



PHOTO BY MELINDA BRADY

The windows are boarded up at the Mini Mart after a break-in.

Thieves Drive into Mini Mart Smash Front, Steal ATM

by Amy Hansen

Thieves stole the automatic teller machine (ATM) from the Mini Mart in Roosevelt Center at 3:59 a.m. on Thursday, February 9. Pictures from surveillance cameras revealed that “a vehicle described as a white Ford Econoline van backed into the store. Three men then exited the vehicle, entered the store and removed an automatic teller machine,” said Greenbelt Police spokesperson George Mathews. The ATM was loaded onto the van and the suspects fled the scene.

“We are working with Prince George’s County detectives, said Acting Police Chief Thomas Kemp. “These ATM thefts are region wide.”

This was the second store thieves tried in Greenbelt. There were two attempted burglaries at the Sunoco Gas Station at the 100 block of Centerway during the same week.

On February 7, at 3:29 a.m., three men attempted to enter the gas station by using a chain

See **BREAK-IN**, page 9

County Tax Grinch Denies Credit For Police, Public Works Vehicles

by Kathleen Gallagher

New City Manager Nicole Ard had her first City Manager Update meeting with the city council on February 6. The major business items of this meeting, including the midyear financial picture and forecasts for Fiscal Year 2018, are covered in a separate article.

Surprisingly, one of the most remarkable pieces of financial news does not directly affect the city’s FY18 budget but rather would affect Greenbelt taxpayers directly. As a result of what City Treasurer Jeffrey Williams suggested might be the result of a new interpretation of existing guidelines by new staff, Prince

George’s County intends to apply a new formula in applying what is known as the county tax differential.

The tax differential reduces the county portion of the property tax bill for residents of municipalities in the county to take into account services provided to residents by municipal government. Rather than impacting the revenues or expenditures of the city, the tax differential provides tax relief to city residents.

The differential lowers the county tax rate for these residents to ensure they are not taxed twice for the same services. To

See **TAXES**, page 4

Council Votes to Oppose Lakeside North Proposal

by Diane Oberg

Once the item reached their agenda on February 13, the Greenbelt City Council needed no convincing to agree to oppose the Southern Management Company’s concept plan for a 25-story high rise apartment on the Lakeside North tract as presented at an April 4, 2016 worksession.

Council unanimously approved two motions related to the project. The first expressed council’s opposition to the conceptual design “as it is inappropriate to the character of the nearby neighborhood, destroys a valuable wooded area and cannot be developed with the current and prospective zoning.” The second opposed “any zoning change or text amendment that allows additional density in the parcel where the Lakeside North apartments are located.”

These votes were greeted with vigorous applause from the packed council chambers where every seat was full, the sides of the room were lined with people and a sizeable contingent made do with the floor and doorway.

The presence of the item on council’s agenda was in response to two petitions from the Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice organized and led by Brian and Donna Almquist. Noting that the developer had stated during the April worksession that he would not proceed if council expressed serious opposition to the project, the petition called upon council to do just that. The initial petition was submitted to council at its June 6, 2016 meeting. When the group received no response, they again gathered signatures and presented

council with another petition on January 23, now with over 600 signatures.

After reading the staff comments Mayor Emmett Jordan observed, “there has been so much misinformation and miscommunication about this that it is alarming. I saw in a few places where individuals had stated that council was going to vote tonight on approving the proposal.” There is nothing to approve as there is no proposal, he said. He also expressed concern that “the level of vitriol seems very high.”

Assistant Planning Director Terri Hruby noted that normally staff would not bring a development proposal to council until staff had reviewed a formal proposal and worked with the

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

Round Two: Pepco’s Increase Of Theater’s Electric Bills

by James Giese

Round two of the effort to resolve the problem created by Pepco’s increase of electric bills for the Greenbelt theater by more than five-fold and back-dating the increase for one year took place at the Greenbelt City Council worksession held February 7. Little progress was made in resolving the issue. The Pepco representative, Tammy Watkins, senior external affairs specialist, was unable to explain why Pepco was justified in revising the billing rate for the Old Greenbelt Theatre when its operation has been the same for nearly 80

years. Nor did the Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre (FOGT) or council come up with a way to pay the \$19,000 debt Pepco claims it is owed.

What did change somewhat was the cast of characters. Watkins, who was at the previous meeting as backup to Jerry Pasternak, vice president of government affairs and policy, was Pepco’s sole spokesperson this time. Dr. Caitlin McGrath, executive director of the theater, represented the theater this time. And Nicole Ard took her place as city manager upon Michael McLaughlin’s retirement. But it was the same old council.

The only thing that happened since the previous worksession is that Pepco, theater and city staff members had met earlier in the day, but no resolution had come from it. Another meeting and walk-through by Public Works Director Jim Sterling with Pepco personnel was scheduled for the next day to go over the changes in service made when the city remodeled the theater and verify that costs that benefited other users are not being billed just to the theater. (Subsequently, Ard advised this reporter that that meeting did not take place and is being rescheduled.)

Heavy-up?

Councilmembers and others are concerned that the large rate increase has something to do with the electrical heavy-up done for the theater and the installation of a new Pepco transformer to serve the businesses in Roosevelt Center. There was also concern

that the sharp rate increase had affected other merchants as well.

Ard said that was not the case. Tied in with the theater electrical service are the neighboring MakerSpace, Angel’s Touch and Beijing restaurant, but these businesses have not seen an increase in their electric use rates.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts questioned the need for the heavy-up being done. He felt that the existing service, while old, was functional and sufficient in size. Others noted that theater remodeling installed more energy-efficient lighting and equipment, reducing the theater’s power needs. Watkins said the heavy-up was done by the city and was not a Pepco requirement, but Roberts claimed Pepco had urged the city to do the work. However, there is no indication that the heavy-up is the basis for the billing revision.

In fact, Pepco has yet to provide any explanation as to what caused the rate change. Watkins again explained that it was a result of a review by the company’s rate specialists who make the determination of the appropriate rates to apply to each customer based upon a very complicated rate schedule approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

Councilmembers expressed their disappointment that Watkins had not brought someone as Pasternak had said Pepco would do to explain why the rate for the theater had been changed, Watkins said that these persons were extremely busy preparing for rate

See **PEPCO**, page 8



PHOTO BY JULIE DEPENDROCK

Ellen Ternes, left, and Bill Wallace, center, lead a group dance at the Scottish Country Dancers Valentine's Dance. See more photos on page 12.

What Goes On

Monday, February 20

City Offices closed in observance of Presidents’ Day
10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., City of Greenbelt Presidents’ Day Volunteer Event, Public Works Department (See city ad for details.)

Tuesday, February 21

4 p.m., Board of Elections Meeting, Municipal Building
7:30 p.m., Community Relations Advisory Board Meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, February 22

8 p.m., Council Worksession with Advisory Group Chairs, Community Center

Thursday, February 23

7 p.m., Forest Preserve Advisory Board Meeting, Municipal Building

Letters to the Editor

Greenbelt Proud

I've been participating on the Alt- and Rogue- accounts on Twitter since they went up. (My RogueNASA t-shirt, supporting Girls Who Code, should arrive soon.)

I was proud to be able to point to Greenbelt as a no-pesticide community. I hope it inspires people to start movements in their towns, counties and states to stop the cancer risks of Roundup and the bee-killing chemicals sold by Bayer and other companies.

Patricia Heil

Observations on Council Meeting

This letter is to share some observations from the Greenbelt City Council meeting of Monday, February 13 and secondly, to provide additional information concerning the Taser Company's no-bid contract awarded by our city.

First issue: I attended the council meeting Monday evening because rumor had it that the mayor was going to be politically lynched and scolded. Well it turns out that mayor Emmett Jordan was doing his job correctly. Met with, listened to the ideas, did not commit and brought the concept and ideas to the full council. One council member felt slighted because she was not invited to a meeting with Lakeside North developers. After which it appears that a bunch of rumors, innuendos and misinformation began. The Greenbelt Advocates for Environmental and Social Justice brought their supporters in force. Glad that there was no project to begin with and glad that it has been opposed by the council. I just do not appreciate how the process was managed.

As a member of the Charlestowne Village Home Owners Association (HOA) we were never contacted by the Advocates and asked for our support. So, it appears that this was an exclusive group and not representative of all Greenbelt neighborhoods. Had the Charlestowne Village HOA been consulted, there may have been many more signatures and letters to submit to the council. I suggest that the Advocates, if really sincere, reach out to all HOAs in Greenbelt on a matter of this importance in the future. As it is we all still need to be

vigilant!

Second issue: It appears that the employees of the Greenbelt police department did attend an all-expenses paid technology conference sponsored by the Taser Company. Our officers joined many others whose expenses were also paid by Taser. However, since Taser was seeking a second contract with the city, this was inappropriate. In the future, the council needs to be aware of possible conflicts of interests of this type. Employees attending any company-sponsored conferences need to remain independent, and the expenses need to be allocated by council so that, for example, our police department can be kept informed of the latest technological law enforcement products. Council has to avoid giving the appearance of supporting any particular vendor.

Lois Rosado

Back to the Future

I enjoy reading the "Snippets from the Past," but I am curious: was the '86 Oldsmobile that was reported as stolen found anywhere near a silver DeLorean with a flux capacitor? (and maybe Michael J. Fox?) That's the only way I figure an '86 Oldsmobile was stolen...in 1967!

With chuckles,

Tim Uber

Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday evening, February 18 at the Observatory located at Northway fields. Observers may view Venus, Mars, the Pleiades star cluster, the Orion Nebula, the Little Dumbbell Nebula, the Cigar Galaxy and perhaps more. Attendees are welcome to set up their own telescopes on the hill. The Moon will not be up, so it will be dark. Observing will begin at around 7 p.m. and continue for about two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.



Corrections

The February 9, 2017, obituary of Donna Fluke misstated her offspring. She had a son Ronnie and a daughter Terri.

"Molly for President" in last week's issue was a paid advertisement from Tim Murray.

City Notes

Animal Control staff reports one dog was transported to the vet for its elderly owner, one cat was removed from a window well, one stray cat was found, one cat was surrendered by its owner and one cat was adopted.

Public Works staff inspected the stream restoration project on Hanover Parkway near the dog park and discussed applying for a solar grant.

Street Maintenance/Special Details crew installed seven stop signs on Southway, Ridge Road and Crescent Road and removed graffiti on many of the newly installed stop signs around the city.

Refuse/Recycling/Sustainability crews collected 27.39 tons of refuse and 12.61 tons of recyclable material.

School's Out Day on February 10 was filled to capacity. Participants traveled to Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park in Columbia for a fun and active day.

Safety cables were installed on a basketball structure in the Community Center gym.

CARES

During the month of January, 14 families on average were seen for counseling at CARES. Seventy-two individuals on average came on a weekly basis, among whom 23 were 18 years of age and younger. Crisis Intervention Counselors saw eight clients.



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbelttheatre.org
Members always \$6.50!
Adults \$9, Senior/Student \$8, Members \$6.50, Kids \$6
All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Members \$6.50, Kids \$5
OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions

SHOWTIMES Feb 17 - Feb 23

LA LA LAND
(PG-13) (CC) (128 mins)
Fri. 5:15, 8:00 PM
Sat. 2:30, 5:15, 8:00 PM
Sun. 2:30 (OC), 5:15, 8:00 PM
Mon. & Tues. 5:15, 8:00 PM
Wed. 2:30, 5:15 PM
Thurs. 5:15, 8:00 PM

Winter/Spring Family Series:
OSCAR NOMINATED
ANIMATED SHORTS
Unrated (51 min.)
Sat. 1:00 PM

Mom's Night Out:
SISTERS
(2015) (118 mins)
Wed. 8:00 PM

The Old Curmudgeon



"It's been a peculiar winter . . ."

Originally published on February 28, 2002.

Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Greenbelt News Review

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

Phone: 301-474-4131; Fax: 301-965-8247

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

ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)

business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)

website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Community Calendar: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar

Alfred M. Skolnik, President, 1959-1977

Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985

Editor: Mary Lou Williamson 301-441-2662

STAFF

Cynthia Beck, Judy Bell, Judi Bordeaux, Melinda Brady, Jessi Britton, Arlene Clarke, Jill Connor, Bill Cornett, Cynthia Cummings, Peter Curtis, Deanna Dawson, Angie Evans, Samantha Fitschen, Kathleen Gallagher, Anne Gardner, Jon Gardner, James Giese, Bernadette Gormally, Jim Gray, Carol Griffith, Mary Halford, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Solange Hess, Peggy Higgins, Rebecca Holober, Larry Hull, Elizabeth Jay, Ginny Jones, Suzette Joyner, Jennifer Moser Jurling, Lesley Kash, Sue Krofchik, Sandra Lange, Sylvia Lewis, Jim Link, Marcie Lissauer, Chris Logan, Linda Lucas, Marc Manheimer, Joan Marionni, Kathleen McFarland, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Elaine Nakash, Patricia Novinsky, Gail Phillips, Marylee Platt, Peter Reppert, JoEllen Sarff, Pat Scully, Lola Skolnik, Shayna Skolnik, Helen Sydavar, Nancy Tolzman, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Alan Turnbull, Lynn White, Stan Zirkin and Dea Zugby.

CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: Karen Yoho circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com
Core of Greenbelt: Ian Tuckman 301-459-5624
Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351
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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads—8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 10 p.m.

Free in February!

2/22
Weds.
@8pm

Mom's Night Out: Sisters! Fundraiser for:

2/25
Sat.
@1pm

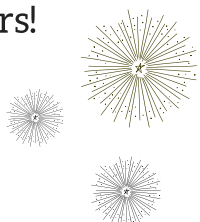
Boxtrolls!



2/26
Sun.
@8pm

A Night with the Stars!

bingo!
posters!
trivia!



Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-329-2034
greenbelttheatre.org

Community Events

GHI Notes

Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby; 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting, Board Room

Sunday, February 19, 1 to 5 p.m., Homes Improvement Program Help Session, Board Room

Monday, February 20, Office closed (President's Day). Emergency maintenance service available at 301-474-6011.

Tuesday, February 21, 7 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room; 7:30 p.m., Companion Animal Committee Meeting, GHI Lobby

Wednesday, February 22, 7 p.m., Buildings Committee Meeting, Board Room

Thursday, February 23, 7 p.m., Executive Session Meeting (MCP#2), Board Room

Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208 ext. 4215.

All meals include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for the week of February 20 are as follows:

Monday, February 20: Closed for Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 21: Country captain chicken, brown rice, broccoli, rye bread, fresh fruit, cranberry juice.

Wednesday, February 22: Hamburger, lettuce and tomato, tater tots, warm cherry fruit treat, carrot raisin salad, wheat hamburger bun, orange juice.

Thursday, February 23: Oven baked chicken, macaroni and cheese, Harvard beets, wheat roll, tropical fruit, grape juice.

Friday, February 24: Beef barley soup, fish sandwich, mixed green salad with balsamic vinaigrette, fresh fruit, cranberry juice.



Volksmarchers Walk Greenbelt

On Saturday, March 18 the Great Greenbelt Volksmarchers, in celebration of their 30th and Greenbelt's 80th anniversary, will hold Walk Greenbelt as Designed 80 Years Ago and Greenbelt Now. There will be options for 5K and 10K walks, difficulty level rated 2B.

The walks will begin in front of the Youth Center. Walkers must start between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. and finish by 4 p.m. Two loops, each 5K, will feature Old Greenbelt and its garden paths or newer areas with their garden paths and the lake. Both trails are on sidewalks with natural surfaces with small hills, presenting some difficulty for strollers and wheelchairs.

The walks are free; there are fees for new walker packets, International Volksmarch credit and event books.

For more information, call Yvonne Pennington at 301-431-6668, GreenbeltMVA@gmail.com, or visit ava.org or mdvolks.org.

Astronomical Society Meets February 23

The February meeting of the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will feature Dr. Joseph A. Nuth, senior scientist for primitive bodies at the Goddard Space Flight Center. He will discuss recent developments in the OSIRIS-REx mission. The OSIRIS-REx spacecraft is traveling to Bennu, a carbonaceous asteroid whose regolith may record the earliest history of our solar system. Bennu may contain the molecular precursors to the origin of life and the Earth's oceans. Bennu is also one of the most potentially hazardous asteroids, as it has a relatively high probability of impacting the Earth late in the 22nd century. On its way to its rendezvous with Bennu, the spacecraft will search for an enigmatic class of near-Earth objects known as Earth-Trojan asteroids, trapped in stable gravity wells, called Lagrange points, which precede or follow a planet.

Nuth studied at the University of Maryland, where he received his Ph.D. in chemistry. Prior to his current post, he held a variety of positions at Goddard.

The meeting will be in Room 114 of the Community Center at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 23. All are welcome. There is no admission fee.

At Greenbelt Park

Meet at the Ranger Station at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 18 for An Aeroplane Flew Over It. In nearby College Park, the nation's first and oldest continually operating airport was established in 1909 by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Wilbur Wright instructed army pilots in a Wright Military Flyer biplane. From 1909 to 1912, when the aero-school permanently relocated, the drone of aircraft motors and sight of kite-like aeroplanes was a common occurrence in the sky over the Greenbelt woods that became Greenbelt Park in 1950. Aviation in its earliest days was a spectator sport at the College Park Airport

On Sunday, February 19 learn about white-tailed deer. What is the difference between a horn and an antler? What do the deer eat? Meet at the Ranger Station at 10 a.m.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204
www.greenbeltaccessstv.org • Studio: 301-507-6581

Free and Open to the Public
Board of Directors monthly meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21 beginning at 7:30PM

General Membership Annual Meeting

Members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday, March 26th, 3-5PM in the GATe Studio

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77 and Verizon Fios 19
To view our schedule, visit: www.greenbeltaccessstv.org
And click on "Channel"

Hello Rising Stars!

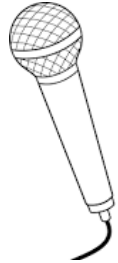
There will be a Kids Open Mic at the New Deal Café this Sunday, February 19 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The Kid's Open Mic takes place on the third Sunday of every month. Those ages 17 and under are invited to play a musical instrument, sing, dance, recite a poem or otherwise perform.

This is not a talent show but an opportunity for kids to showcase and practice their skills in an informal, family-friendly atmosphere.

Walk-ins are welcome.

Contact Becky at bbholober@comcast.net for any questions.



Nursery School Open House

Greenbelt Nursery School (GNS) will hold its annual open house on Saturday, February 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is the start of registration for the school year beginning September 2017.

GNS is a not-for-profit parent co-operative in its 75th year of operation. The school is certified by the Maryland State Department of Education and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. GNS offers classes for children ages 2, 3 and 4. Full-day educational programs are available.

Families seeking pre-school programs are invited to attend the open house, meet the director, teachers and parents, view the classrooms and get information about the classes.

GNS is located in the Community Center at 15 Crescent Road. Free parking is available in the lot behind the Greenbelt Library. For more information, visit the school's website at greenbelt-nurseryschool.org or call 301-474-5570.

MakerSpace Events

It's time to sign up for Spring Break Camp and the Maker Festival. Check the website make125.org for details.

Thursday, February 16, Coding Club from 7 to 8 p.m.

Friday, February 17, Soup Swap from 7 to 9 p.m.

Saturday, February 18, Destination Imagination from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, February 19, Animation Meetup from 2 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21, Chess Club from 7 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22, Fiber Fans from 6 to 9 p.m.

Exploring the Battle Of France, 1940

Explorations Unlimited welcomes Tim Mulligan on Friday, February 17, presenting on the Battle of France, 1940. No other campaign so shaped the future of World War II than Nazi Germany's blitzkrieg victory over France in May to June 1940, yet it holds little place or interest in public consciousness.

In 1940 the Allies had more men, more tanks and more aircraft, yet were completely defeated so rapidly that it astounded the victors as much as the vanquished. This presentation will consider what happened and why, against the background of pre-war politics, strained Allied relations and even a planned German military coup against Hitler.

Mulligan is a retired archivist formerly employed by the National Archives and Records Administration, where for most of 34 years he worked with captured German and American military records of World War II. He received his Ph.D. in diplomatic history at the University of Maryland in 1985. He has been teaching History Through Hollywood at Greenbelt as part of Prince George's Community College's SAGE Program since 2004.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday beginning at 1 p.m. at the Community Center. This presentation will be held in Room 114. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.



Utopia Film Festival Presents
Sunday, Feb. 19, Wed., Feb 22, & Fri., Feb. 24
Beginning at 8 PM

"In the Magic of the Green Mountains (2014),"
"The Random Effect (2014),"
and "Planet You (2010)"

On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)
Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

Greenbelt Arts Center OPENING MARCH 3rd

The 25th Annual Putnam County
Spelling Bee



MARCH 3 - MARCH 25, 2017
March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 at 8PM
March 12, 19 at 2PM

Ticket prices: \$25 General Admission, \$22
Students/Seniors/Military, \$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)

COMING SOON

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - Mar 3 - 25 -
Directed by Jeffrey Lesniak, Choreographed by Rikki Howie Laceywell
Tribute - Apr 21 - May 13 - Directed by Gayle Negri
She Speaks - June 2 - 18 - Guest Production from the Rude Mechanicals

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or
email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or
BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at www.greenbeltartscenter.org

Obituaries

Herbert Lee Kyle



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHLEEN BASCH

Herbert Lee Kyle

Dr. Herbert Lee Kyle died at the age of 86 in Hamilton, N.J., on February 5, 2017. However, he always considered Greenbelt to be his true home, where he lived for 53 years with his beloved wife, Sylvia Kyle. Dr. Kyle devoted his life to public service, serving in the Army, studying the Earth as a NASA scientist for 39 years and taking an active role in the Berwyn Presbyterian Church and later the Greenbelt Community Church.

Dr. Kyle had a brilliant mind and believed strongly in family, charity and simple pleasures. His favorite pastimes included reading, studying U.S. history, keeping abreast of scientific and political developments, researching the Kyle family tree, writing unpublished stories (mostly science fiction and Westerns) and going for quiet walks with his wife. When he retired in 1999, he continued to volunteer at NASA Goddard, helped Sylvia deliver Meals on Wheels to local residents and often visited his daughter and his granddaughter in New Jersey. Sylvia died in 2015, just before their 55th wedding anniversary, and Dr. Kyle's health failed soon after. He spent the last 10 months of his life in a nursing home in New Jersey, where his daughter and granddaughter could visit him often and give him plenty of love and support.

Dr. Kyle is survived by his daughter, Kathleen Basch; his granddaughter, Alyssa Basch; and numerous nieces, nephews and their children. A memorial service will be held at the Greenbelt Community Church on March 4 at 11 a.m.

Patricia Ball



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Patricia Jorgensen Ball

Patricia "Pat" Jorgensen Ball, age 82, died in her sleep on February 7, 2017 in her home on Fayette Place. She and her late husband William Henry lived there for more than 50 years, where they also raised their family. She was born in Michigan, and met William while in college at the University of Michigan. They were married in Ann Arbor in 1955.

She was very helpful in the community. She was a cub scout den mother, then a substitute teacher at North End Elementary School. When her children got older she was in the first wave of women working outside the home. She spent more than 20 years working as a Terp Temp at the University of Maryland. She did more than 70 different jobs for the college as a temp. She rounded out her working career spending another 10 years in the comptroller's office. She was recognized as Maryland State Employee of the Year by then Governor Parris Glendening.

She enjoyed traveling with her husband when they both retired, making several trips to Europe. After his death in 2006, Pat found enjoyment in flower gardening and raising and cooking heirloom tomatoes. Sewing was

also one of her favorite hobbies; making quilts and tapestries using counted cross stitch. She was always ready to have a lively discussion of politics or history whenever the family gathered. She cherished her independence and was happy to stay active in Greenbelt all her life.

In addition to her husband, Pat was predeceased by son Jeffrey William. She is survived by sons Russell Thomas and Mathew Douglas and extended family.

A funeral will be held on Saturday, February 18 at 2 p.m. at Borgwardt Funeral Home, 4400 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville. A reception is planned at the Greenbelt Marriot.

Celebration of the Life Of Erica Herling Kropp

Erica Herling Kropp's life will be celebrated Wednesday, February 22 at 5 p.m. in the University of Maryland College Park's Student Union Building. The UMD, for whom Erica worked for 44 years, has busily been preparing the program. Erica served in several capacities for the university. She worked initially as an accountant and subsequently as director of the Office of Research Administration and Advancement. Erica brought her knowledge and skills across the Chesapeake Bay to UMD's Center for Environmental Sciences in Cambridge where she served as vice president for 14 years. She retired in 2015.

Erica's joie de vivre was felt by her colleagues at work, her family, relatives and close friends from Greenbelt and other areas of her life. When Erica discovered that she had leukemia in the spring of last year, she was brave in her battle and always gave family and friends a "thumbs up" in her Caring Bridges messages. She died November 14, 2016.

School Board Debates AP Test Assistance

As high school students sign up for Advance Placement classes for next year, the county board of education is still debating whether or not the county will pay for any of the 2018 exams. For years, Prince George's County Public Schools had a federal grant to pay the fee, on the order of \$93 per test. That grant ran out this year.

After parents and community members protested that no notice had been given, the fees for the 2017 classes were picked up by the county. The school board said at the time that there will not be assistance in the future. However, the board is debating at its February 23 meeting if the county should be paying for students who are eligible for free and reduced priced lunches.



Condolences to family and friends of longtime Greenbelt resident Lee Kyle, who died on February 5, 2017.

Condolences also to the family and friends of Pat Jorgensen Ball, a longtime Lakewood resident who died on February 7, 2017.

For the Greenbelt dog community: many will remember a red-haired dog named Finnegan, who went to Florida with his human Brenda (from Southway). Brenda sadly announces he died peacefully on Saturday, February 11, 2017.

Congratulations to Evelyn Bronstein, of 6 Court Ridge, who will turn 100 years old on March 1.

Please share your news for the next Our Neighbors column by sending complete details on your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

TAXES continued from page 1

qualify, the city must provide a service that replaces a service which otherwise would be provided by the county.

The bump in the road with the differential this year lies in the determination of what is eligible. Since Greenbelt provides its own full-service police and public works services, the cost of vehicles has been included as part of the credit calculation. In recent weeks, the city has learned that this year the county will give credit only for the cost of leasing vehicles. Cities like Greenbelt, which pay cash to purchase vehicles, rather than leasing, will not receive credit. The cost citywide would be in the vicinity of a half-million dollars.

Mayor Emmett Jordan described the elimination of this line item as "very disturbing." Williams said he finds it inexplic-

able. "Our position," he said, "is to ask how they can deny the credit without providing the vehicles." The relevant factor is that the city is providing services, not the county; the method of payment for the vehicles should not matter.

Ard and Jordan met with County Councilmember Todd Turner to discuss the matter later in the week. According to the mayor, Turner was aware of the issue and promised to look into it further. Jordan said that although he hopes the county will take action to rectify the matter, in the meantime the city is moving quickly to take whatever action it can. Following an appeal request, which has already been submitted, the next step will be to initiate an arbitration process, which would result in a recommendation to the county.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church



40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.
Get a God-sized dream.

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH



135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322

Mass Schedule:

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe

Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

Sunday Worship
10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff, Pastor



Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM, except first Friday of the month, when children's service begins at 7:30 PM

Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.
Children's Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.

For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist

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.



Catholic
Community
of Greenbelt
MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.

GREENBELT
BAPTIST CHURCH



Come worship God with us!

Sunday School 9:45AM

Worship Service 11:00AM

101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

February 19 10 a.m.

"Reconstructing"



The Rev. Evan Keely, Interim Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE; and Paul Wester, Worship Associate

Many in our congregation are reading the book "The Third Reconstruction" by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber. This book, and the moral movement it describes, have much to teach us.

At the Library

All PGCMLS branches will be closed on Monday, February 20 for the Presidents' Day holiday. The Greenbelt Branch Library will reopen on Tuesday, February 21 at 1 p.m.

Monthly Storytime, Tuesday, February 21: Books at Bedtime, presented by the Prince George's County Infants and Toddlers Program, 7 p.m., for ages newborn to 3, limit 20 people. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets on the day of the event. (This will continue monthly through Tuesday, May 16.)

Weekly Ready 2 Read Storytimes, Wednesday, February 22: ages 3 to 5, 10:15 a.m., limit 20 people; ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m., limit 20 people. Thursday, February 23: ages newborn to 2, 10:15 and 11:15 a.m., limit 15 babies with parent(s)/caregiver(s); ages 2 to 3, 4:15 p.m., limit 20 people.

Stop by the information desk immediately prior to each session to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis.

African History and Culture Lecture Series. Tuesday, February 21, 7 p.m. Rev. William H. Jernagin: A Minister, Mentor and More, presented by Dr. Ida Jones, will be the next session of the Winter 2017 season in this audiovisual lecture series arranged by historian C.R. Gibbs. Other sessions will be presented on Tuesday evenings through March 7.

Red Cross Needs Blood Donations

The Red Cross issued an emergency call for blood and platelet donations during a severe winter blood shortage. Blood donations are needed now to prevent delays in care for patients.

Hectic holiday schedules for many regular blood donors contributed to about 37,000 fewer donations in November and December than what was needed. Currently, blood and platelet donations are being distributed to hospitals faster than they are coming in.

To help, schedule an appointment to donate by using the free Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

The February 17 blood drive at the Community Center is no longer open for online registration. The next blood drive at the Community Center will be held in the Multipurpose Room on March 10 from 12:30 to 6 p.m.

Garden Club Meets For Plot Assignments

The Greenbelt Community Garden Club will hold its plot assignment meeting in room 114 of the Community Center on Monday, March 6 beginning at 7:30 p.m. If you are not able to attend or have questions, contact Martha Tomecek at 301-614-0691.

2017-18 School Calendar

The County School Board will decide on the dates for the 2017-18 school calendar at their board meeting on Thursday, February 23.

Parents have been awaiting news of the school calendar dates ever since Governor Hogan announced that Maryland schools must start after Labor Day and finish by mid June. Possible scenarios include taking days away from Spring Break for snow make-up days.


Oscar-Nominated 13th Plays at Reel and Meal

On the President's Day holiday, February 20, the Reel and Meal at the New Deal film is "13th," Ava DuVernay's 2016 documentary about race and incarceration. It takes its name from the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery except as "punishment for crime." The program will be held at the New Deal Café starting at 7 p.m., following an optional buffet (for a fee) served from 6:30 p.m.

This documentary traces the incarceration of African Americans to its historical origins in the 13th Amendment; the clause allowing forced labor for criminals was exploited immediately in the aftermath of the Civil War. DuVernay connects the abolition of slavery through the chain gang labor that replaced it, through segregation and "the mythology of black criminality," to the War on Crime and the War on Drugs, to the rise in mass incarceration and the big business of prisons. The film has been nominated for an Oscar.

Jerry McLaurin, board member of Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform, a group focusing on criminal justice reform in Maryland, will lead the discussion following the film.

The Reel and Meal monthly films raise awareness about environmental, social and animal rights concerns. The Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition planned this program; for more information, contact 301-441-9377 or justpeacepg@earthlink.net. The other local grassroots sponsors of the series are Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group and Green Vegan Networking.



City Information

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20, in observance of Presidents' Day. The Greenbelt Connection will not be operating.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of February 20

Monday Route – Collected Tuesday
 Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday
 Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday
 Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, February 24.

MEETINGS FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21-25

Tuesday, February 21 at 4:00pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS** at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: 2017 Election: (a) Election Calendar, (b) Polling Locations, (c) Voting Machines and (d) Absentee and Early Voting and Election Judges*


Tuesday, February 21 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)** in the Council Room at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: CRAB work session to plan the next Police/community relations forum. This agenda is subject to change.*

Wednesday, February 22 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Advisory Group Chairs** at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Thursday, February 23 at 6:00pm, **LEGISLATIVE DINNER**, Annapolis.

Thursday, February 23 at 7:00pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Discussion on AMT Forest Preserve Health Assessment – Goals and Recommendations – Discuss the last 5 "bullet" items under "Issues and Priorities" and - Discussion on AMT Forest Preserve Health Assessment – Goals and Recommendations – Policy Statement, Section 1 (Introduction), Section 12 (Forest Health), Section 5 (Invasive Species).*

Detailed agendas are posted on www.greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.



REGISTER FOR GREENBELT RECREATION CAMP PROGRAMS

Resident Registration is now open.

Non-Resident Registration begins February 13, 2017.

Resident registration is now open to all for Greenbelt's popular camp programs for children ages 3^{1/2}-14. Spring Camp, Spring Circus Camp and Fast Break Basketball Clinic are available during Spring Break.

Choose from Kinder Camp, Camp Pine Tree, Youth on the Go, Creative Kids Camp, Performance Camp, Camp Encore, and Circus Camp in the Summer. Also available are Before and After Care, and a variety of After Care Classes.

Download brochure at www.greenbeltmd.gov/camps
Info: 301-397-2200

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Employee Relations Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Committee.

For information on how to apply contact 301-474-8000.

Recreation Activity Guide- Spring 2017 now available online:
www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation
 and in print at City of Greenbelt Recreation facilities.

Class registration begins on:
 February 21 for Greenbelt residents;
 February 27 for non-residents.

Classes begin on or after the week of March 27.

Please call 301-397-2200 for more information.

GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT
GREENBELT YOUTH MUSICAL 2017

BURIED TREASURE

An Underground Musical Adventure

Greenbelt Community Center Auditorium
 15 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Saturday, March 4, 7:00 pm
Sunday, March 5, 3:00 pm
Saturday March 11, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Josh is as brave as a lion, Harriet is as wise as an owl, and Miranda is always as good as gold – or so they think, until an adventure in the Underworld challenges their surface notions and impels the trio to a deeper understanding of courage, wisdom, and goodness. In a world where dragons and gnomes are real, can three high-school kids break a spell of ignorance and rescue Sophia, the Underworld's rightful queen?

Tickets: \$5 Advance sales at 301-397-2208

City of Greenbelt Presidents' Day Volunteer Event

Volunteers are needed for a service-learning event on Presidents Day to protect trees from beavers and invasive species in Buddy Attick Park. Meet in the Department of Public Works for the event from 10:30 AM - 1 PM.

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive species at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to learn how to identify slow-growth native and nonnative trees, as well as the invasive species, English ivy. Wire caging will be placed around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beaver herbivory, and hand shears will be used to remove English ivy from taking over the forest.

RSVP to Connor Roessler at croessler@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2150.

Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

6905 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

When you need high-quality health care, we're here for you... And here. And here.

We put the *community* in Doctors Community Hospital with healthcare services conveniently located throughout Prince George's County. So, you don't need to leave your neighborhood to get high-quality medical care.

As a healthcare leader, our experienced and compassionate professionals provide exceptional care:

- + Joslin Diabetes Center – the only multidisciplinary program in the county accredited by the American Diabetes Association
- + Bariatric and Weight Loss Center – the county's first hospital to provide bariatric weight loss options using the da Vinci® surgical robot
- + Center for Comprehensive Breast Care – the first program in the county with a dedicated breast surgeon
- + Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services – the area's largest lymphedema program

In fact, we have a broad range of medical and surgical services that also include:

- + Cardiology Services and Outpatient Vascular Studies
- + Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine
- + Comprehensive Orthopedic Services
- + Doctors Community Breast Center
- + Doctors Community Rehabilitation and Patient Care Center (transitional care)
- + Doctors Community Surgical Associates
- + Doctors Regional Cancer Center
- + Emergency Department (24/7)
- + Imaging Services
- + Infusion Center
- + Primary Care Services (Bowie, District Heights, Greenbelt, Landover Hills, Lanham, Laurel and Riverdale)
- + Sleep Center
- + Vascular Health Program

For more than 40 years, Doctors Community Hospital has provided comprehensive and high-quality care. We'll continue to be here when you need us . . . wherever in Prince George's County you happen to be.



Contact us today for more information or to schedule an appointment.

301-DCH-4YOU | 301-324-4968



DoctorsCommunityHospital



DCHweb



DCH4YOU

Main Campus
8118 Good Luck Road
Lanham, Maryland 20706
DCHweb.org

ERHS Celebrates High 2016 Graduation Rate

by Julie Depenbrock



Prince George's County School Superintendent and staff celebrate Eleanor Roosevelt High School's achievement of a greater than 90 percent graduation rate.

Eight high schools in Prince George's County saw graduation rates rise above 90 percent in 2016, among them Eleanor Roosevelt, where a surprise party last Thursday celebrated the achievement.

Kevin Maxwell, CEO of Prince George's County Public Schools, praised the "support network" of principals, parents, students, faculty and staff "for getting us where we are. The graduation rate at Eleanor Roosevelt High School is among the highest in Prince George's County," Maxwell told Fox 5 News.

Maxwell stood in the hallway of the high school, one of several he visited Thursday, holding a banner alongside Principal Reginald McNeill. The banner was emblazoned with a congratulatory message and a number: 91.47 percent.

In the past, McNeill said, the school's graduation rate had hovered between 80 and 90 percent.

"We've always been pretty high," he said. "We graduate about 580 out of 600 kids every year."

The Prince George's County graduation rate was 81.4 percent in 2016, an increase from 2015 of more than 2 percentage points. For Maryland, the rate was 87.6 percent, according to the Maryland State Department of Education.

McNeill noted that one factor in the increase has simply been more accurate data. "We look at the withdrawal, the dropout rate — making sure those technicalities are cleared up as far as how we code students who leave the school, making sure we know where they are," he said. "I think we've done a pretty good job of cleaning that up." But that's not

all it takes.

Erika Brett is the curriculum coordinator at Eleanor Roosevelt, tasked with ensuring students' graduation and success. Brett wears many hats — overseeing a program called Multiple Pathways, which helps students who are failing. She also facilitates exchange programs and works extra hours tutoring students who are homeless.

McNeill has been principal since 2007. He believes the group effort has been a key factor in the school's graduation success — an effort that starts at the top, with Maxwell.

Since Maxwell took over as CEO three years ago, the county-wide graduation rate has risen by more than 7 percent, according to the 2016 Maryland Report Card.

"Our staff is excited and very pleased with the central office — that they are supporting us in this effort and really keeping everyone focused," McNeill said.

Julie Depenbrock is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism writing for the News Review.

The Three Bears Program for Tots

On Wednesday, February 22 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Patuxent Wildlife Visitor Center, children ages 5 to 7 can learn what bears can be found in North America and right here in Maryland.

Public programs at the Patuxent Research Refuge are free although advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887. For more information visit the website at fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent.

Theater Plans Oscars Party, Strives to Get Hot Movies

by Jennifer Moser Jurling

On February 26 at 8 p.m., the Old Greenbelt Theatre (OGT) will host a free Night with the Stars party open to all. The Academy Awards (Oscars) ceremony will be live-streamed on the big screen. Theater staff will lead games, trivia contests and Bingo. As a fundraiser, the theater will auction off some movie posters. Concessions will be sold.

The theater has shown 12 Oscar-nominated films this year, including five of the nine Best Picture nominees.

What limited the OGT to those 12 films? Why did Hidden Figures play for four weeks, while La La Land didn't reach the OGT until February 10?

Film studios tightly control which theaters have access to their movies, explains OGT Executive Director Caitlin McGrath. On Monday of each week, studios analyze their weekend profits and make decisions about which theaters will be offered a movie to begin playing on the upcoming Friday, a date called the "break." A film booker who works with several independent theaters represents the OGT in negotiations. However, he is competing with chain theaters that can offer hundreds of movie screens.

The OGT got Hidden Figures for the break of January 13, its nationwide opening weekend. 20th Century Fox required the theater to pay 56 percent of ticket revenues (compared to the 35 to 45 percent of revenues which the theater pays for most other movies).

Furthermore, Hidden Figures had to be run "clean," which means that one movie screen must be completely dedicated to that movie. While a multiplex can run many clean movies simultaneously, the single-screen OGT cannot. Despite Hidden Figures' clean restriction, McGrath insisted on keeping the long-planned Saturday morning family show of Flipper on January 28.

The OGT might have had a chance to get La La Land at the break of Friday, January 20. However, 20th Century Fox was satisfied with how well Hidden Figures was performing here, and they required that Hidden Figures stay for another clean week.

"If we had broken it, we would have risked never getting another 20th Century Fox film again," McGrath said.

Why wouldn't a film studio want its movie playing in every

theater in America? When movies existed on 35mm film prints, they were expensive to produce and ship. Today, digital movies arrive on hard drives, McGrath said, but the industry still uses the restricted-distribution mode of the old days.

"I cannot pretend to understand why they do it the way they do it," McGrath says. "To us, [a movie] is a cultural experience, something we can share with our community. To them, it's a product, a widget. ... They follow the numbers."

How can Greenbelters influence the movies played at the OGT?

"Tell us what you want," says Carol MacAdam, the theater's office coordinator, "and be patient while we wait to get it." The theater's website has a We Hope to Get tab, listing movies that the OGT staff is pursuing. "Sometimes, patience won't pay off," MacAdam continued. McGrath says that's why they work so hard to put on special events, like Stage on Screen, Leading Ladies and Saturday morning family programs.

Many Greenbelters have said they want the theater to show more first-run films. In fact, McGrath says, all of the new films at the OGT are first run; they just aren't always on the opening weekend. An opening-weekend break costs the theater more, and the studios often enforce a two-week clean run. By contrast, a later break often means that the



Old Greenbelt Theatre

OGT can show two films in a single week, which is called a "split."

"We love having a single-screen historic theater," says McGrath, "but only having a single screen makes it more challenging ... It's a blessing and a curse."

Past Black Voices Valentine Pringle

On Sunday, February 19 at 3 p.m. the Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts' Past Voices Series delves into the lives and music of little known Black classical musicians, featuring the music, life and songs of Valentine Pringle. Tragically slain in South Africa in 1999, he is remembered for his rich, Paul Robeson-like voice.

This free program will take place at the Montpelier Arts Center in Laurel. Call 301-377-7800, TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.



Day at the Movies
Sunday, February 26 | 3:00 p.m.

Join the Arbor Terrace Team for a "Day at the Movies" to watch *Hidden Figures*, a story near and dear to the Greenbelt community.

Meet us at Arbor Terrace Senior Living at 1:15 p.m. for complimentary transportation to the show, and don't forget your ticket!

Interested in coming?
RSVP by calling 301-486-1590.

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301.441.2928 www.proteusbicycles.com

PEPCO continued from page 1

case hearings and were reluctant to take additional time to come to a council meeting.

Misconceptions

McGrath, at the start of the meeting, clarified two misconceptions that she felt resulted from the last meeting. The first concerned the theater not appealing the determination of a Public Service Commission administrative officer that Pepco was authorized to back-bill charges for a year and adjust the billing rate. McGrath said that the theater had gone to the commission to get information and that she had been told that an appeal was possible only if the theater had more information, which it did not.

McGrath also told the council that there was a misunderstanding about the theater paying electric bills. A schedule of bills and payments prepared by Pepco shows no theater payments for the period July 17, 2015 to September 13, 2016. The theater did pay its monthly bills during that time, even contacting Pepco when it did not receive a bill, McGrath said. However, after Pepco rebilled at an increased rate for this period, its accounting division applied all the monthly payments for that period against the first revised bill leaving no payments to show for subsequent billing periods.

Ard presented council with a list of alternative actions the city could take to help resolve the matter. They ranged from the city paying the full outstanding balance owed Pepco to paying some portion of it, to loaning the theater money to pay for it, to doing nothing at all. Also, Ard did not address the issue of how to pay for future bills.

Councilmembers felt that until they were satisfied that the Pepco billings were appropriate, they did not wish to consider what to do about paying off whatever amount may be owed or to deal with future bills. Some councilmembers did indicate an openness to the city assuming responsibility for payment of the electricity on this city-owned building with the theater reimbursing the city to the extent it could afford to do so. They noted that the theater, as it is now constituted was providing many free services to the community.

McGrath also provided council with the theater's financial statement for January of this year. It shows that the theater took in \$36,380 in earned income of which \$19,136 was from box office sales. Another \$10,377 was received from grants and donations. Offsetting earned income was the cost of goods sold, \$17,727, of which \$1,230 was

COMPARISON OF PEPCO BILLS FOR 4 MONTHS BETWEEN PREVIOUS OPERATOR AND FOGT ORIGINAL AND REVISED BILLS FOR OLD GREENBELT THEATRE						
Principal Month of Billing Period	Previous Operator PEPCO Bills		Friends of Greenbelt Theater (FOGT)			
	Year 2014		Original Billing Year 2016		Revised Billing Year 2016	
	Kilowatt Hours	Amount Billed	Kilowatt Hours	Amount Billed	Amount Billed	Kilowatt Hours (Rev)
January	2,760	\$374.68	2,520	\$143.41	\$711.44	5,440
February	2,800	\$409.10	2,640	\$147.23	\$736.03	5,280
March	2,920	\$445.01	2,560	\$144.01	\$715.22	5,120
April	2,080	\$356.99	2,320	\$131.93	\$656.31	4,640
# Days billed	119		120			
Total	10,560	\$1,585.78	10,040	\$566.58	\$2,819.00	20,480
Cost/Kwh		\$0.150		\$0.056	\$0.281	

(Data source: Billing information provided Greenbelt City Council by Pepco and FOGT, 2/7/2017)

payment of the city admissions and amusements tax. Net income was \$28,990. Offsetting that was \$29,156 in expenditures for payroll, advertising, other services, maintenance expenses, utilities, etc. Included was the full payment of the current Pepco bill at the new billing rates. This resulted in a \$166 net loss for the month.

"Manchester by the Sea" was the last movie shown with revenues credited for January. For that movie, 1,052 admission tickets were sold. More recent pictures have had better sales and should improve the theater's financials for a while.

Watkins reiterated what Pepco would do to ameliorate the theater's financial problem. It would not require the normal deposit fee. It would not require a substantial down payment on the moneys owed. It would not charge interest on the outstanding balance. It would allow repayment to be made of the balance owed over a period of four years. But the theater would have to pay its current bills in full and on time.

Some other possibilities to help the theater with its program were tossed out. Councilmember Konrad Herling was optimistic that the Prince George's Arts Council would provide some operating funding assistance. Watkins agreed to consider the possibility of energy rebates for the upgrades and energy reduction efforts the city undertook during renovation. Mayor Emmett Jordan asked if Pepco could make a charitable contribution to the theater. Watkins said Pepco could donate to 501(c)(3) charitable organizations (FOGT is one), but made no commitment to do so.

On the Table

Councilmember Judith Davis listed four matters "on the table" to be pursued: get a better justification and explanation from Pepco for the rate increase; pursue an Arts Council grant; get

more information on what needs to be done for the city to take over the Pepco account and figure out what to do about paying the back charges. Watkins assured council that power to the theater would not be cut off while these matters were being resolved.

Council indicated it would revisit the issue after Sterling's meeting with Pepco personnel and they are given an explanation as to why the rate was changed. Watkins was told councilmembers could meet with the rate people during the daytime, if necessary, or something could be given to them in writing.

(Note: An analysis by this reporter of theater billings for comparable periods of time (see box) indicates that the former theater operator was paying Pepco at a rate of about 15 cents per kilowatt hour, while the new theater operator was initially paying only 5.6 cents per kilowatt hour. Using the same rate multiplier for kilowatt hours for the Pepco revised billing rates for the same time period, the charge came to 28 cents. Therefore, although FOGT received over a five-fold increase for electric bill charges, the revised Pepco rate was less than doubled when compared to the electricity charges paid by the former theater operator. The comparison also indicates a current reduction in energy consumption of six percent for the same time period.)



COUNCIL continued from page 1

developer to discuss staff's concerns.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts begged to differ. He argued that the concept plan is a proposal when the developer spends a lot of money to hire people to lobby on behalf of the project, gets the support of County Executive Rushern Baker, claims to have the support of Representative Steny Hoyer and surveys the property.

Councilmember Silke Pope, while agreeing that there was no official proposal, said that council should have opposed the plan "right from the get-go." She stated her opposition to the high rise and said that earlier council action could have eliminated some fears.

In addition to the concerns raised by his colleagues, Councilmember Konrad Herling said the plan was contrary to the council's commitment to affordable housing. The luxury apartments would be unaffordable to the city's working class residents. Councilmember Leta Mach also confirmed her opposition to the project.

Councilmember Edward Putens asked staff to look at whether it made sense to seek a conservation easement on the property to ensure that it will never be developed.

After the vote Brian Almquist read a statement summarizing the background and rationale behind his group's request. He objected to the way the April worksession was advertised (worksession with Lakeside North Apartments) saying it left the impression that the meeting related to the existing apartments. He also noted that according to current zoning regulations the land is fully developed, a position supported by the comments of the city's planning department.

Although he voted for the motions and did not support this project, Jordan expressed concern that the city needed to take care in how it handles conversations with developers. He would not want to create an environment where developers would go straight to the county, rather than first working with the city as most developers do now.

Roberts asked about a prior staff memo, as well as comments by Chad Williams, project manager of the county zoning rewrite, that stated that there were ways that the project could be approved without a zoning change. Hruby said that the planning department had researched the issue further and determined that the earlier memo was incorrect and that staff cannot identify a way for the project to proceed without a zoning change or text amendment. She noted that to obtain a zoning change the developer would have to prove that the neighborhood had changed, which it has not.

Out of the Shadows At Riversdale House

An exhibit entitled Out of the Shadows: Illuminating African Americans will be on display at the Riversdale House Museum on Fridays and Sundays in February, noon to 3:30 p.m. The Calvert family papers now on loan to Riversdale are yielding more information about the estate's African American residents, both enslaved and free. With this exhibit their stories come out of the shadows. Viewing the exhibit includes a tour of the historic house. There is a small fee. Call 301-864-0420; TTY 301-699-2544 for more information.





CHOICE CLINICAL SERVICES

Now Open in Roosevelt Center

<p>Services Offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Therapy • Family Therapy • Group Therapy 	<p>Group Sessions Start February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Skills (ages 5+) • Teen Group (ages 13+) • Parenting Group
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240-670-4050 | info@choiceclinical.com | www.choiceclinical.com

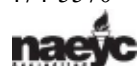
Greenbelt Nursery School

Open House

Registration for Fall 2017
Saturday, February 25, 10 am – 1 pm

*Classes for children ages 2, 3, and 4
Two, three, and five days a week. Low child to staff ratio.
Full day educational programs available.*

Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road
301-474-5570 www.greenbeltnurseryschool.org



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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltd.gov/police
 Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Fatal Shooting

February 14, 8:08 p.m., 6200 block Breezewood Drive. Officers responded to a report of a shooting, and located the body of an adult male lying on the floor just inside the entrance of an apartment building. The victim was suffering from an apparent gunshot wound. There is no suspect information at this time and the investigation is ongoing.

Armed Robbery

A College Park male, 29, was charged in connection with two commercial armed robberies. The first took place on December 27, 2016 at Demmy's Pharmacy, 5500 block Cherrywood Lane; the second was on January 3 at the Hanover Park Pharmacy, 7200 block Hanover Parkway. He was charged with armed robbery, robbery, first degree assault, second degree assault, theft, handgun on person and use of a handgun during the commission of a felony. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Attempted Homicide

February 3, 4:05 a.m., 6100 block Springhill Terrace. A man was asleep in his home when three men forced open the front door and entered. The homeowner charged towards the men, who then ran from the residence. He continued to chase the men on foot, at which time one of them produced a handgun and fired several shots at him; he was not injured and stopped his pursuit.

Sex Offense

February 9, 3:09 a.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. A woman was asleep in her bedroom when she felt someone groping her, then saw a man in her room. He fled but returned a short time later in an apparent attempt to apologize. It was then that the woman recognized the man as a neighbor. The woman's husband came home and the intruder fled the scene. He appeared to have climbed the balcony and forced open the sliding glass door. A 19-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested on February 10 and charged with third degree burglary, fourth degree burglary, fourth degree sex offense and second degree assault. He was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before a district court commissioner.

Robbery

February 4, 5:45 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A man was walking out of the rear entrance of the Beltway Plaza Mall when he was approached by two men who attempted to take the pizza he was carrying. He refused to let go of the pizza, at which time the suspects followed him onto a Metro bus and continued to harass him, until they were kicked off the bus for not paying the fare. They are described as black, 20 to 22 years of age, 5'4" tall, with a thin build and hair in

braids, wearing a black coat and black pants and the other man is described as black, 20 to 22 years of age, 5'7" tall, bald, with a thin build, wearing a grey coat and white pants.

February 5, 3:05 p.m., 7600 block Mandan Terrace. A man was walking down the street when he was struck from behind and dropped the money he was counting. It is believed that it was taken by the suspect; he was treated on the scene for minor injuries.

February 8, 12:15 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. A woman said that she heard someone attempt to turn the doorknob of her front door. She opened the door and saw a man standing outside, who then fled the area. The man is described as black, 6' tall, with a thin build, wearing a purple shirt with yellow writing on the back, baggy blue jeans and black shoes.

February 2, 5:12 p.m., 6900 block Hanover Parkway. An attempt was made to enter the residence by taking off a window screen and prying open the window. Entry was not gained.

Trespass

February 5, 12:15 a.m., 6400 block Ivy Lane. A 23-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with trespass after he came onto the grounds of the Marriott Hotel after being banned by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

February 5, 9:05 a.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. A 29-year-old nonresident was arrested and charged with trespass after he was found on the grounds of Franklin Park Apartments after having been banned from the complex by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

Vandalism

February 6, 12:48 p.m., Area of Southway and Ridge Road. Several stop signs were spray painted with graffiti.

February 9, 9:10 a.m., 6100 block Breezewood Drive. The sliding glass door of a residence was broken.

Fraud

February 3, 8:57 a.m., 6200 block Greenbelt Road. On January 28 at approximately 7:30 p.m., a woman was attempting to make a transaction at the ATM at Capital One Bank when she was approached by a man who asked her to deposit his check into her account, withdraw money and give it him. She agreed and gave it to him, then drove him to the Giant, where she withdrew additional money for him to match the amount of the check deposited. The check was later found to be fraudulent. He is described as black, 25 to 35 years of age, 5'7" to 5'9" tall, 165 to 185 pounds, with a medium complexion and close cropped black hair, wearing a red jacket over a black jacket and blue jeans.

Motor Vehicle Dispute

February 8, 8:25 p.m., Area of Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway. A woman was involved in a motor vehicle dispute with a person in the area of Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive. This person followed the woman to the area Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, where the person in a vehicle, described as a blue Dodge Charger, rammed into the rear of the woman's vehicle multiple times. The suspect then fled. The woman was not injured. A suspect has been developed and the investigation is ongoing.

Vehicle Crime

Thefts from autos. Vehicle tags were removed from vehicles, one on February 1, 6200 block Breezewood Court: Md. temporary tag, T087850, the other on February 2, 7800 block Mandan Road, a rear tag, Md. 05767CC.

A salt spreader was taken from the back of a truck on February 3, 5900 block Cherrywood Lane.

A wallet was removed from a vehicle on February 5 in the area of Mandan Road and Hanover Parkway.

Driver's side airbags were stolen from six vehicles, by breaking out the driver's side or passenger's side windows. All the break-ins occurred on February 3 on 7600 block Mandan Road (and a laptop from one vehicle), 6500 block Lake Park Drive, 6500 block Lake Park Drive (two vehicles), 9000 block Breezewood Terrace., Area of Ora Glen Court and Ora Glen Drive, and 7800 block Emily's Way.

Cash was stolen from the glove compartment of one vehicle on February 3, 6100 block Breezewood Drive.

Tires and rims of two vehicles were witnessed being removed on February 7, 7900 block Mandan Road. Two men left the area in a blue 2-door pickup truck.

Recovered vehicle. February 5, a Nissan Altima reported stolen January 28 from the 100 block Westway, was recovered by the Richmond County Sheriff's Department in Augusta, Ga. in the 2900 block Fernwood Drive. No arrests were made.

Beltsville Garden Club Meets Feb. 22

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, February 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville. In her talk, Carolyn Mullett will share Five Designer Secrets to Take Your Garden to the Next Level and help gardeners see their gardens with fresh eyes, as sometimes it is hard to spot mistakes and to determine why something is not working. She will share simple steps to make gardens more beautiful, comfortable and functional. The talk will be illustrated with slides from Mullett's visits to English gardens.

The public is welcome and admission is free. Bring a plant, cutting, garden tool or magazine to exchange. Bring something, take something. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

To learn more about the club, visit beltsvillegardenclub.org or like them at facebook.com/beltsvillegardenclub.

Snippets from the Past

Schrom's Airport Used By French

Since August, the French tri-color has flown over Greenbelt on the wings of the glider flown by Colonel Albert La Dousse, assistant air attache of the French Embassy.

Colonel La Dousse, in common with many other Washingtonians, has chosen Schrom's airport as his base of operations since it is the only airport near Washington having towing facilities.

On Monday, Mademoiselle Suzane Melk, famous French aviatrix, took Colonel La Dousse's glider up for a practice flight. Mlle. Melk, commander of the first French WASP squadron and possessor of the French Legion of Honor Medal and the Croix de Guerre with 2 palms, plans to make a try at the flight record of 24 hours now held by a Russian glider pilot.

Colonel La Dousse stated that Mademoiselle Melk plans

to enter glider contests while she is in this country. She hopes to enter the southeast states contest in Florida in January and possibly another in Southern California in May.

Although he has not taken part in any United States contest himself, Colonel La Dousse stated that his glider, a mon-cycle job, was flown by Don Pollard in the contest of the northeast states at Elmira, New York. Mr. Pollard won the contest, which was held from August 28 to September 1.

Pilots H. P. Little, P. M. Suddreth and F. M. Schrom operate the towing plane, a P T 17 Stearman which tows the glider aloft before releasing it. The Washington Soaring Club also makes use of soaring facilities at Schrom's.

From the Greenbelt Cooperator, December 19, 1947, page 3.

BREAK-IN continued from page 1

attached to a possible Ford Econoline passenger van. The chain was meant to force the door open, said Mathews. The door was damaged, but entry was not gained. On February 9 at 3:30 a.m., the men came back and made another attempt to enter

the gas station. When that did not work, they moved to the Mini Mart.

"This is part of a pattern," said Kemp. "They steal a van, empty it and put the ATM in. The investigation is ongoing."

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INDOOR COMMUNITY YARD SALE – March 11, 9-1, at Greenbelt Fire Dept., 125 Crescent Road. For more information and to reserve tables, call Kathy, 301-474-4372.

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City Manager Updates Council On Funding, Budget Issues

by Kathleen Gallagher

On February 6 the city council met with Nicole Ard in the first City Manager Quarterly Update meeting to be held since the new manager's arrival in Greenbelt. City Treasurer Jeffrey Williams was also present. In addition to allowing time for the manager to give council a mid-year report through the end of the calendar year, time was also spent in reviewing administrative house-keeping and informational matters, such as the status of council action requests and of resident requests and petitions.

In addition, at the update meeting that occurs early in the calendar year, the council has for more than a decade received an overview of the city manager's expectations for the budget for the next fiscal year, which will be presented formally to council at the last regular meeting in March. In this year's presentation the emphasis was on issues that may impact the Fiscal Year 2018 budget.

Before beginning her reports, Ard expressed her gratitude to Williams, former City Manager Michael McLaughlin and the city's department heads for their work on these topics so far and for their efforts in bringing her into the process. Starting with the December report, she said that mid-year expenditures are on track with the Fiscal Year 2017 budget. She noted that while there are several vacancies in the Police Department, there are also higher overtime costs.

According to Ard, revenues also appear generally on track but were hard to gauge since real estate income does not yet reflect the county tax payment, which in turn is likely to include revenue from the newly occupied first section of the Verde apartments at Greenbelt Station. Real estate abatements, which have been a concern in recent years, are being monitored. Red light camera revenues are lower than budgeted but new cameras are expected soon.

A memorandum from Williams noted that real estate assessments are higher than last year for single family homes due to the overall improved housing market. The city's assessments for townhouses and condominiums are higher because of the new development in the South Core of Greenbelt Station. Assessments for apartments are flat

while commercial office assessments are lower than last year.

Ard said the FY18 budget document is being prepared now. Items being taken into account that were cited by Ard and Williams as having potential but as yet unknown budget impact include the following:

South Core Tax Increment Financing (TIF): If the TIF is approved or formalized, up to half of all new real estate revenue from the Greenbelt Station South Core development must be set aside for debt service on Greenbelt Station Parkway.

Commercial abatements: Tax abatements may continue. Commercial office assessments are down and it was noted the Capital Office Park complex recently sold for a substantial discount. Williams explained that property values are dependent on the income stream they provide and unoccupied properties lose substantial value. Ard mentioned Montgomery County has had some success working with an attorney on getting accurate assessments. Councilmember Edward Putens suggested the city might collaborate with members of the Four Cities group to do that if it could be done at least partially on contingency.

Health insurance: The initial offer for employee health insurance increased premiums 20 percent but negotiations are underway and other vendors will be considered.

Minimum wage: Increases to minimum wage for employees to comply with county law will add about \$300,000 to the budget through FY18.

Infrastructure: Issues concern the amount the city is putting aside for infrastructure, since these needs will be ongoing. An example is the Greenbelt Lake dam project, for which an extension is being requested by the city manager for generating funding to complete the project.

Councilmembers generally agreed that although the overall situation is good, the upcoming budget is expected to be another tight one. Councilmember Judith Davis commented that they had hoped to be further along by now.

"But it looks like we're not in the Promised Land yet," she said.

"A lot of things need to be done," Ard agreed.



Free Diabetes Support Group

Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free diabetes support group on Monday, February 20 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be at 8100 Good Luck Road on the 5th floor of the North Building in Lanham. To reserve a seat call 301-324-4968.



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1 Bedroom GHI End Unit - Upper Level with granite accents, finished oak hardwood floors. Opened Kitchen w/breakfast bar creates lots of space.

Brick Townhome on Corner Lot 3 Bedrooms with one of the largest yards in the coop! Brand new kitchen, bath, paint and refinished hardwood floors.

3 Bedroom GHI Townhome - Oak hardwood flooring throughout. Fenced backyard with large shed & brick patio. Nearby playground, friendly neighbors!

Large Corner Lot - 2 Bedroom GHI home - Freshly upgraded by GHI! New siding, windows and doors. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Ready!

Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center

Little Free Libraries Inspired Reading and Community

by Madeline Henderson

Outside of Jan Derry's house on Greenhill Road, she has a small cabinet painted the same color as her house. It isn't a birdhouse. Nor is it strictly for storage. It is a library, more specifically, a Little Free Library.

Jan Derry dedicates her new little library.



PHOTO COURTESY JAN DERRY

Set on a post in her yard, the Little Free Library is a space set up so that people come and take a book and leave one in exchange. Derry's house is within a half mile of the Greenbelt Library, but her little library is still used frequently. It is always open, and often changing. "People walk by often to exchange books," said Derry "And some even drive over just to visit the library," added her husband James Miers.



PHOTO BY MADELINE HENDERSON

Jan Derry's Little Free Library is painted green to match the color of her house.

Eva Fallon, who is steward for the Little Free Library attached to MakerSpace in Roosevelt Center, said the most surprising part is "the range of books I find in there." And like Derry and Miers, she enjoys watching people browse.

Little Free Library is a non-profit organization that originated in Hudson, Wisc. in 2009 with the goals of promoting literacy and building a sense of community. Todd H. Bol created the first Little Free Library as a tribute to his mother and expanded on the idea after witnessing how popular it was. The libraries themselves are small weather-resistant structures that house a variety of books. They are usually placed along paths outside of the owner's yard, in parks or in other areas that are easy for the public to access. Anyone is welcome (and encouraged) to visit a library with a book in hand to exchange. The idea is simple: take a book, leave a book.

The libraries come in different shapes, colors and sizes and many resemble tiny houses. They can be purchased online or built at home. Some are even deco-



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Little Library outside MakerSpace in Roosevelt Center



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Little Free Library Forestway

rated for the holidays, wired with lights or painted by community members. Once placed, they can be officially registered and added to an online map. The person who places and is responsible for a Little Free Library is referred to as a steward. And as with any informal movement, there are little free libraries that do not show up on the national map, either because their stewards did not register them or because of a technical snafu. However, the concept is the same. Books are there to be shared.

The Little Free Library movement started to help ensure access to books, but even in places with good public libraries, such as Greenbelt, the Little Free Library website says it has a purpose. The libraries are said to encourage exercise and socializing with neighbors. What's more the small boxes have a unique, personal touch. "There is an understanding that real people are sharing their favorite books with their community. Little Libraries have been called "mini-town squares."

Today there are more than 50,000 of these libraries across the world,

with the goal of exceeding 100,000 by the end of this year. They exist in all 50 states and over 70 countries.

Derry's library on Greenhill is charter number 4388 and was the first to be registered in Greenbelt. Derry, who is a children's librarian at Wheaton Regional Library, learned about it through Facebook and immediately knew she wanted to contribute.

She said a large variety of books come and go but children's books are by far the most popular and often need to be restocked. Teen, romance, mystery and self-help books are also fairly sought-after, with cookbooks being among the least popular, she has noticed. Occasionally, unwelcome advertisements are left behind and are removed, but other than that the library has been treated well.

Fallon said that the community has been helping her keep the library going. "When the hinge on one of the doors failed to keep it closed in a windstorm, someone attached a hook and eye. I love Greenbelters!"

There is another Little Free Library on Forestway. There may be others in town that our reporters haven't spotted.

To set up a Little Free Library or to find an existing one check out littlefreelibrary.org.

ERHS Beats Suitland Rams in Home Game

by Bill Cornett

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Raiders made easy work of the Suitland Rams during last Thursday's home game on February 9. Up by 22 points at the half, Coach Brendan O'Connell was able to give some of his back-bench players a bit of court time as the game went on. Final score was Roosevelt 79, Suitland 64.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM CORNETT

Gus Okafor of the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Raiders jams in a powerful dunk against Suitland in the Raiders home game last Thursday.

Valentines Dancers

A heart-shaped sign points Scottish Country Dancers to the Greenbelt Community Center gym for a Valentine Dance, Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017.



Betsy Wallace and Bill Wallace celebrate their first dance on at Greenbelt Community Center since Betsy's recovery from a long illness. The two have been members of the Greenbelt group for 11 years, practicing every Tuesday in the upstairs gym at Greenbelt Community Center.

- Photo by Julie Depenbrock



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