municipal Building.

### Safer Cycling

Weaver noted that she sometimes cycles to work at Goddard from her home in Greenbelt Station and that being able to cycle safely down Greenbelt Road would markedly shorten a commute that she must now ride in a more circuitous manner. Work is ongoing in the planning and development of local bike lanes.

(Note: the unheralded appearance on Greenbelt Road of bike lanes created by the Maryland State Highway Administration was the subject of a News Review article on October 19, 2022.)

## Summer Travels



PHOTO BY JEREMY O'ROARK

Maren, Jessica and Cameron O'Roark attempt to read the News Review at Natural Bridges Beach in San Francisco, but find it's just too windy!



PHOTO COURTESY RUTH CAMPBELL

Ruth Campbell in Innsbruck, Austria

## Lakewood Picnic

Lakewood residents enjoyed a beautiful fall day at the Lakewood community picnic on Sunday, October 13. Neighbors old and new gathered at Stream Valley Park. A

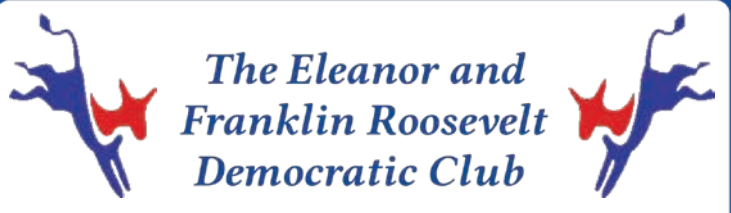
special thanks to the energetic organizers Brittany LaCouture, Terri Kellaheer Fendlay, Lori Zehr, Lisa Doughty, Bridget Gibbons and Elizabeth Orelana.

- Photos by Frann Fendlay




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# Bicycle Committee's Fall Social Offers Check-up and Catch-up

by Leo Casalini

The Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Bicycle Committee's Fall Social was held on Saturday, October 19, outside GHI headquarters on Hamilton Place.

After a few introductory remarks by the chair of the committee, John Campanile, and a first draw of the complimentary raffle, the event was underway.

First up was Graham Squire, a mechanic with the REI co-op in D.C., who gave a demonstration on how to perform a surface level check-up on a bike. First check the brakes and wheels to see if they are functioning smoothly, then take the bike and drop it from a foot or so off the ground. The less noise the bike makes the better – any excessive rattling or shaking is a sign that something is loose and should be tightened. Squire then went on to field questions from the audience, debating the merits of dry vs. wet lubricant, tubeless vs. solid tires and various types of sealants.

Next was a presentation on packing for biking trips by Greenbelt resident Diana McFadden. She walked the audience through the components of her set-up. She was joined by Squire as he related his experiences bike touring in America and Europe, also showcasing the Brompton, a 30-pound foldable bicycle that could double as a shopping cart. This was followed by a public service announcement by City Councilmember Kristen Weaver, detailing the federal grants Greenbelt has received to put towards improvement in the city's road and bike infrastructure. Among these are a \$200,000 grant with a \$50,000 match from the city for the Safe Streets and Roads for All project, which includes creating a Vision Zero Action Plan; \$320,000 and an \$80,000 match from the city as part of the Maryland Department of Transportation Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program, which includes funding for the Hanover Parkway Bikeway final design; and a total of \$300,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funding for pedestrian and bike improvements, including approximately \$78,000 for a city center traffic-calming study.

Mayor Emmett Jordan also gave remarks, which included a call for better bike infrastructure along Greenbelt Road.

One last raffle draw was conducted before the demonstrations were concluded and residents broke off to embrace the social



John Campanile, chair of the GHI Bicycle Committee, addresses audience members at the beginning of the group's fall social.



Greenbelt resident Diana McFadden, right, gives a presentation on packing for a bicycle trip.



REI mechanic Graham Squire explains the workings of a bicycle hub and cassette.

- Photos by Leo Casalini

part of the event, catching up and discussing what they had learned. *Leo Casalini is a senior at Northwestern High School writing for the News Review.*

# Planning Department Studying Traffic Calming on Some Streets

by Jeff Lemieux

On October 29, the Greenbelt Planning Department, at an open meeting in the Community Center, presented a draft conceptual plan for 21 traffic calming measures on five central city streets: Lakeside Drive, Ridge Road, Hillside Road, Greenhill Road and Lastner Lane. The city had hired consultants Greenman-Pederson, Inc. (GPI) to study traffic speeds and collision data on those streets and suggest streetscape modifications to reduce speeds.

The GPI consultant stated that a study goal was to bring down "average" speeds on these streets. However, the speeding problem on Ridge Road isn't high average speeds, it is a small number of high-speed outliers – drivers going more than 10-15 mph above the speed limit. These speeders may be only two or three out of every 100 drivers that go through – the 97th or 98th percentile in traffic engineering parlance – but they are the main safety problem, particularly near playgrounds.

The areas to remedy are ranked by priority, with Ridge Road between Laurel Hill and Plateau Place, Ridge Road between Eastway and Hamilton Place and Lastner Lane south of Ridge Road among the high priority areas for traffic calming. The GPI proposed changes include modifying crosswalk alignments, re-greening unneeded as-

phalt, adding bump-outs to shorten crosswalks, installing raised crosswalks, re-positioning bus stops and installing or adjusting curbing, among other suggestions.

The study estimated the cost of each modification, with short-term and longer-term options. The recommendations from the study have an associated cost estimate with a total approaching \$1.5 million. However, the proposals could be implemented incrementally, as funding for engineering design and construction becomes available, either from city funds or grant funding from outside sources. No specific sources of funding for follow-up engineering or construction were identified at the meeting. Greenbelt has done conceptual design plans before – for example, for the Cherrywood Lane "Green Street" – which haven't been implemented, either for lack of funding or lack of follow-through.

At the meeting residents were encouraged to examine the proposals and suggest modifications or make comments. The full study can be found on the city's website ([greenbeltmd.gov/government/planning-community-development/publications/traffic-calming-study](http://greenbeltmd.gov/government/planning-community-development/publications/traffic-calming-study)). For more information or to make additional comments, the Planning Department suggested contacting [planninginfo@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:planninginfo@greenbeltmd.gov).



Proposed improvements to the intersection of Ridge Road and Northway. The green shaded areas show the previous design. The red shaded areas indicate sidewalks/ramps. The light gray area shows the driveway reconstruction.

PHOTO COURTESY GPI

## SAFETY continued from page 1

further east to the WB&A trail in Glenn Dale.

5. Raise high-traffic crosswalks throughout Greenbelt, particularly near schools and playgrounds. Speed humps on key crosswalks would force drivers to slow down to about 10 to 15 mph as they approach. In my opinion, speed humps should be more widespread in Greenbelt even between crosswalks. They would slow down traffic in residential neighborhoods, particularly by delivery drivers and cut-through traffic.

I don't drive my car much, but when I do, I see lots of ag-

gressive and speeding traffic in Greenbelt, both on major roads and residential streets. These five priorities would not only make bike riding and walking around Greenbelt a little safer, but would also calm traffic.

The city can do some of these projects by itself and others with permission from the State Highway Administration, which owns the right of way on our major numbered roads. Let's take the initiative and make Greenbelt a safer, more accessible and well-connected city.

**The Importance of Being Earnest**  
By Oscar Wilde

November 1 – 16, 2024  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm; Sundays at 2pm  
(Audience masking required for Sunday November 10 performance)  
Scan the QR code or visit [GreenbeltArtsCenter.org](http://GreenbeltArtsCenter.org) for tickets!

**City Notes**

Preparing for election day, city staff attended a regional emergency management meeting and received voting equipment. The first JEDI town hall for employees featured a presentation by CARES.

Public Information and Economic Development launched a monthly Economic Development Newsletter. Information Technology designed and tested an additional secure WiFi network.

Environmental/Sustainability led interpretive tours for 45 guests around Greenbelt Lake. Public Works resurfaced roadways around Roosevelt Center. After two adoptions, animal shelter residents are two dogs and a cat.

Recreation staff and Park Rangers supported a Moonlit Movie event at Greenbelt Middle School and a ribbon cutting for new playgrounds at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and Buddy Attick Park.

The Aquatic and Fitness Center conducted CPR and water skills training. Therapeutic Recreation and Public Works collaborated on driver education for city bus operators.

Museum staff sponsored and promoted Emancipation Day programming.

The CARES director joined the county's Opioid Abatement Task Force and met with the assistant city manager and the grants coordinator about related funding.

**Joe Bistany, 65, Still Playing Softball; Joins Winning Team**

Joe Bistany recently joined the SpringFord (Pa.) 65+ AAA men's softball team that won the East Coast championship and was invited to participate in the 2024 Las Vegas World Championship in September 2024. The SpringFord team had a chance to play for the softball triple crown, which entailed winning the East coast, U.S. and World Championships. SpringFord won the East Coast and World Championships but lost the U.S. Championship to a very good Alaska team.

Bistany has been a Greenbelt resident for over 65 years. He grew up working at Camp Pine Tree, the Recreation Center and pool during the summers. He has been active in sports his entire life, first with Greenbelt Little League, then St. Hugh's basketball, then Greenbelt youth baseball and basketball and men's basketball league. Over the years, he coached girls' basketball and boys' baseball and basketball teams while continuing to play softball. He currently plays 50+ and 60+ softball in the Baltimore Beltway Senior Softball League in Columbia, Md.



PHOTO BY DARRYL HALL

Joe Bistany poses with the News Review in Las Vegas.



“Those That Have Gone Before Us”



Artwork by veteran artist Barbara Gilbert

REMEMBERING THEM ON NOVEMBER 11

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Seniors, Children with School ID and Customers with Disabilities **RIDE FREE**

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

# Obits cont'd from p.4

sibling, Dave Burkholder; two children, Eric Smidinger and Gretchen Knoell; six grandchildren, Max Smidinger, Sierra Silberman, Elyse Smidinger, Jack Knoell, Julia Knoell and Andrew Knoell; and five great-grandsons, Oliver and identical twins Bodie and Wesley Smidinger, along with Marrack and Spencer Silberman.

Jane will be dearly missed be-

cause of the compassion and caring she naturally extended to all others, whether through her work or friendships and relationships. Her kindness never wavered and was abundantly returned by her longtime (46 years) neighbors of 73 Court Ridge Road as her mobility and health declined. It is rare, as Jane was, to be this loved by everyone.

- Gretchen Knoell

## In Memoriam

# A Short Tribute to John Hall

by Rick Ransom

I met Johnny Hall as a teen, when his family arrived from Louisiana. He was a long, tall kid with a head of hair that was seldom styled but never unattractive. He had a sly smile that widened his eyes and a good sense of humor punctuated by a laugh that was genuine. He took everyone at their word and accepted all, even when that proved to be his undoing at times.

He and I were familiar before his late brother Ronnie became my lifetime friend. The Halls were like a second family for me. Although I checked in with Johnny more often and greeted him around town after Ronnie's

death, I did not do enough with or for Johnny to earn the title of "friend."

Johnny worked many years in a brickyard and later did odd jobs when the company closed. He never shied away from hard work until he had some disabling health problems in more recent years. He treasured his boys and was devoted to his grandkids. He was a good son, brother, husband, father and grandfather, always willing to help. He represented his family well and loved his adopted town of Greenbelt. May we all know and appreciate the kindness that Johnny embodied.



The Hall siblings from left: Ron, Sue, Alvin, Linda and John.

## Empty Bowls Event Nov. 17 at St. Hugh's

The Empty Bowls event will take place on Sunday, November 17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church. The event will benefit the St. Hugh's Food Pantry, which provides food weekly to over 60 families.

Participants can purchase a ticket (200 tickets will be sold), select a unique handcrafted ceramic bowl made by Greenbelt Pottery Group members and enjoy a cup of soup, bread, drinks and dessert with others in the community. Kids 6 and under eat free. Tickets can be purchased by emailing Mary Ann Tretler at [mary\\_tretler@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_tretler@yahoo.com) or by calling 240-517-7559.

Music will be provided by local Greenbelt groups. At the event there will be additional pottery pieces available for purchase.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

Kenny Hilliard, his wife Crystal and son Kenny III greet a full house on his first day as the New Deal Café's food and beverage operations manager.

## BENCHES continued from page 1

reported receiving complaints about the armrests. City Manager Josué Salmerón said he had not heard from many people but a few residents wanted the armrests to stay because they were useful in helping seniors stand up from

the bench. The end result of this discussion was that council voted in favor of removing the armrests from the benches (Jordan and Pope voted nay).

As of Tuesday, November 5, the armrests are gone.



PHOTO COURTESY CORITA WATERS

Corita Waters reads the News Review on her trip to the Upper Missisquoi and Trout Wild and Scenic Rivers in Vermont's Northeast kingdom.



PHOTO BY ANGIE GORDON

Mark Gordon can't leave Greenbelt behind on a visit to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, in October.

## Homebuying Seminar For Essential Workers

On Saturday, November 23 from 12:30 until 2:30 p.m., Lafayette Federal Credit Union will provide a seminar designed to provide essential workers with the information and tools they need to navigate the homebuying process. Covered will be exclusive mortgage options, financial resources and key steps to take when purchasing a home. This is a great opportunity for healthcare workers, teachers, first responders and other essential personnel to gain insights from industry professionals. Lunch is included.

Register for the event at [lfcu.org](http://lfcu.org) or at 240-747-2471. Lafayette Federal Credit Union is located at 7537 Greenbelt Road, in the Greenway Shopping Center.

## Golden Age Club's November Schedule

The Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to noon in the Community Center, Room 201. Members must live in Greenbelt, but visitors are welcome.

November programs:

November 13, fall ticket auction.

November 20, birthday celebration (bring a snack to share).

November 27, no meeting.



# STOCK UP & SAVE ON THANKSGIVING FAVORITES AT CO-OP

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2.99 **coop deals**



3.99 **coop deals**



2/\$5 **coop deals**



5.99 **coop deals**



2.29 **coop deals**

For every Field Day product sold during November, 5 cents will be donated to NĀTIFS, an Indigenous-led organization working to strengthen Native foodways nationally.

# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred October 28 - November 3, 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@greenbeltd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

## Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported one domestic incident with an arrest; one mental health diversion involving attempted suicide and a death. Two missing person cases were resolved.

## Strong Arm Robbery

On October 28 at 3:38 p.m. near Mandan Road and Hanover Parkway, a man was robbed by three men; officers identified them and applied for charges.

## Fight, Firearm, Arrests

On October 31 at 10:12 p.m. near 9108 Edmonston Road, officers stopped a fight and found an unregistered firearm in one of the subjects' possession. One had an outstanding warrant, and both were arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

## Assault

On October 30 at 6:05 p.m. near 7818 Hanover Parkway, a man was assaulted by someone he knew; he refused medical attention and declined to prosecute.

## Disorderly

On October 28 at 1:57 p.m. near 9117 Springhill Lane, a resident was causing a disturbance in the building, and when officers urged him to return to his apartment, he began to threaten other residents; he was arrested and charged with being disorderly.

On October 31 at 11:06 a.m. near 6711 Greenbelt Road, a previously banned man threatened a woman while she was working; a warrant application was made.

## DUI

On November 2 at 10:25 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Southway, after a two-vehicle crash, one driver was arrested for DUI.

## Fraud

On November 1 near 6226 Greenbelt Road, a card scanner device was found on an ATM.

## Theft

On October 29 at 12:30 p.m. near 6101 Springhill Drive, a bicycle was stolen. On October 30 at 3:14 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an electric bike was stolen while the owner was shopping.

## Shoplifting

On October 28 at 8:47 a.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, shoplifters took merchandise.

On November 1 at 5:09 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter was stopped by loss prevention staff; all items were returned and the thief was banned from the property.

On November 1 at 12:20 p.m. near 7587 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise off the wall.

On November 2 at 8:04 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter left just before police arrived.

On November 3 at 2:59 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, loss prevention staff stopped someone from stealing and the subject was banned from the property.

## Trespassing

On October 31 at 10:32 a.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a previously banned man kept entering the store; he was arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

On November 1 at 5:42 p.m. near 9132 Edmonston Terrace, a man entered a person's residence with a key, and when he saw that

the home was occupied, he fled.

## Vandalism

On October 31 at 12:29 p.m. near 5923 Cherrywood Terrace, four men were seen writing graffiti. On November 1 near 5908 Cherrywood Terrace, graffiti was found in the apartment complex.

On November 1 at 8:47 a.m. near 9117 Springhill Lane, a man was seen banging and kicking a door, damaging it.

On November 3 at 9:12 a.m. near 7816 Lakecrest Drive, a laundry room was vandalized with laundry detergent.

## Vehicle Crimes

### Stolen Vehicles

Six vehicles were stolen: on October 28 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2018 gray Ford Escape (Md: 6DY9761); on October 30 near Edmonston Road and Springhill Drive, a 2020 gray Chevy Silverado (Md: 8FM2417) and at 7:42 a.m. near 8201 Mandan Court, a red 2019 Toyota CHR (Fl: 27DSVJ), left running outside a residence; on October 30 near 7712 Hanover Parkway, a Ford Taurus (Md: 3FF2214); on October 31 near 7706 Hanover Parkway, a 2012 silver Honda Civic (Md: 8AT5310); and on November 1 near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, a 2017 black Infiniti sedan (Md: A418795).

### Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On October 30 near 7806 Hanover Parkway, a vehicle had a damaged window and ignition.

### Stolen Vehicles Located

Officers found two vehicles that had been stolen from Washington, D.C. on October 29 near 9200 Edmonston Road, and on November 1 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive.

A car the owner thought was stolen had been repossessed.

### Theft from Auto

Tags were stolen from three vehicles: on October 29 near 6003 Cherrywood Court, the rear tag; on November 2 near 8001 Lakecrest Drive; and on November 3 near 9129 Edmonston Terrace, the rear tag.

On October 30 near 9117 Springhill Lane, items were stolen from a vehicle. On November 2 near 9113 Springhill Lane, a vehicle had a window damaged and items missing. On November 3 near 6201 Springhill Drive, a phone was stolen from a truck, and near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a vehicle was broken into and property taken.

### Vandalism to Auto

On October 29 near 7543 Greenbrook Drive, a car was broken into but nothing was stolen. On November 1 near 7319 Hanover Parkway, a car door handle was damaged. On November 2 near 9149 Springhill Lane, a vehicle was egged. On November 3 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, multiple vehicles were damaged, but no property was taken.



# Equipment Theft Hits Soccer Alliance; Fundraiser Upcoming

by Leo Casalini

On October 2, the Greenbelt Soccer Alliance (GSA), returning to their first practice after a brief hiatus, discovered the lock to their equipment shed sheared off and most of the things inside stolen. The break-in occurred sometime in the nine days between training sessions and an estimated 90 percent of the team's gear was stolen, valued at approximately \$3,500. The majority of it: balls and goals, the two things a game can't be played without.

"We find ourselves in a tough position because we have to repurpose a lot of our supplies to get the program back to where it was," said Jonas Cadwallader, GSA president. The Alliance is a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization, started in 2011, aimed at making the sport accessible to any kid in the Greenbelt-New Carrollton area.

The organization receives most of its money from registration fees, which go toward the equipment, team insurance and website costs. This is supplemented by grants from Greenbelt and New Carrollton that cover registration discounts for players from the two cities as well as those who qualify for the free and reduced price lunch program. The organization has also been able to extend help to a few refugees living in Greenbelt, figuring out registration and transportation for them.

The majority of the soccer equipment the Alliance uses isn't of high value, Cadwallader said. "Because of our status as a nonprofit we don't have much money in the bank," and he doesn't understand why people would stoop so low as to take their equipment. "It's worth more to us than anyone else."

The GSA prides itself on being able to provide for its players. "In other places, we know it's a requirement that you go out and purchase your own soccer ball," said Scott Borg, a Greenbelt parent and assistant coach. "But we've always believed that equipment should be there for everybody to use." In the aftermath of the theft this was hard to maintain, as the Alliance struggled to provide even a few balls to each of its 11 teams.

However, despite this unexpected wrench thrown into its plans, the GSA has kept its gears turning. Fielding donations from parents, devising plans to get the equipment back and organizing fundraisers to recoup funds,



The broken lock on the team's equipment shed, located at Youth Memorial Field in New Carrollton



The GSA Under 10 co-ed team after their game on November 2

PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN POWELL



Members of the GSA's Under 12 girls team

PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT BORG

the organization has not let this setback stop them from their goal of making soccer accessible to all. Part of the reason the organization has been able to stay operational these past few weeks is because of the community of parents that help run it, said Cadwallader. "It's amazing what a tired Greenbelt parent can do." The Greenbelt Soccer Alli-

ance will be holding a fundraiser at Generous Joe's restaurant on Wednesday, November 13. The event will run from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., with a portion of the proceeds collected by the restaurant that day going toward recouping equipment for the next season.

Leo Casalini is a senior at Northwestern High School writing for the News Review.

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# Sports

## Roosevelt's Impressive Season Ends With a State Quarterfinal Heartbreak

by Patrick Gleason

Midway through the first half of their state quarterfinal matchup with the Perry Hall Gators on November 2, the Eleanor Roosevelt Raiders found themselves in a position they had not been in all year long — trailing. After maintaining an immaculate 17-0 record through the regular season and first three games of the post-season, a 2-0 deficit seemed implausible. The first half featured a chaotic back-and-forth game with both teams exchanging near goals early on. The Gators used the speed of sophomore Autumn Rorie to penetrate the Raider backline, but rather than crack at the season's first adversity, the Raiders responded to the game's call.

Roosevelt nearly struck first with Autumn Freeman slipping behind the last Gator defender at the near post, but her shot found the stomach of the goalkeeper. The miss left the Raiders lamenting a chance to corral early momentum, especially when the Gators struck first off a corner kick a few minutes later. Though Roosevelt senior Hariette Ngwatum moved to fullback to subdue the Gator attack with her speed, the teams continued to exchange fast-paced play. Eventually Perry Hall found the back of the net again, leaving the Raiders chasing two goals.

A resolute Roosevelt squad found its footing heading into the half and mounted a formidable comeback in the second half. Layers of Roosevelt pressure began to wear on the Perry Hall defense, who devolved from a dangerous first-half counterattack to serial clearances to evade

peril in the second half. Midfielders Gabrielle Johnson and Sadie Swart orchestrated the Raider forays as they searched for wingers Alyssa Casey and Jada Savage who hunted for the first Roosevelt goal.

A cold, unforgiving far post denied Savage's strike early on in the second half as her shot ricocheted away from goal in heart-breaking fashion. But the Raiders continued to press, never allowing the visitors to relax. Johnson eventually halved the deficit, capitalizing on a Perry Hall miscue outside of the six-yard box. With a tenuous lead even more tenuous, the Gators continued to pack in their defense and clear away any danger, yearning for the second half whistle. Meanwhile, the Raiders continued their high press in search of an equalizer that could force overtime. Despite their best efforts and a dominant second half, that goal never came and Roosevelt is left wondering about what could have been for a senior-laden squad with state title aspirations.

Seniors Gabriella Martinez, Leia Barton, Alena Beckmann, Cora Moore, Arianna Casalini and Nikki Lilja join Ngwatum, Casey, Swart and Savage in having played their last game in a Roosevelt jersey; the senior class became the first since 2019 to earn league, county and region trophies in the same season. Though the final result did not reflect their wishes, the Raiders have a season of success and memories which in time will yield far more than a less cruel post ever could.



Senior Jada Savage and the Raiders unleash a relentless attack amid a second-half comeback that falls just short in the state quarterfinals.  
- Photos by William Swart



Sophomore Ariana Cruz

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## Review

## The Magic of Mary Poppins Is Perfect for Our Times

by Carol Griffith



PHOTO BY JOHN CHOLOD

From left, Michael Banks (Will Wertz), Mary Poppins (Ashley Greeley) and Jane Banks (Kira Wilkinson)

Mary Poppins, currently being performed by Goddard's Music and Drama Club (MAD), is just what we need this month and year. To suspend reality, enjoy the magic and revive trust in the goodness of the world for a few hours watching this gem of a production is a perfect way to raise one's spirits, judging by the smiles on the faces of the cast and audience members.

The play is a combination of the series of books featuring Mary Poppins by English writer P.L. Travers and the Disney movie of that name released in 1964 about an English nanny with magical powers. She arrives mysteriously at the troubled Banks home to care for children Jane and Michael after they have driven off the last of a series of nannies. Mr. Banks has little to do with his children because of his own difficult childhood and job worries, and Mrs. Banks is struggling with her competing roles.

After many adventures, Mary Poppins' magic and wisdom set the Banks family's world right. The story is sweet, funny and touching by turns, with toys coming to life, animals who talk, unusual characters and plenty of other magic.

The MAD production features the classic and much-loved songs from the 1964 movie: Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, Chim-Chim-Cheree and a Spoonful of Sugar, to name a few. An

excellent orchestra conducted by multi-talented Greenbelter Susan Breon drives the high-energy singing and dancing. Mary Poppins is performed in the center of the room so the many-membered chorus seems even larger and more energetic.

It would be impossible to single out an actor for an outstanding performance; they are all flawless, but the gymnasts and dancers are especially dazzling. The frequent costume and set changes keep the magic flowing from the first to the last note.

Just as Mary Poppins introduced herself to Jane and Michael on her arrival as "practically perfect in every way," so does the phrase describe this MAD production. Also, at the perfect time.

Mary Poppins is performed in Goddard's Barney and Bea Recreation Center, 9998 Good Luck Road. Tickets must be purchased in advance and shown to the security guard at the entrance to the facility. The Recreation Center is fully accessible to all. All Saturday and Sunday performances are sold out; as of Tuesday, November 5, tickets were available for Fridays November 8, 15 and 22 and Thursday, November 21. All shows are at 8 p.m. See madtheater.org for ticket purchases and information. The show is double-cast; see the website for which actors play which roles in each performance.



PHOTO BY TERRY NGUYEN

It's a Jolly Holiday in the park with Mary Poppins, where the statues come alive, including gymnast Jenesis Vidale, pictured in the center in a leap.



## Review

## The Importance of Being Earnest Shines at Greenbelt Arts Center

by Leo Casalini

Why tell the truth when you can lie and have a little fun? This is the attitude shared by Algernon Moncrieff (Lucian Clarkewallis) and John Worthing (Michael McCarthy) in Stephen Cox's adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Greenbelt Arts Center this month. Men of considerably high social standing, the two bachelors are plagued with many an invitation to social gatherings they would rather not attend. This leads to the creation of certain fictional characters who are summoned into service whenever the need to escape arises. The two men will have to wrestle with learning the importance of being earnest as their small deceptions double back to wreak havoc they can barely escape.

This production does not boast an elaborate set or big extravagant scenes, and perhaps that is for the better, as it gives the play's most endearing feature, its characters, a bigger stage. This is apparent from the get-go in the repartee between Algernon and his manservant, Lane (Nathan Rosen). The theme of boisterous camaraderie is carried throughout as certain pairings arise: the two bachelors, the ladies and the two older lovers, with a few unpaired exceptions who add a welcome variety. The push and pull of the interactions between pairs sees their personalities contract and expand, shaping them into memorable and recognizable characters. These factors only increase as the groups mingle, clash and reconcile, only to do it all over again.

This production does a good job of bringing one back to 1895, the time period when the play was written, principally through its language and dress. Some attendees might find the British English dialogue difficult to follow, but the actors do a good job of keeping the volume and pace constant. Taking it a step further, every word is articulated in an upper-class English accent so practiced and poised one would think they were plucked straight out of Oxford or Cambridge. To complete the ensemble, the clothing, especially the dresses worn by the women, topped with lace and ending with frills, showcases the Victorian era in its full splendence.

It is this author's earnest opinion that fans of comedy, witty conversation and plot twists



Scenes from *The Importance of Being Earnest*, now playing at the Greenbelt Arts Center

- Photos courtesy GAC



should purchase their tickets now at [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org). Don't wait too late and miss out on a raucous and enjoyable experience – as Ms. Prism's (Cathy Barth) favorite proverb says, "One must reap what they sow."

A show for all ages, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is

showing Fridays and Saturdays, November 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, November 10 at 2 p.m. All performances will be held at the Greenbelt Arts Center, 123 Centerway.

*Leo Casalini is a senior at Northwestern High School writing for the News Review.*

## GAC Seeks Volunteers

by Carol Shaw

The Greenbelt Arts Center needs box office managers to sell tickets and process online purchases. Volunteers need to have confidence in handling money and the public, have database experience and be 18 or older. Volunteers work a two-hour shift for two weekend performances a month. Shows usually have nine

performances over three weekends with Friday and Saturday evening performances and Sunday matinees.

A background check may be required. Training is provided. Volunteers receive a complimentary ticket for each show they work. If interested, email [boxgac@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:boxgac@greenbeltartscenter.org).

A sunrise rainbow over the Community Center on November 1.



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO