



ERHS winter concert, p.7



DKFI certificates, p.7

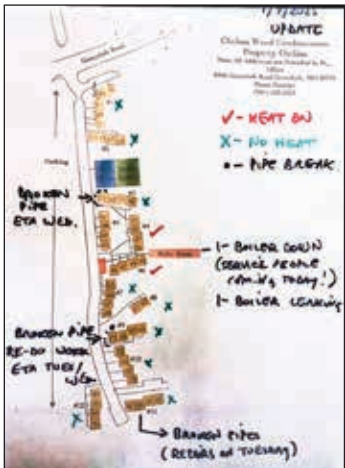
Many Chelsea Wood Condo Owners: Snow, But No Heat

by Erica Johns

Most Chelsea Wood condominium owners still didn't have heat as of Tuesday morning, January 7, after temperatures and snow fell over the weekend. There were 12 buildings with heat and 35 without heat, according to a map from Metropolis Condominium Management. At least three pipes were still being repaired and since last week a boiler stopped working. The boiler produces hot water for heating, which the pipes deliver to the complex, with 280 units in 47 residential buildings. The heat first failed in October 2024.

Repairs Scheduled

Resident Jocelyn Cox shared



This map of Chelsea Wood condominium buildings' heat and repair status was provided to residents on January 7 by Metropolis Condominium Management. Metropolis became the complex's management company on January 1.

with the News Review a January 7 email and map from Metropolis, which became the complex's management company on

See **HEAT**, page 8

Parkway Gardens Also without Heat

Residents at Parkway Gardens Apartments on Parkway in Greenbelt Center are also without heat. Residents Marayna Smith and Tyresa Simmons say the problem began several months ago with a broken boiler. Simmons said residents of the rental apartments knew city code enforcement staff had visited but were told no more by the apartments' property manager, Pinnacle Property Group of Bethesda, which Simmons described as unresponsive.

Greenbelt City Councilmember Jenni Pompei said on January 3 that city code enforcement officials have given property managers until January 20 to devise a permanent solution, telling Pinnacle the property's individual window units are inadequate because they blow fuses. After January 20 the city will begin levying fines, said Pompei. She added that city staff asked the property manager to keep residents updated, but since that didn't seem to happen, City Manager Josué Salmerón planned to ask staff to prepare a statement to inform residents of repair status.

Snow Blankets Greenbelt, Causes Closures, Brings Out Shovels, Sleds



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The hill by Greenbelt Lake was busy, full of children enjoying the snow on Monday morning. See more snow photos on page 12.

Greenbelt experienced its largest snowfall since 2022, with the National Weather Service recording seven inches for the city. The snowstorm was anticipated, with Governor Wes Moore declaring a state of emergency on Sunday due to predictions of eight to 12 inches in some regions of the

state. Greenbelt's Public Works Department readied its snow plows and salted roads ahead of the storm.

The anticipated snow began to fall steadily overnight into the early hours of Monday morning. Greenbelt residents reported totals of seven to eight inches by the time snow ended late Monday. The federal government, many businesses and in Greenbelt city

offices and facilities were closed Monday and Tuesday. Children enjoyed several snow days for Prince George's County Public Schools were closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. In spite of the frigid temperatures, kids and adults alike got outside to enjoy the unusual weather – playing, sledding, skiing or just shoveling the white stuff.

What Goes On

Monday, January 13
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building

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

Who Responds to Greenbelt Fire, EMS Calls: Latest Response Data

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Station 835 First Due Call Types & Response Times June 30 through December 28				
Call Type Category	Incident Responses 2023	Average Response Time 2023	Incident Responses 2024	Average Response Time 2024
Advanced Life Support	Total: 443	Average: 6:18	Total: 465	Average: 7:12
Basic Life Support	Total: 413	Average: 8:45	Total: 385	Average: 8:41
Fire	Total: 156	Average: 6:13	Total: 257	Average: 4:05
Non-Emergency	Total: 93	Average: 7:00	Total: 73	Average: 6:30
Rescue	Total: 868	Average: 3:37	Total: 875	Average: 4:36
Average Response Time for All Call Types: 5 minutes and 57 seconds				

Response time data provided by Chief Green on January 3, 2025

On January 3, Prince George's County Fire Chief Tiffany Green wrote to Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan to provide updates on what she referred to as the "staffing reallocation plan." Since the removal of career firefighters on June 30, the staffing has previously been referred to as a "temporary staffing reallocation"

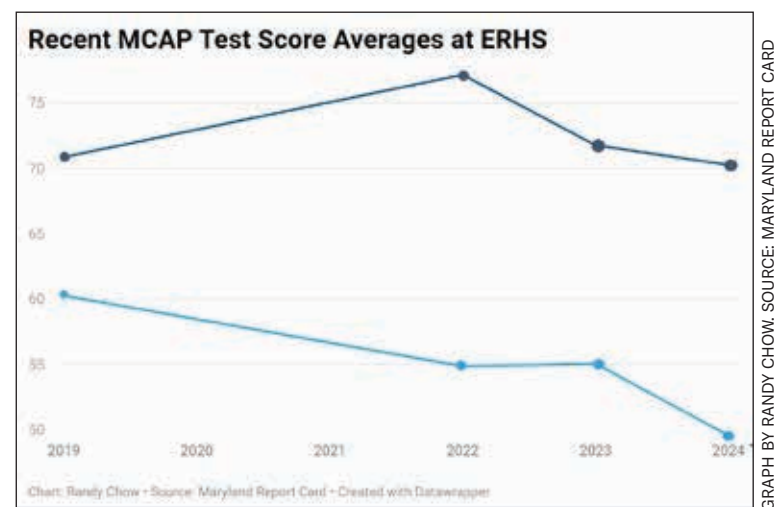
and "summer staffing plan." Green outlined changes in resources through which, perhaps most significantly, Greenbelt gained a full-time paramedic ambulance last month (see the December 12 issue). She also shared data on call times and who is responding to fire and emergency medical services (EMS) calls in

the Greenbelt area. One change that comes to light through the data is that while Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and EMS used to be the most frequent responder for what is Greenbelt Station's "First Due Area," responding to 38.3 percent of incidents, since the removal of career

See **FIRE DEPT.**, page 9

Report Card Shows Decline In ERHS Performance Scores

by Randy Chow



Eleanor Roosevelt High School students' recent ELA and Mathematics MCAP score averages: top line: percent proficient in ELA; bottom line: percent proficient in mathematics (data for academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21 unavailable)

The academic performance of students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School continues to fall in the 2023-24 academic year according to the 2024 Maryland School Report Card compiled by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

The Greenbelt magnet school met fewer annual targets, made no improvement in its statewide ranking and had one of its lowest "overall performance" scores in recent years, according to the MSDE. Statistics quoted apply to the school as a whole: the science and technology curriculum

and the general student body. **Pandemic Effects Linger**

Jonathan Briggs, District 2 Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education member, whose district includes Greenbelt schools, said the recent scores concern him because challenges that already plagued teachers were exacerbated by the pandemic's virtual learning.

"A lot of the results that we're seeing now, out of 2022 to 2024, are going to be reflected from

See **ERHS**, page 7

Letters to the Editor

Reacts to Traffic Calming Study

I read Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.'s (GPI's) Traffic Calming Study: Greenbelt Center City (July 2024) (Traffic Calming Study). Like "voter fraud," there's no evidence. To summarize the Traffic Calming Study, "City Council is hellbent to reduce the speed of every vehicle in Greenbelt, regardless of how it looks, whether it will work, whether it can be built or how much it will cost." Oh-for-four.

Some 48 crosswalks will be shortened (and associated lane widths reduced) by creating pinch points at every stop sign at every intersection GPI studied. If the pinch points are intended to reduce speed, why are they at stop signs?

Twenty-two intersections will be rebuilt using a mile of glowing Qwick Kurb – continuous curbs with big plastic reboundable bollards. I call this phase, "Bollardville." I don't know what current councilmembers think of Bollardville, but I have no doubt what Eleanor would think of it.

The Traffic Calming Study assumes Public Works will perform all the work. Who knew Public Works was so overstuffed.

Because GPI's six new speed bumps/raised crosswalks extend from curb-to-curb, they will provide habitat for migrating waterfowl whenever it rains. Two of the six will be 150-feet-apart on Hillside. For cyclists, riding this pool/bump/pool/bump on Hillside will be like steeplechase ... without the horse.

Reducing lane widths and turning radii, installing raised crosswalks will make life difficult for bus drivers, delivery-truck drivers and emergency responders. It seems only yesterday when council was concerned about that

last one.

Eliminating 24 on-street parking spaces will definitely reduce the number of collisions – fewer targets.

Permanently closing the right turn lane from Southway to Ridge will make a lot of people unhappy. Forced to queue up with people going to Crescent, I predict peak speeds on Ridge Road will increase, as some motorists try to make up for lost time.

Robert Nelson

Questions Ethnic Breakdown

In the DEI article in the December 26 paper the ethnic breakdown is both odd and inaccurate.* Instead of Black we have African Diaspora. Since Sub-Sahara is not specified, this includes the Arabs and Berbers of North Africa. I doubt either group thinks of themselves as African. Next we have white. This group does not even rate a capital letter. For consistency, it should be the British and European Diaspora. Then we have, not Latino, but colonized by Spain. This leaves out Brazil, which was colonized by Portugal, and includes the states of Texas and California. The Portuguese were as brutal as the Spaniards and surely the Brazilians should be included in this group. Do they mean to include all the residents of Texas and California? It would seem so.

Then we have other or unknown. These were people they were interviewing and presumably could be asked. Maybe they did not fit into their preconceived categories. And finally, we have Asian. At least they get a capital letter, but once again they should be the Asian Diaspora.

How were the interviewees selected? Was any attempt made to get a representative sample

of Greenbelters? From the age breakdown it appears that no one over 60 was included.

The group's focus seems to be entirely on racial discrimination, which is certainly a problem, but there is also religious discrimination, discrimination based on sexual orientation and discrimination against the disabled.

If this is how our DEI staff spend their time and our money, they should be replaced with staff who address the problem.

Mary Halford

*Editor's note: the ethnic categories were those used in the Phase II community audit itself.

Staff Perspective

I think recent letters about Rodney Roberts miss the perspective of staff who run our city each day. Have you had a job where an executive routinely berated your team? It saddens me that Greenbelt residents have written to support treating city personnel with public insults and belittling. It hurts Greenbelt if city council cannot maintain civility and professionalism when working with city staff.

See **LETTERS**, page 11



- Izzy Parker, News Review, February 27, 2003

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.



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

The Last Showgirl

The Last Showgirl, a poignant film of resilience, rhinestones and feathers, stars Pamela Anderson as Shelley, a glamorous showgirl who must plan for her future when her show abruptly closes after a 30-year run. Says critic Peter Travers of ABC News, "Gia Coppola's film has barely a sketch of a plot, but soars on the quietly devastating performance of former Baywatch babe Pamela Anderson as an aging Vegas showgirl."

A Complete Unknown

New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, Bob Dylan (Timothée Chalamet), an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota, arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in the electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history. Said critic Sam Adams of Slate, "A Complete Unknown is a fine movie about Bob Dylan ... but it's a better movie about the people who watched him do it, the die-hard believers who saw him as their greatest hope, then their greatest adversary."

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown

When Pepa Marcos' (Carmen Maura) lover Ivan (Fernando Guillén) suddenly leaves her without any explanation, she embarks on a strange journey to discover why. On the way she meets a variety of eccentric characters, including Ivan's son from a previous relationship (Antonio Banderas), his fiancée Marissa (Rossy de Palma) and a Shiite terrorist cell which has been secretly holding her best friend Candela (María Barranco) hostage. It's a film noir take on romantic comedy.



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

SHOWTIMES:
JANUARY 10th - 16th

The Last Showgirl (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2025) (86 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Sun. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:15 PM

Wed. 7:00 PM

Thurs. 5:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Sat. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM

Mon. 2:15 PM, 5:15 PM

Tues. 7:00 PM

A Complete Unknown (R)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (140 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Mon. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM

Tues. 6:45 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room

Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM

Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Wed. 6:45 PM

Thurs. 7:30 PM

Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown (R)

(1988) (95 mins)

Cult Classic

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Thurs. 8:00 PM

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887

Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)

ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)

business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)

website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985

Mary Lou Williamson, Editor

Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

STAFF

Matt Arbach, Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Laura Bonkosky, Jerry Bonnell, Letty Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Maurice Crawford, Deborah Daniel, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Joan Estenson, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Jim Giese, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Angie Gordon, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Michael Hartman, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Melanie Iversen, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Linda Lucas, Charlene MacAdams, Marc Manheimer, Anne Marigza, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Lois Rosado, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, René Sewell-Raysor, David Shapiro, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Susan Taylor, Beth Terry, Daniel Thies, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zeliff.

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

Book Discussion Group at New Deal

The Bibliophiles will meet from 11 a.m. to noon on the second Wednesday of each month at the New Deal Café. The first meeting is planned for Wednesday, February 12. The agenda includes introductions and house-keeping, followed, time permitting, by discussion of their first nonfiction book: Celebrating the Third Place, Inspiring Stories About the Great Good Places at the Heart of our Communities by Ray Oldenburg. Email RSVPs to Van Caldwell at wvcaldwell@gmail.com with the subject line Bibliophiles.



Spread the Word To End the Word

We Are Artistic will host a Spread the Word to End the Word at the Greenbelt Museum's Be Our Valentine Open House on Sunday, February 2 at 10-A Crescent Road.

Spread the Word to End the Word is an ongoing effort to raise the consciousness of society about the dehumanizing and hurtful effects of the word "retard(ed)" and encourage people to pledge to stop using the R-word. The campaign is intended to "engage school organizations and communities to rally and pledge their support in helping to build communities of inclusion and acceptance for all people," according to their website.

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, January 10 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 10 de enero 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.

Toastmasters Open House, February 1

Looking for a fun and supportive way to improve communication and leadership skills? Come to the Toastmasters Open House on Saturday, February 1 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Community Center to network with local members and learn how to join a club near you. Visit bit.ly/4fnSAjJ for more information and to register.

Concert Band Seeks Players

The Greenbelt Concert Band hopes to increase the size of the group, particularly with trumpet, French horn, tuba and percussion players. The band resumes rehearsals on Monday, January 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Community Center. Email director@greenbeltconcertband.org or visit the website at greenbeltconcertband.org.



State Offers Grants For Individual Artists

The Maryland State Arts Council announced a unique funding opportunity that provides \$2,500 in holistic support to Maryland-based independent artists, helping them cover essential living and working expenses. The application deadline is Friday, January 17.

This program is designed to be accessible to independent artists statewide, with an eligibility-based application process and no critical review of work samples. All eligible applications are entered into a randomized selection process, ensuring an equal chance for all applicants.

For more details about the program, eligibility criteria and application process, visit msac.org/programs/grants-artists. Those with questions or needing assistance, email Jess Porter, senior program director, at jess.porter@maryland.gov.

Weekly Programs Held at The SPACE

Sundays, Sewing Classes, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

Wednesdays, Beginners Music Classes in Ukulele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fridays, Free Art for All Game Night, 5 to 7 p.m. Play for fun and gear up for monthly tournaments. Space Family Band Jam Session, 7 to 9 p.m. Rainbow Joe is back. Bring an instrument or borrow one from The SPACE and jump into the jam.

Saturdays, Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For questions call 240-244-6115.

Golden Age Club January Events

The Golden Age Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes Prince George's County schools. Annual dues are now due.

The schedule for the rest of January is as follows:

January 15 – To keep celebrating the New Year, join a sing-along with Chris and Stefan.

January 22 – Celebration of members with January birthdays.

January 29 – New Year closet inventory with Jan Derry. Jan tells how to inventory closets to be more efficient.

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.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 9.

Lafayette Credit Union Hosts Budget Workshop

Lafayette Federal Credit Union is hosting a Budgeting Basics Workshop on Saturday, January 25 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Credit Union in Greenway Center.

This workshop is designed to provide community members with techniques to take control of their finances. In this interactive session, experts will outline how to track income and expenses, master budgeting basics, create a personalized budget plan and more. Light fare is included. RSVP at lfcu.events/budget0125.

Chess Club Will Meet Tuesday

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 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 and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.

Stamp Out Hunger Close to Home

The impact of a fully stocked pantry is profound. The shelves were emptied at the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association food pantry at St. Hugh's during the holidays. To help keep the shelves stocked, PORCH will pick up nonperishable food placed on porches as scheduled below.

Sunday, January 12 – by 11 a.m. at 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, January 18 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, January 19 – by noon for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hills donors). Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com; he will come by and take donations from the porch after 4 p.m.

Sunday, January 19 – by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village.

Sunday, January 26 – by 4 p.m. for 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road and 8 and 10 Courts Southway, and by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.



More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

This Week at the New Deal Café

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

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.



113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Monday 9am-10pm; Tuesday—Thursday 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 12midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 1/09	FRI 1/10	SAT 1/11	SUN 1/12	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Groovequest 7 - 9pm A fun D.C.-based rock and roll band	D'Vibe & Conga 8-11pm A blues, funk, rock group from Bowie, Maryland playing rock, R&B & more	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE, 3:30-5pm Dave Chappell Band 8-11pm Multiple WAMMIE-winning roots rock & blues	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30-12pm BACK ROOM CLOSED, 12-4pm Scotch and Soda 6-8pm Jazz, Latin and swing with a deep groove	
MON 1/13	TUES 1/14	WED 1/15	TH 1/16	New Deal Cafe
MEMBERS APPRECIATION NIGHT 4-9pm DISCOUNTS FOR MEMBERS*	NDC Open Mic with Tom Gleason 7-9:30pm Sign-ups at 6:30 Express Yourself!	Pub Quiz 7-9pm Test your knowledge	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm The Classic Jam with The Low Rent Quartet 6:30-9:30pm The long-running jam from Bowie has found a new home!	PLEASE TIP GENEROUSLY. IT'S THE ONLY PAY BANDS RECEIVE, AND WE WANT THEM TO COME BACK! [MINIMUM: \$10]

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

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

Obituaries

Willard Davis



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Willard Davis

Willard Kenneth Davis of Greenbelt died on Thursday, December 26, 2024. He is survived by children Will Jr. (Kathy), Michael (Lorraine) and Angela Davis and stepdaughter Christy (Gary) Cupp; brother David (Mary Jo), sister Lois (Victor) Kirk and brother-in-law Patrick Moore; 10 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; three nieces; and two nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Willard A. Davis; mother Dorothy C. Davis; sister Teresa A. Moore; and grandparents David A. Davis, Rose B. Davis and Alma Campbell.

Friends may visit at Beall Funeral Home, 6512 NW Crain Hwy. (Rte. 3 South) in Bowie on Sunday, January 19 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Peggy Rooney



PHOTO COURTESY MARY ANN TRETTLER

Peggy Rooney, left, with one of her students, Samara Njoku

Peggy A. Rooney, 90, of La Plata, formerly of Greenbelt, died on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at the University of Maryland Charles Regional Medical Center in La Plata.

Born on March 12, 1934, in Washington, D.C., she was the daughter of the late Walter Platt and Margaret (Davis) Crall.

Peggy Rooney wrote her memoir, inspirational books, novels, two biographical books, a

book of humor and a book of poetry. She also wrote music and lyrics and sang and played the guitar. Until her retirement, she was the secretary to the late Cardinal James Hickey of the Archdiocese of Washington. Peggy belonged to the Greenbelt Writers Group as well as a Bible group. Peggy was a longtime active parishioner at St. Hugh of Grenoble in Greenbelt and an author of many spiritual books. She had a real gift for reaching the hearts of young people in the religious education classes she taught at St. Hugh's.

In addition to her parents, Peggy was preceded in death by her brother Michael Crall.

She is survived by her husband David; her children Kathleen Quimby, Debra Lyndon, John Rooney and Joseph Rooney; her grandchildren Jessica, Regina, Seth, Rebecca, Shayne, Noah, Shaun, Noah and Joseph; her great-grandchildren Thomas, Sam, Cooper, Nathan, Nicholas, Ashton, Aria, Matias, Kilani, Gavin and Dylan; aunt Joyce Morris; and other relatives and friends.

A Memorial Mass will be held at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church. The service has not yet been scheduled; daughter Kathy Quimby will announce when it will take place. Interment will take place at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Peggy's name may be made to St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church, 135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Public Works were out in full force clearing the snow both during and after the snow-storm.



PHOTO BY JOELLEN SARFF

Obituaries

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

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

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
 Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
 Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)
 301-474-5410
 Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
 Celebrate hope with us.

St. John's Episcopal Church
 11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704
 301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

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

Greenbelt Community Church
 One Hillside Road

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

We are an Open and Affirming Church

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

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



Our condolences to the family and friends of Peggy Rooney. A memorial service will be held at St. Hugh, date to be announced.

Our sympathies also to the many family members and friends of Willard Davis who died on December 26.

Congratulations to Greenbelt artists Rachel Ann Cross, Mary Gawlik, Celestine Ranney-Howes and Racquel Keller, whose artwork will be on display in the House Office Building in Annapolis for the 2025 legislative season.

Many heartfelt thanks to Public Works staff for their hard work in making the streets and sidewalks safe for us in the snow storm.

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



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION
 Community Center Room 114
 15 Crescent Rd
ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
 For ZOOM link:
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Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

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 Psalm 59:16b

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Remembering Greenbelters Who Died in 2023-2024

Compiled by Elisabeth Kevorkian

Keith Allen Bair, 74, July 29, 2024
 Gary Barbour, 79, October 1, 2024
 Paul Ashton Beavers, 49, February 4, 2024
 Sharron Lee Beck, 84, February 5, 2024
 Belinda Kaye Birdsong, 71, December 16, 2024
 Mark Thomas Blue, 60, January 2, 2024
 James Clifford "Cliff" Bordas, 71, May 30, 2024
 Debra Boylan, 72, June 8, 2024
 David "Dave" Christopher Brinks, 74, June 27, 2024
 Dana Britton, 64, August 9, 2024
 Pamela A. Brown, 75, May 3, 2024
 Bob Cassels, 74, December 15, 2024
 Marie Catherine Christy, 94, April 1, 2024
 Jonathan David Cohen, 60, May 8, 2024
 Theresa "Pidge" Crowley, 86, October 26, 2024
 Lillian Mae Dambraskas, 92, May 26, 2024
 Leslie Davies-Hilliard, 70, June 23, 2024
 Willard Kenneth Davis, 72, December 26, 2024
 Dennis Kevan Dill, 64, January 26, 2024
 James "Jimmy" Edward Dobbin, 76, March 13, 2024
 Stephen E. Donn, 74, November 1, 2024
 Linda Edwards, 81, March 30, 2024
 Betty Jo Edwards, 68, December 8, 2024
 Mame Ellis, 102, June 3, 2024
 Elaine Weisel Eubanks, 81, October 3, 2024
 Mary Louise "Lou" Fisher, 81, May 4, 2024
 L. Ben "Pappy" Guiffre, 89, April 30, 2024
 John W. Hall Sr., 78, October 27, 2024
 Robert "Bob" Hawk Sr., 87, March 5, 2024
 Barbara Lee Stratton Hess, 76, October 14, 2023*
 Kathleen "Kathy" Susan Hurtt, 69, October, 2024
 Harry "Hank" Gerald Irving, 79, March 3, 2024
 Lisa Danielle Jellison, 67, December 25, 2023*
 Sue Marie Johnson, 76, December 19, 2023*
 Eugenia Kalnay, 81, August 13, 2024
 Marc "Kap" Kapastin, 78, June 29, 2024
 Jerriann Weber King, 89, May 19, 2024
 Bruce Douglas Kuhl, 79, December 15, 2023*
 Joyce Lorraine Bates Mangum, 95, June 5, 2024
 George William "Bill" Marshall, Sr., 90, May 20, 2024
 Aphrodite Theoni Matsakis, 76, March 17, 2024
 Frederick Anthony "Tony" McCarthy, 81, September 12, 2024
 Robert Donald McNally, 83, July 10, 2024
 Rachel Mertz, 101, June 8, 2024
 Regina "Gina" K. Murphy, 62, November 12, 2024
 Billy "Bill" David Norwood, 84, November 7, 2024
 Robin Wendell Olson, 71, March 5, 2024
 Wanda Ann Opsasnick, 91, May 26, 2024
 Wendy Bennett Osborne, 84, May 5, 2024
 Jeffery Lawrence Patterson, 60, August 11, 2024
 Barbara Ann Payne, 82, June 23, 2024
 Thomas Joseph "Tom" Payne, 76, September 20, 2024
 Mark Wayne Price, 62, September 28, 2024
 Alanna Marie Rall, 24, April 7, 2024
 Esther Robinson, February 23, 2024
 Peggy A. Rooney, 90, December 18, 2024
 John Albert Schaffer, 88, September 10, 2024
 Constance "Connie" Nadine Thomas Schwan, 81, June 12, 2024
 Lee Barron Shields, 86, December 2, 2023
 Bonnie Lou McCaw Shields, 86, March 11, 2024
 Jane Smidinger, 87, October 20, 2024
 Dorothy "Dottie" Anne Spivacke, 85, August 23, 2024
 Louvain C. Townsend, October 20, 2024
 John Ward, 80, April 26, 2024
 Maura Caughey Warner, 33, July 20, 2024
 Ralph E. Webb, Ph.D., 83, July 25, 2024
 Muriel "Micki" Pearl Weidenfeld, 91, October 8, 2024
 Helen Emily White, 88, March 5, 2024
 Juanita Wilmer, June, 2024

*Not included in last year's list

Animal Shelter Anticipates Resuming All Services Soon

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Since July 2024, Greenbelt's animal shelter has faced a staffing shortage but, says Greenbelt's Deputy Chief of Police Timothy White, residents' calls for animal services have continued to be met during that time.

Staffing Shortage

At the end of July 2024 the city's shelter was reduced to one full-time and one part-time staff member and the part-time member only continued a couple of weeks, reports White. Due to the seven-days-a-week nature of caring for animals, the city decided they had to cut the responsibilities in order to make it manageable, White told the News Review. Without the capability to take in more animals, they prioritized caring for the ones they had, some of which may need to be kept for months if they are part of a pending court case. White said the city's shelter continued to house animals during that time.

County Partnership

Greenbelt's police and animal control officers have continued to respond to dispatch calls, but to meet the needs of some types of calls – particularly animals needing to be housed – the city has partnered with Prince George's County Animal Control, explained White. He said there was not a loss in service, but a change in who responded. "The city has a very good relationship with Prince George's County Animal Control, so we work well in coordination with them," said White. Though the county's animal shelter has been at critical capacity for much of the last six months, they were able to take in the animals Greenbelt's shelter could not.

Staffing Strides

Over the last six months Greenbelt has brought on a new animal supervisor and has recently hired a new full-time staff person, bringing the full-time staff count to three. They are now updating their standard operating procedures. White says the city is hopeful they will be back to full capability and once again responding to all calls for service by the beginning of February, if not sooner. The shelter building itself has been and is currently in use.

Plans for the Building

As noted in the December 19 issue, the projected cost to replace the shelter's building

had more than doubled, from \$180,000 to \$400,000. Thus, the city will perform renovations on the current building rather than replacing it. Funds for the renovations were just approved at the end of the year, said White, who noted that American Rescue Plan Act funds would be utilized for the work.

One of the significant renovations is the replacement of the HVAC system. A second major renovation will require kennels, furniture and other items to be removed from the building while

the flooring is replaced, explained White; thus, the building will have to be closed at some point. He said there's significant damage to the structure of the floor and the subfloor, necessitating their replacement. In the operation of the shelter, flooring needs to be scrubbed, cleaned and hosed, so the new flooring will be carefully waterproofed to prevent future damage. The replacement of the flooring will likely begin when the weather is warmer, said White.

Geese Found Dead At Lake; Tested Negative for Avian Flu

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

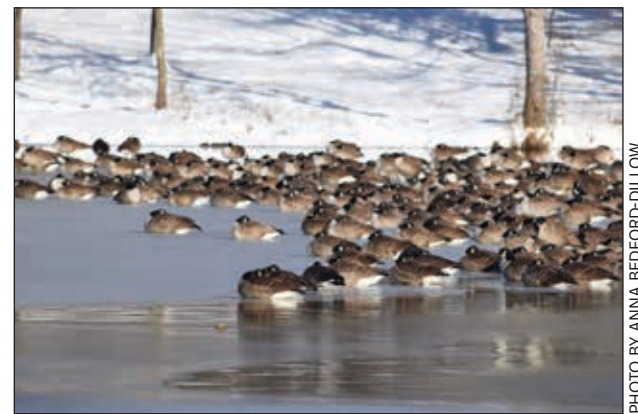


PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Geese gather on the partially frozen lake on Tuesday, January 7.

On the morning of December 30, four geese were found dead at Greenbelt Lake, confirmed Deputy Chief of Police Tim White. Animal Services took possession of the geese and sent them to be tested for avian influenza (bird flu), for which they were found to be negative. It's unknown what killed the geese, said White, but the city was asked to report deceased geese to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The bodies of two additional dead geese had been recovered as of January 3, said White.

Separately, a resident told the News Review they encountered a dead goose at the Lake on Sunday, January 5.

If residents encounter dead birds, they should call the city or police department, who can arrange for Animal Services to go out to collect the birds and notify DNR, said White.

DNR has confirmed that dead geese were also recently found at neighboring Lake Artemesia but White was not aware of whether or not those deaths were related to avian flu.

Though Greenbelt has not had any reported cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that the H5 bird flu is widespread in wild birds. Several cases have been reported in Maryland in recent years, none on the CDC's website for Prince George's County since 2023 (though there are many months between collection dates and detection dates). On January 7, the situation summary on the CDC's website reported there have been 66 reported human cases in the United States. In addition to birds, there is an ongoing, multi-state outbreak among dairy herds (cattle), reports the CDC, though there have been no reported cases in cattle in Maryland.

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School News

132 DKFI Students Receive DELF Certificates in Ceremony



Dora Kennedy French Immersion School students receive their DELF certificates (A1 certificates above and A2 certificates below).

- Photos by Charles Rones



On December 2, students from Dora Kennedy French Immersion School (DKFI) were among those celebrated for earning the Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELFF) in a ceremony jointly hosted by the Prince George's County Public Schools Immersion Programs Office, the Embassy of France in Washington, D.C., and the Maryland State Department of Education.

Eighty DKFI students achieved the A1 level DELFF, which, according to a statement from DKFI Principal James Spence, demonstrates foundational knowledge of the French language and competence in basic French skills. Fifty-two students achieved the A2 level DELFF, which, states Spence, assesses more complex language skills. All students were assessed across four domains:

writing, speaking, reading and listening. The exams were administered last school year on behalf of France's Ministry of Education.

The diplomas reflect the students' commitment to mastering a second language and embracing cultural diversity, says Spence. He described the role of immersion programs as vital in "fostering bilingualism and preparing students for a globalized world."

ERHS continued from page 1

those instructional gaps that were in place because of the pandemic," Briggs said.

Maryland Comparisons

Roosevelt remained in the 58th percentile among Maryland public high schools in the 2023-24 academic year. This is tied with the previous academic year for the school's lowest percentile rank in the last five years, according to the MSDE.

In academic year 2021-22, the department reported Roosevelt was in the 72nd percentile, thus showing the significance of the later drops. Data for academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21 – which overlap with the pandemic – were not available.

News Review requests for comment from Roosevelt Principal Portia Barnes and four representatives from PGCPSS received no response.

Testing at Roosevelt

The Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) assesses third through eighth grade and 10th-grade students in mathematics and English to track their progress toward proficiency.

The school's 10th-grade students scored 49.6 percent in the MCAP mathematics proficiency tests and 70.3 percent in English language arts tests in the 2023-2024 academic year. Both were lower than scores during the prior

five years.

Heather Seyler, who primarily teaches English at Roosevelt, said preparing students for the English exam is challenging. "There are very few [practice tests]," Seyler said. "When I seek support at the county level or at the state level for practice tests and ways to prepare students for [the exams], those resources have been lacking."

For Patrick Gleason, also an English teacher at Roosevelt, keeping students' attention is an issue.

"A big challenge right now is ... navigating student attention spans," Gleason said. He also pointed to the teacher staffing shortage, which has been an issue since before the pandemic started, especially in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Seyler also remarked that replacing a teacher who leaves mid-year is really difficult. "We've had vacancies that have taken time to fill, and that impacts students as well," she said.

Toward Improvement

PGCPSS is taking a number of actions to address its issues. PGCPSS made a significant investment in its communications with parents, Briggs noted. He listed the district's social media posts, emails, listserv, newsletters and text messages as various methods the district uses to keep parents informed. "When we have families that are engaged in schools ... that is something that helps to provide wraparound supports for students because teachers have strong relationships with parents,"

See ERHS, page 11

ERHS Holds Winter Concert

by Dan Celdran

The music department at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) presented its annual Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 11 to a full auditorium. The symphonic band led by Cullen Waller performed a medley of holiday favorites in A Christmas Festival by Leroy Anderson. Robert W. Smith's African Holy Night followed, with varied percussion such as bongos, bells and the xylophone. Last Christmas ended the set.

The Concert Band, made up mostly of freshmen, performed Celebrate the Season by Matt Conaway. Listeners noted the melody of Joy to the World "taken through a flurry of styles and sounds that build to an exhilarating conclusion to ring in the holidays with a flourish" (from jwpepper.com). The musicians concluded with Dreidel Adventure by Scott Watson.

The Chamber Choir, conducted by Dr. Janna Ryon and accompanied on piano by Harmony Yang, performed Winter Song celebrating winter friendship, made famous by Sarah Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson. The choir sang Baby, It's Cold Outside, written by Frank Loesser in 1944. The choir's females donned their red Santa hats to sing the holiday staple, Santa Baby.

The Gospel Choir presented Mary, Did You Know? – a song that asks if Jesus' mother could grasp the power that her newborn held, performed alongside students from the American Sign Language program who expertly

signed along. Their version included a beatboxer, adding the sound of drum machines. Rockin' Jerusalem, by Andre Thomas, began with soft voices of the men that continually rose to an incredible finish. The Concert and Chamber Choir collaborated on Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

The Symphony and Chamber Orchestra, conducted by David Yarbrough, played Tchaikovsky's waltz from Sleeping Beauty, as well as Evening Prayer, the duet from Engelbert Humperdinck's opera Hansel and Gretel (1893). Fantasia Española by Soen Hee Newbold, in which instruments were plucked and bowed, concluded their program. These pieces had been part of a tour program in which student musicians performed for elementary and middle school students promoting music and the arts. Unfortunately, due to scheduling, the tour program has ended.

Many students in the science and technology magnet program are unable to take classes in the arts after their sophomore year at ERHS because of magnet program and graduation requirements. Yarbrough and colleagues pointed out that research has shown that students who get experience in the arts during their high school years are positively affected in their learning and abstract thinking. Those wishing can help advocate for the arts at ERHS by working with the PTSA (erhsptsa.org/info) or by attending county school board meetings.



The ERHS symphony and chamber orchestra is directed by David Yarbrough.

- Photos by JoEllen Sarff



The ERHS chamber choir



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PGFD EMS Changes: What Do They Mean for Greenbelt?

by Erica Johns

On December 29, 2024, Prince George's County Fire Department (PGFD) moved the 24/7 Northern Emergency Medical Services Duty Officer (NEMSDO) position from the Bunker Hill Station near the District of Columbia line to Greenbelt and added a 24/7 paramedic ambulance to Greenbelt, staffing the ambulance with career EMTs and paramedics working overtime (see the December 12 issue). The ambulance is expected to benefit Greenbelters more directly than the NEMSDO, though both will benefit the northern Prince George's County area that includes Greenbelt.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

The response vehicle of the Prince George's Fire Department's Northern Emergency Medical Services Duty Officer (NEMSDO) is seen at Greenbelt Fire Station on January 4. The 24/7 NEMSDO position coordinates EMS operations in northern Prince George's County. PGFD moved the NEMSDO from Bunker Hill station to Greenbelt on December 29.

NEMSDO

PGFD Fire Chief Tiffany Green and Public Information Director Alan Doubleday described the NEMSDO as a supervisory role that coordinates daily EMS operations. Doubleday said moving the NEMSDO to Greenbelt is intended to enhance Advanced Life Support (ALS) capabilities and improve patient transfer times to hospitals. He said the NEMSDO is critical to managing ALS and Basic Life Support (BLS) resources in northern Prince George's County.

Doubleday said the role is much broader than supervision. He said EMSDOs monitor call volume and hospital load, manage hospital transport destinations and liaise with hospitals, act as EMS supervisor on high-profile incidents, conduct quality assurance and training for EMS providers, distribute narcotic medications and manage EMS supplies and equipment. They use their senior experience to advise EMS staff on patient care.

Do EMSDOs Provide Patient Care?

Doubleday and Green said EMSDOs are ALS-certified paramedics who respond in a vehicle equipped for ALS care (but not transport). Doubleday said they routinely respond to incidents that first responders discover need a paramedic or second paramedic, and can respond to any incident where they believe they are needed, including incidents that are

an EMT and a paramedic and provides ALS care and hospital transport. Before December 29, Greenbelt had only ALS peak demand ambulances with career overtime staffing from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., one of which will remain – meaning that the city will have two ambulances during that time period, and one from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.

This is the first 24/7 EMS coverage at Greenbelt since June 2024. Since then a man who had to wait eight-minutes from the time of a 911 call died and a 3-year-old child struck by a vehicle experienced a 13-minute response time, according to residents on the scene. The new ambulance may be regularly dispatched outside Greenbelt when it is the appropriate unit closest to a call.

Continued Critical Understaffing

The summer staffing reallocation that removed Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, Berwyn Heights and Bowie-Belair stations' career staff reduced the burden on personnel and the costs of mandatory overtime. However, severe staffing gaps continue to impact service, overtime costs and nearby county fire departments who respond when PGFD can't.

The December changes, in addition to Greenbelt, included the onboarding of 34 new recruits, moving a peak demand type ambulance to Bowie-Northview and returning some career staff to Bunker Hill and Laurel Station 810, based on EMS demands on Bunker Hill and Laurel. Increasing Laurel staffing addresses north county demands, responds to nearby counties who told PGFD it needs to figure out its staffing and enables Beltsville to

See EMS, page 11

HEAT continued from page 1

January 1. The information indicated plans to replace one pipe beginning Tuesday, January 7, and others beginning Wednesday, January 8. Service personnel were expected to arrive Tuesday, January 7, to begin addressing the boiler. When resident Jessica Fomalont bought her unit in 2005, she was told the HVAC system was installed in 1965.

Addressing the heating situation is complicated by condo owners lacking renters' rights, their individual homeowner's insurance not applying to shared infrastructure and delinquent owners' condo fees not being contributed to shared maintenance.

No Help From Officials

Cox said she spoke with Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington on December 30, who told her he would look into the situation; she also contacted Governor Wes Moore's office. She said there has been no response from either.

Cox shared with the News Review her emails to elected officials and county staff in search of help for her community. Her correspondents include Washington; County Councilmember Eric Olson; Delegates Anne Healey, Ashanti Martinez and Nicole Williams; staff from the Prince George's County Office of Community Relations/Common Ownership Communities and Greenbelt City Manager Josué Salmerón. Chelsea Wood has a Greenbelt zip code but is not in the city limits, instead lying in an unincorporated area with no municipal support.

Warming Centers Unavailable

Olson replied on January 2 that county agencies told him that the American Red Cross cannot help in this situation. He was told the county's Office of Emergency Management is "continuing to brainstorm." Olson's email included a map of county warming centers, which can be found at tinyurl.com/2pvw923b. When the News Review attempted to

contact four warming centers on January 7, they were closed because county facilities were closed during the January 6 and 7 snow emergency. The map includes county libraries, which close on holidays and during county school weather closings, including January 1, 6, and 7.

Cox contacted county and state officials again January 7. She updated them on the pipe and boiler status, and said she was still waiting to hear from Office of Community Relations/Common Ownership Communities staff on their communication with county attorneys for possible action. She asked Olson if the Office of Emergency Management was still brainstorming, and if county or state resources could aid the heating system repairs.

Cold Continues

Weather forecasts through the weekend include temperatures from the low 20s to mid 30s, winds up to 25 miles per hour, and another winter storm possible on Saturday, January 11.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 30, 2024 - January 5, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two domestic incidents, three mental health diversions, two involving attempted suicide and one involving an overdose. Two missing person cases were resolved. On January 1 near 9011 Breezewood Terrace, a tree fell and damaged a vehicle.

Welfare Checks

On January 4 at 4:48 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers responded to the report of a lost child. The boy said he was new to the area and got lost but had his guardian's phone number. She was called and picked him up.

On January 4 at 5:26 p.m. near 550 Crescent Road, officers observed two juveniles outside in the cold, shaking. They were taken to the station to warm up, and a parent was contacted to pick them up. The parent explained that the children were supposed to wait at a specific location, which they did not do.

Assault

On January 1 at 12:12 a.m. near 9111 Springhill Lane, a man swinging a sword charged at a group of people lighting fireworks for New Year's. A woman was cut on her forearm, and the man was arrested and charged with assault.

Disorderly

On December 30 at 5:13 p.m. near 6203 Springhill Drive, two people were involved in a dispute, and one reportedly damaged the other's vehicle, leaving a small scratch of less than two inches.

Suspicious Person

On January 3 at 11:30 p.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a man wearing black clothing and a black face mask entered a store. The store employee said he saw the man's left hand holding a black-handled handgun inside his coat pocket. When the man saw the employee staring at his pocket, he left the store.

DUI Arrests

On January 4 at 12:53 a.m. near 9111 Springhill Lane, a Jeep struck two vehicles and a trailer before stopping on the sidewalk and blocking a one-way entrance. The driver was on the ground, unable to stand. He displayed multiple signs of impairment and was arrested for DUI. He also

had a warrant for assault and was taken to the Department of Corrections in Upper Marlboro.

On January 4 at 3:30 p.m. near 5707 Cherrywood Lane, a vehicle struck a post. The driver stated he had been drinking earlier and was willing to submit to sobriety testing. He showed signs of impairment and was arrested for DUI.

Traffic Stop with Arrest

On January 2 at 10:24 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a vehicle failed to stop at a stop sign; the driver had an open warrant from the Maryland State Police, and was arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Fraud

On December 31 near 7845 Jacobs Drive, a fraudulent utility account appeared on a credit report.

Theft and Shoplifting

On December 31 at 11:47 a.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole items and drove off in a gray Hyundai.

On January 3 at 3:40 p.m. near 11 Crescent Road, a cell-phone was missing from a desk after a meeting.

On January 4 at 6:27 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man and woman stole several items and fled.

On January 5 at 10:41 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man took merchandise from the shelves and exited without paying.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Two vehicles were stolen: on December 31 near 6968 Hanover Parkway, a green 2007 Jeep Cherokee (Va. TES2097), and on January 2 near 7801 Mandan Road, a silver 2018 Infinity Q60 (Md. 9EW8927).

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On January 2 near 6224 Greenbelt Road, officers located a vehicle reported stolen by the Berwyn Heights Police Department. The vehicle had only minor damage.

On January 2 near 9005 Breezewood Terrace, officers approached a Hyundai driving erratically, and four juveniles fled from the car. The ignition was damaged, indicating that the vehicle had been stolen.

On January 4 near 6305 Ivy Lane, a friend refused to return a 2014 black Dodge Charger after an argument, and the car was reported as stolen, then recovered. The driver had an open warrant and was arrested and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections.

Theft from Auto

Windows were broken and items stolen: on December 30 near 6207 Springhill Court, work tools from a 2008 Toyota Tundra; January 2 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a book bag from a 2019 Infiniti QX50, and near 6000 Greenbelt Road, items from a 2022 Jeep.

On December 30 near 6202 Breezewood Drive, several items were stolen from a vehicle; near 5809 Cherrywood Lane, all four wheels and tires were stolen from a 2019 Toyota Camry.

On December 31 near 9005 Breezewood Terrace, a suitcase was stolen from an unlocked vehicle; near 7501 Greenway Center Drive, tags were stolen from a Ford work van.

Vandalism to Auto

Vehicle windows were broken December 30 near 7200 Hanover Drive, and on a 2017 Honda near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace.

Man Hits Intervener With Metal Chair

The Greenbelt Police Department is seeking information about a man involved in a first-degree assault around 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 4, at the Greenbelt Deli in Beltway Plaza. The man was involved in a verbal argument with an employee of the deli when the victim intervened. The man then struck the victim in the head with a metal chair before fleeing on foot toward Berwyn Heights.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Fernandez at 240-532-9399 or ifernandez@greenbeltmd.gov.



FIRE DEPT. continued from page 1

staff the station is now able to respond to only 2.7 percent of Greenbelt area calls. The Prince George's County Fire and EMS Department (PGFD) remains critically short-staffed, wrote Green, but is identifying and addressing resource gaps.

Greenbelt Resources

Green notes that beginning December 29, the Northern EMS Duty Officer is located at Greenbelt station. Additionally, at Greenbelt station, Paramedic Ambulance 858 is staffed 24/7 with overtime personnel and Ambulance 899 is staffed with overtime personnel from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. (See article on page 8 for more).

Berwyn Heights Resources

Beginning December 18, 2024, a surge engine was also placed at the Berwyn Heights station on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, staffed with overtime personnel for 12 hours daily, wrote Green. PGFD began deploying fire suppression resources to Berwyn Heights on an as-needed basis on October 13, 2024. "Between Sunday, October 13, 2024, through December 28, 2024, the Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc., has requested county fire suppression crews a total of 31 times," stated Green.

Response Times

According to Green's letter, for the period between June 30 and December 28, the average response time in Greenbelt for all call types is 5 minutes 57 seconds. Advanced Life Support response time during that period has increased from 6 minutes 18 seconds in 2023 (443 incident responses) to 7 minutes 12 seconds (465 responses). Basic Life Support response times, according to Green, have very slightly decreased from an average of 8 minutes 45 seconds during that period in 2023 (413 incident responses) to an average of 8 minutes 41 seconds (385 incident responses). Average response times for fire calls according to Green have decreased from 6 minutes 13 seconds (156 responses) to 4 minutes and 5 seconds (257 responses) and non-emergency calls have decreased from 7 minutes (93 responses) to 6 minutes 30 seconds (73 responses) according to the letter. Finally, response times to rescue calls increased

from an average of 3 minutes 37 seconds (across 868 responses) to 4 minutes 36 seconds (across 875 incident responses). These response times are calculated from the time of dispatch, which is when an engine accepts the call, not the time of a 911 call.

Who Responds

Green also provided data showing who responded to calls for fire and emergency services in Greenbelt's area. In 2023, for the period of June 30 to December 28, Greenbelt's fire department responded to 788 calls which amounted to 38.3 percent of calls. In 2024, following the removal of the career firefighters, from June 30 to December 28, Greenbelt's station responded to just 2.7 percent of the area's calls, for a total of 58. Thus in 2023, Greenbelt was providing the majority of responses by far and Berwyn Heights was the second most frequent responder, taking 19.9 percent of calls, or 409 during that six-month period. In the same period for 2024 Berwyn Heights became the greatest responder to Greenbelt's incidents, responding 569 times, which made up 26.2 percent of calls. Perhaps most surprisingly, National Harbor Station was among the top five responders to Greenbelt since June 30, 2024, though it responded to no Greenbelt calls in the same 2023 period. The most frequent responders since the staffing reallocation are: Berwyn Heights (26.2 percent), West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department (18.3 percent), College Park Volunteer Fire Department (8.5 percent), Beltsville Volunteer Fire Department (8.4 percent) and National Harbor Station (7.9 percent).




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ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.
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Utopia Short Still Available to View

by Dee Vida

When settling in for a winter's evening, there's still a chance to watch one of the 2024 Utopia Film Festival's favorites from the comfort of home. The film Festival to Support Ukraine is available at youtu.be/JAYY1VTqAPw. The subject is close to the heart of Greenbelt filmmaker Frank Gervasi, who works with Ukrainian refugees in Greenbelt.

The short documentary showcases Ukraine's diverse talent at the annual Washington Ukrainian Festival at St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Silver Spring. The film starts with a student attending the festival, with scenes reflecting Ukrainian culture through music, dance and other creative arts. Short clips highlight

the Ukrainian Dance Program at Bethesda's D.C. Music Academy, and a group in white dresses with flower crowns singing To Give Us a Little More Love in Our Hearts.

The turmoil of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict creates an especially strong need for Ukrainians to share their culture with other areas of the world and for Ukrainians to bond with one another over customs and traditions. The documentary also shows the negative impact of war, with images of the injured and a call to assist the military, appreciating assistance already provided and requesting donations to continue helping them to victory. More information is at standrewuoc.org.

ERHS continued from page 7

Briggs said.

Fostering that strong teacher/parent relationship has been difficult coming out of the pandemic when everything was handled remotely. The Family Institute, designed to support parents of students in the county, aims to assist families in supporting their children's academic success.

The institute acknowledges that working parents cannot meet during traditional school hours and provides alternatives, Briggs said, adding that many of the Family Institute opportunities that exist are after hours – and a lot of them are virtual.

PGCPS has taken a number

of steps to recruit more teachers, including getting college students interested in teaching and incentives for teachers such as increased base pay, Briggs said.

Gleason also noted that the school itself provides a variety of options for students who need additional support. New after-school study sessions led by teachers and student/teacher one-on-one meetings are a part of those support systems, he added.

For Seyler, helping students who are at a disadvantage is what teachers do. "That's part of our job to address that gap, so we're mindful of it and attempting to reach students."

EMS continued from page 8

better support the Greenbelt area, Green told the News Review in December. These moves seem to reflect working within the constraints of chronic understaffing.

At a November Prince George's County Council hearing, Green described PGFD as "resource constrained," with ALS units significantly understaffed and BLS nearly as challenged. In December she told the News Review the department couldn't staff both Laurel fire stations 810 and 849 so they are staffing only 810. (See November 21 and December 12 issues.)

The new Greenbelt ambulance and Bowie peak demand ambulance rely on overtime staffing by personnel who choose the overtime shifts and pay, causing less personnel impact than mandatory overtime but still with a financial cost. Funding and staff-

ing constraints like these are a nationwide problem.

Prince George's County Councilmember Eric Olson said in September that the county council increased funding across two years for PGFD career staff. Green said in November the department needs 1,224 personnel to be fully staffed, was budgeted for 1,142 personnel, had 1,004 sworn employees and has the region's lowest starting salary of \$54,000. As of November, for calendar year 2024 the department had lost 66 sworn employees and after adding recruits had a net gain of one employee, prior to the December graduates.

The December changes followed reassessment of PGFD staffing, service delivery and response performance. Doubleday said the next reassessment will occur in 60 days.

Randy Chow is a University of Maryland student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.

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Letters cont'd from p.2

Roberts chooses how he speaks to staff. He could have chosen to respectfully ask if they'd considered alternatives to purchasing new vehicles, like repairing current ones. In that questioning, perhaps he would have learned whether it's reasonable to redirect staff to perform heavy engine overhauls instead of delivering city services to residents. In a public meeting, Roberts essentially said police and Public Works staff are dumb

and unable to learn. This was not the first time. He could choose a constructive approach. Listening and asking questions shows good leadership.

Regardless, city staff should not have to endure rude leaders who intentionally create a corrosive culture. I see the recent rebuke as the latest in a long line of attempts to improve the quality and effectiveness of council members' leadership of our city.
Johanna Goderre

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Snow Days in Greenbelt



PHOTO BY BHAMENEY FISHBECK

Neighbors help neighbors with snow shoveling at 10 Court Plateau Place.



PHOTO BY JOELLEN SARFF

Holly in the snow



PHOTO BY JOELLEN SARFF

Roosevelt Center in the snow



PHOTO BY PETER TEUBEN

People, dogs and GHI road clearing crews are up early - but leave their tracks in the snow for those who follow later.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The Community Center and News Review office on Monday, January 6. The paper held its regular hours on Monday and Tuesday thanks to our dedicated team.



PHOTO BY PETER TEUBEN

Fresh snow for sledding, toward the tunnel near the center



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

Jay Evans, left, and Tom Zeller both took to their cross-country skis on January 7 at the Buddy Attick trail. Evans pronounced conditions to be "better than Colorado" and Zeller said he'd brought his skis with him from Munich, Germany, 30 years ago.



PHOTO BY GARY M. BROWN

The great blue heron stands at attention amid the snow and ice at Greenbelt Lake.



PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

Frozen ripples on the lake



PHOTO BY KATRINA BOVERMAN

All hunkered down and ready for the snow in center city Greenbelt

New Year in Roosevelt Center



With Mayor Emmett Jordan, Councilmember Jenni Pompei and City Manager Josué Salmerón (and family) in attendance, Greenbelters embraced the chilly wind of the January 1 evening and celebrated the last night of Chanukah and Kwanzaa with food, song, dreidel spinning and good cheer. The event was created and led by Robert Goldberg-Strassler.



Velma Kahn lights the menorah candles.

- Photos by Aileen Kroll