

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

DECEMBER 14, 2017



PHOTO BY RICHARD DOUGAN

Hometown USA Chorus and Leo the Lion perform at the Lions Breakfast with Santa. More on [page 12](#).

## Lower Voting Age Decision Scheduled for January 8

by Kathleen Gallagher

The first meeting of Greenbelt's 42nd City Council had what appeared to be a short agenda, but lasted almost three-and-a-half hours. It was newly elected Colin Byrd's first regular meeting and also featured a visit from his predecessor, Konrad Herling.

### City Voting Age

What was arguably one of the most significant items on the agenda perhaps received the least discussion, though it will come up again on future agendas. The next step in a story that has dragged on for a long time in

Greenbelt was taken unanimously by council, as they voted to direct staff to place on the agenda of the next meeting the charter amendment needed to lower the voting age in city council elections to 16. The majority of the city council was unwilling to take action on this matter directly and instead placed it on the ballot of the November election as an advisory question, where the voters supported it 1,215 to 1,070.

After a first reading at the December 10 meeting, the resolution will return for second reading

and action at the January 8 meeting. Then will follow public notice and a waiting period during which residents who oppose the measure could attempt to petition it to a binding referendum. Ema Smith, chair of the Youth Advisory Committee that initiated this change several years ago, thanked everyone for supporting the ballot question and urged council to "vote with the majority." She received a hearty round of applause from councilmembers and audience alike.

See [COUNCIL](#), page 7

## Science and History Behind Proposed Maglev Rail Line

by James Giese

*This is the second of a series of articles concerning the proposed SCMaglev (superconducting magnetic levitation) rail line between Washington and Baltimore and perhaps eventually from Charlotte to Boston. The Maryland Transportation Administration is conducting a federal government funded environmental impact study (EIS) to consider the impacts of alternate rail line locations. Two of the three routes now being considered propose tunneling under homes in Greenbelt East and one of those routes might emerge from a tunnel in the city's forest preserve.*

*While there is much informa-*

*tion posted about maglevs and this project on the internet and there is more that one might find with devoted search effort, there is still a lot of needed information missing that would help weigh the pros and cons of this proposal.*

### History

According to the maglev article in Wikipedia and other sources, a British electrical engineer and professor, Eric Laithwaite, developed the first full-size working model of the linear induction motor in the late 1940s. Laithwaite also discovered a new arrangement of magnets – the magnetic river – that allows a single

linear motor to produce both lift and forward thrust, allowing a maglev system to be built with a single set of magnets.

The first commercial maglev was a people mover opened in 1984, simply called MAGLEV, that ran on a monorail track between Birmingham Airport and Birmingham International railway station in England, running at speeds up to 26 mph. The system was closed in 1995 due to reliability problems.

Japan has developed two maglev trains. The Linimo (HSST-03) development began in 1974 and

See [MAGLEV](#), page 8

## American Education

In celebration of American education, these columns tell the stories of selected teachers from the schools serving the Greenbelt community. This week readers will get a glimpse inside Turning Point Academy. The Dora Kennedy French Immersion School did not choose to participate.

The stories were coordinated by David Lange, who originated the series and liaises with the schools, and Alice Murray who worked with the reporters.

## Shadwick Jenkins Teaches Students at Many Levels

by Carrie Hannigan

Shadwick Jenkins, the fourth-grade reading and language arts teacher at Turning Point Academy, sits with his students every day at lunch rather than using that time off. He described this time with students by saying, "That's when we get to connect, which is time that really helps build the student/teacher relationship." After years of work in administration and other educational roles, Jenkins is happy to be back teaching again in the classroom.



PHOTO BY CARRIE HANNIGAN

Shadwick Jenkins

This year marked Jenkins' 21st year in education. He majored in early childhood studies and minored in mathematics at Norfolk State University. After graduation, he taught in the Virginia Beach area for four years. In 1998 he moved to Washington, D.C., and taught for six years before becoming the assistant principal and then principal of a D.C. charter school.

After his time in the district, Jenkins became an administrator for Student Support Services in the St. Mary's County Public Schools' central office but realized that he missed interacting directly with students. After two years, Jenkins returned to D.C. to become a CEO for a charter school and then spent time as an instructional coach in the D.C. public school system.

Two years ago, when Jenkins' position with the D.C. public schools was eliminated, he joined Turning Point Academy, filling

the vacancy left when another teacher transferred mid-year to pursue another opportunity. Turning Point Academy recognized Jenkins' excellence right away – he interviewed on a Friday and started work the next Monday. This year Turning Point Academy departmentalized fourth grade and

See [JENKINS](#), page 7

## Aurelia Driver Goes Extra Mile at Turning Point

by Carrie Hannigan

Aurelia Driver, a second grade teacher at Turning Point Academy, says that she always knew she wanted to help children. Originally, Driver thought she would help through her psychology degree; however, after she took a position at a learning center teaching pre-kindergarten (age 4), she realized that her true calling was teaching. She still completed her psychology degree, but then took additional education courses to obtain her teaching certificate. Driver has now been teaching for over 15 years.



PHOTO BY CARRIE HANNIGAN

Aurelia Driver

Before coming to Turning Point Academy three years ago, Driver taught at a Montessori school with grades 1 through 3 in the same room. She said "early childhood [education] has always been my thing." She enjoys teaching second grade because

"they are still at that age where they want to please the teacher. There isn't a lot of back talk. They are really fun at that age."

Driver's teaching style focuses on group discussion and investigation. She said, "I always say that no one is perfect, not even myself. Everyone is different, everyone is unique. You can't teach things just one way. When we are exploring a topic, we try a lot of different approaches and do a lot of group discussion." Driver enjoys these class discussions, saying, "I love hearing what's on their minds. I can see and hear them thinking."

She explained the process as "I'll first ask what they know about a topic and then we will investigate and explore it together." To explore topics, Driver's class watches videos, reads

See [DRIVER](#), page 6

### Inside Stories



[Film](#) Filmed at OGT p. 4

### City Council Meeting

Monday, December 18  
7:30 p.m. Executive Session  
8 p.m. Worksession  
Council Goals, Standing Rules

[See city ad, page 5](#)



[Gumdrop Co-op](#) p. 12

# Letters to the Editor

## Coming Deadlines For News Review

The Greenbelt News Review will be closed on Monday, December 25, Christmas Day. The ad staff will shift their hours to Sunday, December 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. and they will be on duty, as usual on Tuesday, December 26 from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m.

For the week of New Year's, the hours will revert back to the normal Monday and Tuesday schedule.

## Thank Your Carrier

I just read the editorial in the News Review of December 7, urging readers to express their appreciation for their carriers who deliver the paper every week. I don't know how much the job pays, but in my day (mid-50s), we were paid \$1.00 each week. A succession of Haslingers delivered the News Review, and I can't stress strongly enough how much we appreciated seasonal gifts from our customers. The job taught us the value of hard work and reliability. By all means, find that little envelope that came with last Thursday's paper and give what you can!

Robert Haslinger

## More Thanks

In our haste to make last week's News Review deadline, we omitted two contributors to our recent fundraiser. Sincere thanks to Drs. McCarl for their exquisite gift basket that was certainly the hit of the evening. Many people wanted to win this basket. Michelle of thefacepaintlady.com was fabulous, as many of you know who were made up at the Labor Day Festival by Michelle. We thank these people for their contributions and appreciate all they did to make our event a great success.

Michael D. Maxwell Jr. Foundation for Mental Awareness.

## Clarification

Thank you for printing my letter in your issue on November 30.

I hope you will permit me to correct some misinformation regarding the salary Mr. Parker earned while unemployed by a government agency.

He was required by that agency to return that salary not to the store where he had worked but

to the agency that had re-hired him. The reason? It was to be deducted from the salary owed him when he returned to his government position.

Janet Jacobs-Parker

## Thanks

On behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department, we would like to thank our friends and neighbors of our beautiful city for participating and supporting our Breakfast/Brunch With Santa this past Saturday, December 9. It was a huge success. We were so happy to see so many children and their families attending. Everyone had a great time with such an awesome, delicious menu to choose from.

Our department and auxiliary look forward to inviting Santa back to our firehouse to meet, greet and talk with our beautiful children next December.

Thank you all so very, very much. Until next year, may everyone have Happy Holidays and a safe and prosperous New Year!

Kathy Reynolds

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary

## Not Escapism

I'd like to address a statement in Matthew Arbach's November 30 article about the Mindfulness Room at Greenbelt Elementary School: "...mindfulness is a strong tenet found in the Buddhist and Native American religious traditions, where it is used to attain a spiritual center and release from earthly cares."

As someone who has studied Native American traditions in the past, and after checking with a close friend who is Kiowa and Comanche, I think it is important to correct Mr. Arbach's comment. The Native American (First Nations) approach is not about escape, but rather intentional awareness, and living in harmony with people and your surroundings – much like the ideals upon which Greenbelt was founded. This is considerably different than Buddhism, which focuses on posture, breathing, chanting and training the mind.

Lin Orrin

## Call for Donations

The Greenbelt Lions Club holds an annual holiday season toy and clothing drive for the needy in the local community. Donations at collection boxes lo-

cated at the Co-op, Beltway Plaza Mall [by the security office], the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union and the Community Center) have been sparse. As a result there is a risk of not meeting the commitments made to local groups who have come to depend on donations to help the needy and homeless in this area. Those who are able are asked to redouble their efforts to help out the community. Bring donations of new toys and coats to one of the Lion's donation boxes or to the Lions' fundraising gift wrap station at Beltway Plaza Mall on December 16 or 17.

Harvey Hauptman, president  
Greenbelt Lions Club

See [READERS](#), page 8



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  
Dec 15th - Dec 21st

MURDER ON THE  
ORIENT EXPRESS  
(CC) (PG-13) (114 mins)  
Fri. & Sat. 3:00, 8:00 PM  
Sun. 4:00 (OC) PM  
Mon. 3:00 PM  
Tues. 3:00, 8:00 PM

BILL NYE: SCIENCE GUY  
(NR - 10+) (101 mins)  
Fri. & Sat. 12:30, 5:30 PM  
Sun. 10:30 AM  
Mon. 5:30 PM  
Tues. 12:30, 5:30 PM

THE GREATEST  
SHOWMAN  
(PG) (CC) (139 mins)  
Opening Wed. Dec 20th  
Wed. 2:00, 5:15, 8:00 PM  
Thurs. 5:15, 8:00 PM

Celebrating GFCU's 80th:  
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE  
(135 mins) - FREE!  
Sun. 1:00 PM

Stage on Screen:  
NUTCRACKER  
(130 mins)  
Sun. 7:00 PM  
Mon. 12:00 PM

Miyazaki Monday:  
THE WIND RISES  
(Dubbed in English)  
(126 mins)  
Mon. 8:00 PM

Pete Reppert



WINTER UNITES US ALL.

## Corrections

The photo on page 7 of the December 7 News Review provided an incorrect name for the Southern Comforters of Bowie quilt guild and failed to identify the quilters who were selling chances on their State Fair Blue Ribbon raffle quilt as well as wares made by members: They are, from left, President Peggy Alexander of Bowie, Janet Freitag of Berwyn Heights and Pat Scully of Greenbelt.

Molly Lester has alerted us to two errors in her letter in last week's issue. The Residential – Single Family zone (RSF-A) was referred to as RMF-A. The statement the corresponding townhouse zone "has no minimum requirements for green space" was incorrect. The proposed residential zones, which contain no minimum requirements for green space – for certain housing types – are multifamily zones.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Elaine Skolnik, President, 1977-1985

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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—\$50/year.

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

## On Screen

### Homicide and Heresy (Scientific)

Two new movies come to the Old Greenbelt Theatre this Friday, December 15: Murder On The Orient Express and Bill Nye: Science Guy.

Agatha Christie's 1934 classic sleuth novel had Albert Finney as detective Hercule Poirot in the 1974 version directed by Sidney Lumet. This remake has Kenneth Branagh directing himself as Poirot scrutinizing 13 murder suspects. Johnny Depp is the victim and Judi Dench, Michelle Pfeiffer, Penelope Cruz, Willem Defoe, Derek Jacobi and others are surveilled by Hercule, assisted, apparently, by his Brobdingnagian moustache.

Rating Pg-13 Running time 114 minutes

Bill Nye: Science Guy depicts the lovable, bow-tie wearing former TV personality, now age 61, as he passionately sounds the alarm about climate change. Co-directed by David Alvarado and Jason Seussberg, it shows Nye dueling with secular fundamentalists like Joe Bastardi of Fox News and Ken Ham, who claims the earth is only 6000 years old.

Not rated Running time 101 minutes

- Jim Link

# Community Events

## Credit Union Offers Thank You Movie

The Greenbelt Credit Union is sponsoring the movie *It's a Wonderful Life* on Sunday, December 17 at 1 p.m. at the Old Greenbelt Theatre. The free presentation is a thank you to the community for allowing the credit union to be of service to them for 80 years. The first 80 attendees will receive a free popcorn.

## 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 December 18 are as follows:

Monday, December 18: Fiesta chicken, cilantro lime rice, Mexicali vegetables, wheat bread, diced pears, orange juice.

Tuesday, December 19: Country fried steak with country gravy, garlic whipped potatoes, green peas, wheat bread, tropical fruit, grape juice.

Wednesday, December 20: Christmas Dinner: Baked chicken thigh with apricot mustard sauce, sweet potato casserole, mixed vegetables, wheat roll, fluffy fruit salad, apple pie, eggnog, cranberry juice.

Thursday: December 21: Baked chicken with cacciatore sauce, ziti pasta, glazed baby carrots, wheat bread, fresh fruit, cranberry juice.

Friday, December 22: Barbeque rib patty with barbeque sauce, baked beans, broccoli, wheat hamburger bun, mandarin oranges, apple juice.

## Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will meet on Wednesday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads. The group offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership. For more information call 240-542-8625.

## MakerSpace Events

Come in out of the cold and see what's happening at MakerSpace!

Thursday, December 14: Tech Night. Coder Dojo (kids) from 5:30 to 7 p.m., Gadget Workshop from 7 to 8:30 p.m. and Coder Dojo for projects from 8:30 to 10 p.m.

Friday, December 15: Open Projects.

Saturday, December 16: First Lego League Robotics #3 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 17: Animation Meetup from 2 to 4 p.m. and Board of Directors meeting from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 18: FLL Team 1 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 19: FLL Team 2 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Labradoodles from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20: Fiber Fans from 6 to 9 p.m.

## Reel & Meal Program

At the New Deal Monday, December 18, the Reel & Meal at the New Deal program will feature *Taking Root*. The free show starts 7 p.m. at the New Deal Café. The film tells the story of Wangari Maathai, Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize laureate, whose simple act of planting trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights and defend democracy. "Why not plant trees?," she thought. Trees provide shade, prevent soil erosion, supply firewood and building materials and produce nutritious fruit. In 1977, Maathai founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya and began teaching women about the connection between environmental problems and their daily lives.

The program will include the short film *Plant for the Planet* from the Young Voices for the Planet series by Lynne Cherry. Her film is about a young German boy who was inspired by the Maathai story to do as she did in his native country. Cherry will participate in the discussion to follow the screenings.

The venue is accessible by Metro buses G12 and G14 from the Greenbelt Metro Station. This month's program is planned by Utopia Film Festival. For more information contact Frank Gervasi at frankgervasi@gmail.com or 301-474-7680. For more about the feature film see its website [takingrootfilm.com](http://takingrootfilm.com). The other sponsors of the Reel & Meal series are Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking and Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition.

## Golden Age Club

Happy holidays! The final meeting for December will be a potluck luncheon on Wednesday, December 20. There will be no Golden Age meeting or bingo on Wednesday December 27.



More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## Star Party Saturday Evening, Dec. 16

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt (ASG) will host its last star party of the year, free and open to the public, on Saturday, December 16 at the City Observatory, located at Northway Fields. This event marks the 25th anniversary of ASG. Through the observatory telescope, attendees may expect to see deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters, viewed with the astronomical camera. As always, visitors are welcome to set up their own telescopes on the hill.

Observing will begin at around 6 p.m. and continue for 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.

## GHI Notes

Thursday, December 14, 10 a.m., Stormwater Management Task Force meeting, Board Room; 6:30 p.m., Investment Committee meeting, Board Room; 7 p.m., Finance Committee meeting, Board Room.

Friday, December 15, office closed. Emergency maintenance service available at 301-474-6011.

Tuesday, December 19, 7 p.m., Nominations and Elections Committee meeting, GHI Lobby; 7 p.m., Pre-purchase Orientation, Board Room.

Wednesday, December 20, 7 p.m., Bicycle Task Force meeting, GHI kitchen; 7 p.m., Woodlands Committee meeting, Board Room.

Thursday, December 21, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors meeting, Board Room.

## Greenbelt Park Events

Saturday, December 16: Reading Ranger. Join a Park Ranger to read *Owl Moon* and learn about the life of an owl. Following the reading, there will be a videotape featuring owl characteristics. Presentation appropriate for ages 6 to 8. Meet at the Ranger Station classroom at 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 17: Winter Wonderland Walk. Discover Greenbelt Park in the winter. Join a park ranger on a 1.2-mile walk to discover the forest in winter. Meet at the Sweetgum Picnic Area at 1 p.m.

## Upcoming Events At the New Deal

Sunday, December 17, 6 to 8 p.m., Fez Tones Hafla. Live Middle Eastern music and dance. Musicians will play exotic instruments such as qanun, oud, darbuka and riq. Amazing performances by the region's best belly dancers. There will be open dancing between dance performances, so dancers - bring your shimmy.

Tuesday, December 19, 7 to 9:30 p.m., Rising Star Karaoke. Come out and shine on, taking the New Deal stage and singing your favorites. State-of-the-art sound equipment and expansive song selections. Hosted by the dynamic Kelley Hildebrand.

Wednesday, December 20, 7 to 9 p.m., Pub Quiz.

Thursday, December 21, noon to 2 p.m., Mid-Day Melodies with Amy C Kraft. 7 to 10 p.m., open mic with Joe Harris.

Friday, December 22, 6:30 to 8 p.m., jazz and blues piano by John Guernsey. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., Fractal Cat. A six-piece rock ensemble that emphasizes classic songwriting, melodic vocals and a multilayered psychedelic rock sound.

Saturday, December 23, 1 to 5 p.m., jazz jam with Greg Meyer. 6:30 to 8 p.m., jazz and blues piano by John Guernsey. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., Cold Hard Cash. A tribute to the legendary Johnny Cash, featuring spot-on recreations of both the sound and spirit of the originals.

## At the Library

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System branches will be closed from Sunday, December 24 through Tuesday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday. The Greenbelt Branch Library will reopen on Wednesday, December 27 at 10 a.m.

### English Conversation Club

Monday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. Learning to speak English? Join our club and practice speaking English in a friendly atmosphere with people from diverse backgrounds. Registration is recommended, as space is limited. (This club will meet weekly on Monday evenings, except on holidays.)

### Storytimes

Tuesday, December 19, ages 3 to 5, 7 p.m., limit 20 people. Wednesday, December 20, ages 3 to 5, 10:15 a.m., limit 20 people; ages 2 to 3, 11:15 a.m., limit 20 people. Thursday, December 21, 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.

## Families Anonymous Meets Every Tuesday

Families Anonymous is a 12-step fellowship for people concerned about the use of mind-altering substances or related behavioral problems of a relative or friend. The group meets every Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Greenbelt Step Club, 141 Centerway. See [FamiliesAnonymous.org](http://FamiliesAnonymous.org) for more information.

## Utopia Film Festival

Presents

"Plagues and Pleasures On the Salton Sea" and "Project Happiness"

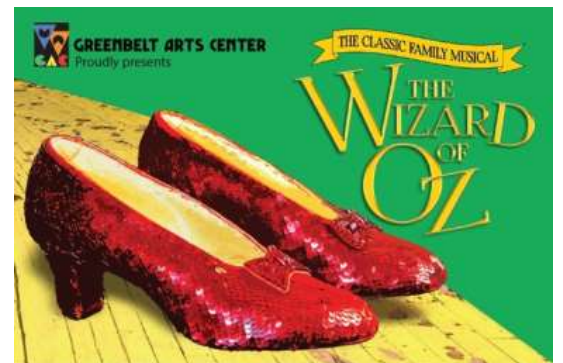
Sunday, Dec. 17th, Wed., 20th, & Fri., the 22nd Beginning at 8 PM

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

## Greenbelt Arts Center

Final Weekend - Tickets Going Fast!

THE WIZARD OF OZ



by L. Frank Baum  
Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg  
Background Music by Herbert Stothard,  
Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard, Orchestration by Larry Wilcox  
Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company  
Directed by Jon Gardner, Produced by Win Britt Musical Direction by Daniel Flores  
Choreography by Rikki Howie Laceywell and Elizabeth Gardner  
December 15 at 8PM  
Matinees: December 16, 17 at 2PM - FINAL WEEKEND  
Ticket prices: \$25 General Admission, \$22 Students/Seniors/Military, \$14 Youth (12 and under with adult)  
PLEASE GIVE TO OUR INDIEGOGO CAMPAIGN  
<https://igg.me/at/lightGAC>

COMING SOON

Almost, Maine - Jan 26- Feb 17, 2018 - Executive Directed by Bob Kleinberg

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email: [info@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:info@greenbeltartscenter.org) or BOOK TICKETS ONLINE at [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)



Greenbelt Access Television

2nd Floor, Greenbelt Community Center, Suite 204  
[www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) • Studio: 301-507-6581

Free and Open to the Public

Orientation Class

Thursday, Jan. 4th from 7 - 10 PM

Members Only - Reservations required

Apple Final Cut Pro class - \$\$

Tuesday - Friday, Dec. 26-29th

10AM-4PM in the GATe Studio

Check out our Channel on Comcast 77 and Verizon Fios 19

For our schedule, visit: [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) and click on "Channel"

## Obituary

### Jacob Warner

Jacob LaRue Warner, 96, died on Thursday, December 7, 2017. He was born January 1, 1921, in Owingsville, Ky., the only child of Jacob and Blanche Whaley Warner. He attended Morehead State Teacher's College as a physics and mathematics major and left during his senior year to enlist in the army to serve in World War II, where he spent most of his time on the Pacific front after attending training for radar school. After returning home, he attended the University of Kentucky to finish his B.S. degree, and continued there to receive his M.S. in Physics in 1950.

He was predeceased in 2014 by his wife of 65 years, Leah Hester Gary Warner, whom he married in Lexington on June 4, 1949. After a few years pursuing his Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University, he left university life and took a position at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, followed in 1962 with a position at the Office of Naval Research. He retired in 1977. The Warners moved to Greenbelt in 1955, first living in GHI, followed by a home in Boxwood Village in January 1965, where he lived until his death. Since retirement, he was well known for bicycling long distances well into his mid-80s, and his prolific hobby printing and publishing in the National Amateur Press Association. Mr. Warner is survived by a daughter, Helen German of Sykesville, Md., a son David (Melody) Warner of Bowie, Md., a granddaughter Alice (Marc) Brosey of Lenoir City, Tenn., and a great grandson, Elijah. There will be a private interment at the Greenbelt Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to the American Civil Liberties Union at [aclu.org](http://aclu.org).

### Cantata at Mowatt

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church will hold its annual Christmas Cantata on Friday, December 22 at 7 p.m. A ready-to-sing O Little Town of Bethlehem was created by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith and arranged by Mauldin. The choir will be accompanied by string and woodwind quartets. Lisa Sedares will conduct, with Ruth Bright at the grand piano. It will be a magical evening with refreshments to follow.



Condolences to the family and friends of Jacob Warner who died on December 7.

Please share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

# Turning the Tables at Old Greenbelt Theatre: AU Student Films a Film

by Matt Neufeld

The historic Old Greenbelt Theatre, usually accustomed to showing movies, experienced the other end of the filmmaking spectrum at the end of November when the theater was the setting for two days of shooting for a local, independent comedic film, *Like or Subscribe*.

American University senior Sam Ferguson, 21, a film and media arts major from Pittsburgh, spent two long days filming *Like or Subscribe*, his 25-minute senior thesis film, inside and outside of the theater, bringing along a cast and crew of about 20 people. The hard-working team filmed various scenes of the comedy on November 28 and 30 – two of the short film's three scheduled filming days – in front of the theater in Roosevelt Center, in the front lobby where the concession stand is located and in the inner lobby, where the water fountains, bathrooms and historic old projector are located. No filming occurred inside the actual movie theater – that space was used to store production gear and equipment and as a holding area for actors.

Ferguson and his cast and crew demonstrated how a film crew can easily make the most of a filming location's spaces – the bathrooms were dressing rooms, with costumes and hair and make-up supplies crowding the bathroom stalls and counters. Gear and equipment were stored in neat piles on the floor at the back of the movie theater. Snacks and lunch – with lunch provided by the neighboring New Deal Café – were set up on a table in the inner lobby. The entire scene at the theater resembled that of any large-scale, big-budget film production, with the attendant, constant buzz of energy and activity.



PHOTO BY TREVOR HEMBLING

Cast and crew from right, Sam Ferguson, Danny Welch, Mark Sullivan, Emily Krusche-Bruck and Tony Solorzano

On Thursday, November 30, the cast and crew spent a long day of filming at the theater, shooting crucial scenes of the heist comedy. Ferguson, the crew and some actors arrived outside the theater as early as 7:15 a.m. and started filming outdoor scenes in the plaza. Other actors arrived by 8:30 a.m. About 8:45 a.m., the cast and crew moved inside the theater to shoot interior scenes – much to their happiness, due to the cold weather outside. Shooting lasted until at least 4:45 p.m. Most of the cast and crew were fellow American University students, and others were local actors from throughout the D.C. area.

Ferguson also shot scenes at the theater on November 28 and he planned to shoot other scenes for the movie elsewhere on December 2.

Interestingly, Ferguson had not heard about the Old Greenbelt Theatre before he planned shooting scenes there, finding the theater through an internet search. "I just did a quick Google search for a bunch of independent

theaters, and this was the most flexible and kind to us," Ferguson said. So he subsequently brought his cast and crew to film at the theater.

Ferguson described *Like or Subscribe* as his third film, after a 50-minute film that he made in high school and a film that he made in Prague as part of a study-abroad program administered through American University. "Like or Subscribe," he said, is "a YouTube heist movie in which a YouTube channel robs

a movie theater to gain views on YouTube, but as the views continue to grow, the stakes continue to grow."

Most of the scenes shot on November 30 at the Old Greenbelt Theatre centered around the characters of Olive Johnson, played by actor Emily Krusche-Bruck, 21, an American University senior and musical theater and psychology major from Milwaukee, and of Josh Fritz, played by actor Jake McMichael, 24, a full-time actor and writer from Ellicott City. A full, professional-level crew of cameramen, sound engineers, grips, gaffers (light and electrical crewmembers) and production assistants worked with Ferguson. Other actors played accomplices and associates of Johnson and Fritz, and they played attendees of a movie opening who are suddenly surprised to find themselves in the middle of a bizarre robbery.

The mood was light, fun, high-energy and enjoyable all day long, as cast and crew continually joked, told stories and had a blast. At one point, the cast and crew sang Happy Birthday to one of the actors, whose birthday

See [FILM](#), page 5

### Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
[www.greenbeltumc.org](http://www.greenbeltumc.org) 301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor



Worship Service 10 a.m.  
Prepare the way for the Lord

### Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



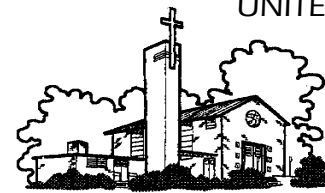
December 17 10 a.m.

"Music Service"

Music by our Choir and selected soloists, directed by David Chapman, Music Director.  
The Reverend Rachel Christensen, Minister; with Carla Miller, DMRE, and William Snyder, Worship Associate; Choir.

### Greenbelt Community Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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

Sunday Worship  
10:15 a.m.

Rev. Glenyce Grindstaff, Pastor



"Prejudices of any kind are the destroyers of human happiness & welfare." - Baha'i Writings

### Greenbelt Baha'i Community

1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918  
[Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com](mailto:Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com) [www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

### 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

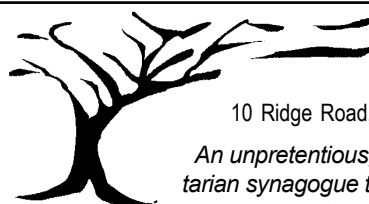
GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

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](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)



### Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:00 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.  
Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults.  
Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children.  
Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program.  
Opportunity for leadership development.  
Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors.  
Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities.  
Interfaith families are welcome.

Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS

Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.

**City Notes**

Planning staff prepared for city council's worksession on the former nursing home site regarding an NVR Inc. proposal for 60 townhome units.

Refuse/recycling/sustainability crews collected 27.33 tons of refuse and 13.73 tons of recyclable material.

The fleet maintenance crew installed a gun mount on Police Vehicle #872.

**CARES**

During the month of November, 15 families on average were seen for counseling at CARES. Sixty-three individuals on average came on a weekly basis, among whom 19 were 18 years of age and younger. Crisis intervention counselors saw 12 clients.

**FILM continued from page 4**

was on December 2, one of the scheduled filming days.

"I love filming in this theater," Ferguson said during a late-afternoon lunch break, eating a hot lunch provided by the New Deal Café, incidentally demonstrating the economic impact that film-making can have. "I couldn't ask for anything better."

Caitlin McGrath, the executive director of Old Greenbelt Theatre, couldn't ask for anything better, either, as she was immensely enjoying the experience of hosting a professional, working film crew at the theater. But this late-November and early-December filming was not the first time that a local production filmed at the Old Greenbelt Theatre, McGrath said.

The theater has had six small, independent television shows and films shot at the facility, McGrath said. The last production to shoot scenes at the theater – an independent production – just filmed there about one month ago.

"I think it's great," McGrath said, talking just outside her office at the theater as the film crew was about to wrap up shooting for the day on November 30. "It's fantastic to have the theater used in all sorts of different ways."

Filming, McGrath said, "is a great source of non-taxed revenue for us as a non-profit that helps us continue our diverse programming."

As for director Sam Ferguson, he said he hopes to have the film, after about 20 hours of filming and subsequent post-production work, completed in February, 2018. After that, he expects to enter Like or Subscribe in the film festival circuit where Ferguson and the cast and crew hope fame and fortune await this latest production.

*Matt Neufeld is a longtime Greenbelt resident and a career journalist who is currently the news editor for Carroll Publishing in Bethesda and a local actor and magician. He appeared as an actor in Like or Subscribe.*



# City Information

**GREENBELT COMMUNITY PLEDGE**

*"The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate people of many cultures, faiths, and races living together. By sharing together all are enriched. We pledge to foster a community which is respectful, safe, and fair for all people."*



**SCAMS AND FRAUD**

**Tuesday, December 19  
1-3pm  
Greenbelt Community Ctr.  
15 Crescent Road**

Come out to this free seminar and find out about Scams and Frauds that are taking place in and around our community. Learn about what steps you can take to avoid being victimized. This multimedia presentation is part of a Lecture Series sponsored by the Greenbelt Citizen's Police Academy and the Greenbelt Police Department.

For more information: George Mathews at 240-542-2116.

**LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE**



The City Public Works Department will again collect loose leaves with the leaf vacuum through January 12, 2018. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. Areas to be collected will be posted as in past years. We also remind residents not to park in front of leaf piles.

**WEEK OF:**  
December 19-23: Lakewood and Greenspring I & II  
December 26-29: Lakeside and Windsor Green  
January 2-5 and 8-12: All Areas

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

*Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.*  
There are currently vacancies on: Advisory Committee on Education, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board and Youth Advisory Committee.

**For information on how to apply call 301-474-8000.**

**AQUATICS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**GREENBELT AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER**  
101 Centerway, 301-397-2204

**IS LOOKING FOR SUMMER STAFF!**

**We Want You!**

**Certified Lifeguard, Pool Manager, and Swim Lesson**

**Instructor Positions available...**

**Apply at: <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs.aspx>**

- Must be at least 16 years old .
- Current certification is required in: Lifeguard Training, First Aid, CPR for the Professional Rescuer and Automated External Defibrillation .
- Pre-employment swim test is required.

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City Offices will be closed Monday, December 25, and Monday, January 1, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

**REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE**

Week of December 25 and January 1  
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, December 29, and Friday, January 5.

**GREENBELT CONNECTION**

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Monday, December 25, and Monday, January 1.

**MEETINGS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 18-22**

Monday, December 18 at 7:00pm, **EXECUTIVE SESSION re: Security** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Please see notice below meetings.

Monday, December 18 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Council Goals & Standing Rules** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming on [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Tuesday, December 19 at 5:30pm, **EMPLOYEE RELATIONS BOARD** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes for 9/28/17, 10/5/17, 10/12/17, 10/16/17, Board Meeting Schedule, Other Business*

Wednesday, December 20 - **NO MEETING**

Thursday, December 21 at 7:00pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. *On the Agenda: Drafting of Opposition Letter on SCMAGLEV Project, Discussion on AMT Forest Preserve Health Assessment – Goals and Recommendations – Status review – ordering of chapters, Section 5 (Invasive Species), Trails, and more, time permitting.*

**This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.**

**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

On Monday, December 18, 2017, the Greenbelt City Council will begin its work session at 7:00 p.m. rather than the previously scheduled 7:30pm so that the Greenbelt City Council may move to go into closed session as provided for below.

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, December 18th, 2017 in the City Council Room of the Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. Having determined that public discussion of City Council security would constitute a risk to themselves and the public, the purpose of this meeting will be to: discuss public security, including: i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans.

*\*The public may attend and observe the vote of Council to move into closed session on Monday, December 18th, 2017, at 7:00 pm.*

**YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORUM**

Monday, December 18 at 3:30pm  
Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Room 130

This forum is for Greenbelt youth that are interested in local government and want to get involved. Free snacks and refreshments.

**COME LEARN HOW YOU CAN MAKE A REAL CHANGE IN YOUR CITY!**

**This holiday season, consider making a Charitable Donation to City of Greenbelt's Agency Funds**



Consider donating at this time of year to the Agency Funds, which helps our neighbors in need. Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes.

**Donation areas include the following:**

**The Recreation Department:** funds used to support camp scholarships and special events.

**Greenbelt CARES Youth and Family Services Bureau:** the funds provide refreshments for the counseling sessions.

**The Good Samaritan Fund:** funds provide for out-of-town persons stranded in Greenbelt and monies for groceries for low income families with whom CARES is working.

**Emergency Assistance Fund:** funds assist Greenbelt residents at-risk of eviction.

**Advisory Committee on Education (ACE):** fund initiatives such as ACE scholarships.

**The Greenbelt Theater:** funds help keep the theater open.

**Spay and Neuter Clinic Agency Fund:** funds used to purchase supplies and equipment to perform cat and dog neuters at the shelter.

Checks may be made payable to the City of Greenbelt. Donors may direct their donation toward one or more of the agency funds. Donations are tax deductible and upon request a letter acknowledging your gift will be issued.

**Thank you to all residents who have contributed in years past. Happy Holidays!**

**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

## Zero Waste Tree Lighting Makes it Three in a Row

by Maryam El-Amin and Luisa Robles



PHOTO BY KATHY LABUKAS

**Tom Taylor, member of the Zero-waste Circle, and event participant Vanderlei Martins**

On Friday, December 1, the Community Tree Lighting Ceremony became a Zero-waste event for the third year in a row. Attendees savored free hot apple cider, hot cocoa, mandarin oranges and peppermint sticks as they enjoyed the lights and live music. Chris Cherry and other Recreation Department staff enthusiastically joined the effort and provided 100 percent compostable cups and cellophane wrappers for the snacks and drinks. Public Works provided the compost bins, bags and hauling. Members of the Greenbelt Green Team's Zero-waste Circle volunteered to help festival attendees place their trash in the correct bin, an easier feat than usual because most of the material belonged in only one category: compost!

After the event was over, almost 20 pounds of waste were diverted from the landfill to the Prince George's County Western Branch Composting Facility. Reducing the amount of waste that goes to the landfill is important because landfills require huge amounts of space and resources. All around the country, landfills are expanding and filling to capacity; this can rob resources from wildlife, cause environmental and public health problems and raise the cost of waste disposal. As the organic materials in landfills decompose anaerobically, they produce methane, a greenhouse gas that warms the planet many more times than carbon dioxide. By composting, we not only reduce human-caused methane emissions, but also allow organic materials to return to the earth, "closing the loop" in the carbon cycle. Composting results in rich, natural soil that retains water, allows for airflow and controls erosion from harmful stormwater runoff.

In short, composting prevents human-caused methane emissions and recycles the carbon in our food waste and other organics back into the soil, where it enriches it to produce more

and better quality food, and a better soil structure that withstands erosion. You can try this at home, or participate in one of the soon-to-come city-wide composting programs. The more, the merrier. If you want to purchase a discounted compost bin, email Public Work's Sustainability Coordinator Luisa Robles (lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov).

Greenbelt's Zero-waste Circle is part of the Green Team under the Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC) program. The City of Greenbelt ranked second of all SMC cities in 2014, and remains so in 2017. Volunteer to help at future efforts by volunteering with the Greenbelt Zero-waste Circle. Contact Maryam El-Amin (Mel-amin@greenbeltmd.gov) for more information.

### Patuxent Research Refuge Doings

Raptors Reign. On Saturday, December 16 from 1 to 3 p.m., the refuge will host a drop-in program for all ages, no registration required. Special guest and licensed falconer Rodney Stotts will share the power of nature through discussions and up-close encounters with birds of prey.

The refuge and grounds will be closed on Monday, December 25, re-opening with normal business hours on Tuesday, December 26;. Will be closed Monday, January 1.

## DRIVER continued from page 1

books, uses online resources, looks at maps and other diagrams and, depending on the topic, brings in objects found outdoors.

Driver's dedication and team spirit inspired Principal Rhonda Clomax to choose her as one of the two teachers to represent Turning Point Academy during the News Review's Education Week series. Clomax praised her, saying "Ms. Driver and Mr. Jenkins are truly team players here at Turning Point Academy. There is not a task that I can ask of them that they are not willing to comply with. They are a part of the Administrative Leadership team, team leaders for their respective grade level teams. Additionally, they volunteered to mentor new teachers through the New Teachers Academy. They are truly the epitome of our motto, One Team, One Goal, No Limits."

Driver's enthusiasm for teaching is evident in how she goes the extra mile for her students – sometimes literally. When the class covered a unit on the earth's surface and erosion, she drove to a wetland area near Ft. Meade and took photos for the class to study as part of their investigative learning.

Some of the investigations take them out of the classroom. To study friction they took a field trip to a roller rink. The class

### PTA Seeks Donations For Student Mural

Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) seeks corporate and individual donations for a mural project next year.

With support from the Prince George's County Arts & Humanities Council and the Greenbelt Association for the Visual Arts, the GES PTA will be installing a 10x24 foot mural on the front of the school in 2018. The mural will have a nature theme and the school's Green School certification. This project is the first of its kind for a Greenbelt school.

Approximately 200 students, local muralist Valerie Theberge, and GES art teacher Zsolt Nagy, will create the mural over the school year. Teachers will integrate writing and math lessons related to the mural theme.

Contact Lauren Cummings, PTA president, for information at greenbeltespta@gmail.com.

skated across different surfaces, built models of skates with Styrofoam and toothpicks and then skated for an hour.

Turning Point Academy's annual Character Presentation is one of the highlights of the year for Driver and her students. One year the theme was Truth and Honesty and Driver's class performed a poetry slam for the whole school. The latest theme was Curiosity, a topic perfect for her investigators. They held an open debate for an audience of parents. One student, an aspiring nuclear physicist, was curious about time travel. Another student speculated that making clocks go faster could make time travel possible. The first child was not convinced by this. The class debated back and forth, honing critical thinking and reasoning skills, as they had so often in Driver's class.

As shown time and time again, Driver throws herself wholeheartedly into every subject she teaches, evident by the care she's spent hanging teaching aids and decorations around her classroom. A huge wooden throne – decorated with purple and red paint – stands in one corner of the room. She explained that she uses it for guided reading. "I really get into character when I'm in that chair – with different voices for different characters."

Driver goes above and beyond her classroom duties, attending recitals, track meets and other activities at the invitation of her students' parents. Driver said the parents have been very supportive and excited to have their children in her class. "It's pretty cool to have the parents welcome you into their personal life as well," she said.

Teaching can be exhausting some days, but Driver says seeing her students' progress keeps her inspired. She said that what keeps her going is "knowing that I need to be here to educate them. These are my students and I have to be here for them."

## Local Poet's Signing Saturday, Dec. 23

Katerina (Kat) Sanders of Platteau Place and graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School Class of 2014, currently attending Brigham Young University in Utah, has just published a book of poetry, *Reflections on the Savior*. The poems were inspired by her deepened relationship with Jesus Christ during her 18-month mission in the Colorado Springs Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Most of her time during her mission was spent in Pueblo, Colo. Sanders wanted to share her poems with the hope that readers, through her poems, will come to feel peace and joy and the special and true love that God has for them.

Sanders's book is available on Apple iTunes, Kobo, amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and Facebook. She will be at This is the Place Bookstore, 103335 Kensington Parkway in Kensington on Saturday, December 23 from 11 a.m. to noon for a book signing and reading of selected poems.



PHOTO BY BEASY SANDERS

**Katerina Lucie Sanders shows off her recently published book of poetry, *Reflections on the Savior*.**



### FALL GUTTER CLEANING SCHEDULE

Gilbert Construction, DCG Gutter Cleaning and Apple 1 Enterprises are the contractors performing GHI's fall gutter cleaning and inspections.

The week beginning December 18<sup>th</sup> - December 22<sup>nd</sup>, work will be in this approximate area (weather permitting):

#### Frame Homes

9 Court Hillside Road to 14 Court Hillside Road  
1 Court Research Road to 9 Court Research Road

#### Brick Homes

2 Court Hillside Road to 6 Court Hillside Road  
1 & 2 Court Woodland Way

During that time, workers will be on ladders around buildings. Please close your window shades to preserve your privacy.

You may contact Peter Joseph at (301) 474-4161 ext. 141 or email [pjoseph@ghi.coop](mailto:pjoseph@ghi.coop) if you have any questions or comments.

### Just in time for Christmas gift giving ...

Katerina Sanders's book of poems, *Reflections on the Savior*, is available at the Apple iTunes store, Kobo, amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, and via Facebook. She will be at **This is the Place Bookstore**, 103335 Kensington Parkway, in Kensington, on **Saturday, December 23rd from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm** for a book signing and to read a selection of her poems.

**Holiday Loans**

WITH  
**Greenbelt Federal Credit Union**  
(301)-474-5900  
[www.greenbeltfcu.com](http://www.greenbeltfcu.com)

As low as 5% APR!

Our holiday loans are here to help you cover all of your holiday shopping needs!

APR= annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit.

**JENKINS** continued from page 1

Jenkins enjoys teaching more students, saying, "Previously I had 25 kids, but now I'm blessed with 75."

The number one rule in Jenkins's class is to have fun – and they do. Hands-on activities and station rotations keep the class actively engaged. The class has used tacos and banana splits to learn sequential order and draws on the desks with dry erase markers to create Venn diagrams. "It comes right off," Jenkins said.

Jenkins explained his teaching style saying, "I believe in differentiating instruction and teaching to multiple levels at a time, so that you can reach all students. If you teach at only one level, you will leave some students behind and not challenge others."

This year, Jenkins is most excited about "see[ing] them move from basic level to above average in terms of their reading abilities. They are very smart, but lack stamina to read and answer questions based on the reading. I'm eager to see their growth and the progress they can make and my students are equally excited to monitor their own progress."

Even though his students are only in fourth grade, both Jenkins and Turning Point Academy expect excellence from them and want to prepare them for the adult world. The school focuses on character development and college preparation, and Jenkins doesn't have a lot of rules – for example, there are no rules about when to use the restroom.

Preparing the children for adulthood also involves teaching them how to process complex topics from both literature and history. They also study important events and recently covered the events of 9/11. Jenkins said that his students weren't even born before 9/11 and didn't know much about it. The class went on a trip to the Newseum and were able to view photos from that day and see pieces of metal from the buildings.

When discussing difficult topics with kids, Jenkins focuses on how the information is presented. "It's about delivery and letting them ask questions." He tells his class, "This is something that happened. These are obstacles we faced but we survived it. We moved on." He said, "Parents are able to offer insight to support things we discuss in the classroom and that has helped a lot too. We have fire drills and active shooter drills and it helps them to understand why we do the things we do and the seriousness of these drills."

In addition to his full-time duties as a teacher, Jenkins also serves Turning Point Academy on the Instructional Leadership Team and as part of the New Teachers Academy. Turning Point's Principal Rhonda Clomax said that Jenkins's team spirit led her to choose him as one of the two teachers to represent the school in this education week article series. "Ms. Driver and Mr. Jenkins are truly team players here at Turning Point Academy." She said, "There is not a task that I can ask of them that they are not willing to comply with. They are a part of the administrative leadership team, team leaders for their respective grade level teams. Additionally, they volunteered to mentor new teachers thru the New Teachers Academy. They are truly the epitome of our

motto, "One Team, One Goal, No Limits."

Jenkins also discussed his work with the New Teachers Academy, a program that provides mentors and a strong support system to teachers that are new to the school and to the profession. "I'm excited to see the development the new teachers will have over this year," he said. "We did a survey with observations and developed a program based on their needs. Teachers who do not need as much mentorship are invited to become part of the program supporting new teachers. At the end of the year we will do a survey to see what we can change next year." This last step is important, as Jenkins says the sign of a great teacher is that "they are always reflective on ways they can improve."

Jenkins has worked with a range of grade levels throughout his career but says he prefers third and fourth grade. "At that age, students are gaining their independence and parents are still pretty actively involved. I also like the elementary grades because it's a time when you can really leave a remarkable impression," he said. "You are building the foundation for their education. I love these years because some of them still believe in fairy tales and super heroes."

He realizes the importance of connection and sacrifices more than just his lunch hour. "I am a rarity at this level of education, being a male teacher," he said. "I share with my parents 'If there are any activities, any student basketball games, etc., that you'd like to invite me to attend, I'll come.'"

He enjoys being involved with their lives. Jenkins shared one of his favorite moments, "One of my students plays football and he wanted to show me some clips. I got to look at his clips and photos and visit with him and I could tell he enjoyed that conversation. Other kids who were also on the team came over to see the photos and we all bonded over that mere interaction."



**A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

**December 8 - 17**  
**\$15 Adult, \$12 Students, Senior, Military**  
**\$10 Group Rates 10 or more!**

**First Baptist Church of Hyattsville**  
**Call 240-565-4144 for ticketing information!**  
**Santa will be visiting at each performance!**  
**Presented by Wolf Pack Theatre Company, Community Crisis Services and First Baptist**

**NEED CAR KEYS?**  
 (including keyless entry fobs)

**SMALL STORE, BIG SAVINGS!**  
**BELTWAY HARDWARE**

**37 Years' Experience**      **Beltway Plaza Mall**  
**Family Owned**              **301-345-2662**  
**Unbeatable Prices & Service**

**COUNCIL** continued from page 1

**Presentations**

Herling appeared before council in his as vice president of the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club. He presented a check to City Manager Nicole Ard representing the club members donations to the city's Emergency Relief Fund. The fund is administered by Greenbelt CARES for the city and can provide short-term assistance to individuals or families facing immediate evictions. Other organizations and Greenbelt residents are encouraged to contribute as well.

Director of Public Works Jim Sterling was present to receive a proclamation on behalf of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (GreenACES) in recognition of America Recycles day on November 15. He reported that the city's diversion rate for recycling is now up to 58 percent, well on the way to the goal of 60 percent by 2020. Among other activities, Sterling mentioned a TerraCycle center that is being established for residents to drop off materials that are not eligible for recycling but can be repurposed to make new products. He also noted that the department is investigating proposals related to solar panels at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Also under the presentations section of the meeting, Chief Benjamin Barksdale, the relatively new Prince George's County fire chief, was introduced and welcomed. In addition, the city's communications coordinator, Beverly Palau, received a proclamation recognizing the month of November as Municipal Government Month.

**Community Pledge**

What initially appeared to be a simple request during this time of national political turmoil to reaffirm the city's Community Pledge through adoption of a resolution, ended up generating a long and rather contentious discussion. The disagreement was not about the pledge itself but rather one of the statements in the resolution, which indicated that in founding Greenbelt, the federal government "instituted policies and practices intended to foster a community tolerant of ethnic and religious diversity."

Some found that statement to be accurate in expressing the intention in 1937 to represent in Greenbelt a diversity of religions and national and cultural ethnic

origins. Others thought the failure to include African Americans as eligible residents of the new town obviated that goal. Councilmember Judith Davis pointed out that it had been more than 15 years since the pledge itself had been reexamined for possible updating. After much discussion, it was eventually agreed to refer the matter to the Community Relations Advisory Board, which had originally developed the pledge.

**Hate Crimes**

Sergeant Seung Lee of the Police Department reported briefly to council regarding an incident involving racial graffiti, which is being treated as a hate crime, in a building on Walker Drive. Unfortunately, according to Lee, the incident had probably occurred at least a month previous to its discovery. The racial slur was on the wall of an elevator that had subsequently been covered by padding for protecting items during a move. In addition, no cameras were located near the elevator. Lee said video from other parts of the building was being examined and efforts were being made to determine if any similar crimes had been committed in the area. According to Lee there have been seven incidents of hate crimes involving various targeted groups over the last four years.

**Cedars of Lebanon**

The restaurant planning to open at the west end of Roosevelt Center requested approval from the city to undertake renovations on the south side of the building to install an additional door in place of a window. Both the city planning staff and the Advisory Planning Board supported the plan with several conditions. Although neither the

business owner nor the contractor had presented any objections and some of the conditions had already been complied with, some councilmembers objected to a requirement limiting window coverings. It was agreed to change the condition to apply only to permanent window coverings, with further changes being subject to the approval of the city.

**Other Matters**

Council discussed its legislative priorities for presentation to the state and county delegations at its upcoming meeting.

Several requests were made of council under the Petitions and Requests section of the meeting. Regarding pursuit of contractors for solar work, resident Molly Lester urged that the city be sure that enough time is allowed in the bid process for thorough evaluation of credentials.

Resident Keith Chernikoff asked for follow-up on a request he made some time ago about repair to a rebound wall on the tennis courts.

Resident Bill Orleans repeated his request for fewer executive sessions and more information to be provided about the meetings after the fact.

Theodora Scarato raised a concern regarding the county's rewrite of the zoning ordinance and its treatment of acceptable locations for wireless communication towers. It was recommended that she attend the upcoming worksession on the zoning rewrite, where these matters are being discussed.



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# Readers Views on Maglev

## Embrace the Maglev

I attended the SCMaglev public scoping event at Bowie State University in October. I also attended a Greenbelt City Council worksession with several officials from the Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) firm held here at our Community Center (October 11). There were over 14 such regionally held public meetings from December 2016 through October 2017. See the SCMaglev.info site.

The event at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (November 27) arranged by Delegate Alonzo Washington (referenced in the December 7 article by James Giese) was not an impartial meeting. I had no interest in attending what turned out to be an opposition rally. As Giese pointed out, two of the four panelists were not even from this district (22) and were from the Bowie-centered 'Stop the Train' group.

The proposed Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev high speed rail project is needed for a number of reasons:

1.) This project will complement our existing rail and mass transit systems; especially if SCMaglev is eventually completed to New York City and Boston, and perhaps south to Richmond and major urban areas of North Carolina. Our nation needs to upgrade and improve our infrastructure and this project can be just one of these efforts.

2.) A vibrant regional economy depends on diverse modes of transportation. New businesses and companies will take into consideration a region's diversity of transportation when considering where to locate or place their headquarters. Depending solely on air travel, automobiles and slower rail transportation can be problematic during weather events, fuel shortages, price fluctuations and other emergencies.

3.) The SCMaglev magnetic levitation linear propulsion system is much more 'green' than conventional fossil fuels-based rail systems such as AMTRAK and MARC, which use diesel. We must begin to implement non fossil fuels-based rail transportation, that have little or no emissions, as Japan and China are beginning to do.

4.) The U.S. needs to implement new technologies and utilize advances in the sciences by developing proven new modes of transportation, resulting in projects that also create employment opportunities for college students that specialize in engineering and the sciences (STEM). Several thousand jobs will be filled with the operation and maintenance of the SCMaglev. Also, new spin-off industries may arise from this project.

5.) As the U.S. population increases and urban areas enlarge, our increasingly congested urban highways and longer lines at airports will become more burdened and trips may require more time. The high speed and shortened travel times of a SCMaglev from city center to city center have advantages over east coast air travel and traffic-laden freeways, thus saving citizens, tourists, business people and other officials time, wear and tear.

Greenbelt city officials and many residents are opposed to all three proposed routes of the

SCMaglev project based on concern of the westernmost route (J1) intruding into park and open spaces within the city boundaries. However, their concerns with noise, dividing the community, quality of life issues and impacting wildlife are unfounded, if either of the (E or J) routes are selected. The two proposed E and J routes would not go through Greenbelt. The J route would be tunneled beneath Greenbelt East. The E route would be east of NASA and the Patuxent Research Refuge. The above-ground portions (and egress portals) of both E and J would be outside (north) of Greenbelt city limits and east of the B-W Parkway, and thus well away from Greenbelt's residential and forested parklands and recreational areas.

Embrace the 21st century greener high speed rail transportation that SCMaglev offers.

Robert Snyder

## Stop This Train

Flying under the radar so far like it might be flying under half of Greenbelt is this maglev scheme that runs two of its proposed routes right through our city.

One route is through a tunnel 70' deep next to our high school, which needed extensive structural reinforcement about 20 years ago, and to have it undermined would certainly hurt it. This potential J-1 route runs under homes in Windsor Green and Schrom Hills as well.

And for what? So people in D.C. (the train would not even stop in Prince George's County) could blow through our town at 300 miles per hour, shot like a cannonball out of the ground where our Northway ballfields, observatory and forest preserve would be destroyed?

Buck Rogers notwithstanding, Greenbelt does not need this intrusion. The disruption caused by the construction of this thing, it's operation (eight trains per hour, the startle factor of it flying by, noise, ground-mounted ventilators, maintenance access shafts and so forth) would severely and negatively impact our town.

Check out this website to learn more: StopThisTrain.org. Bowie has mobilized to keep it out. We need to do the same.

Frank Gervasi

## Dearth of Maglev Information

I was hoping to find out information about the maglev train from the article in the December 7, 2017 News Review. However, it had nothing about the train, but everything about how to organize a NIMBY revolt without looking like it.

I am sure there must be legitimate concerns and benefits around maglev, but from what was presented in the News Review, this meeting had more than a whiff of anti-maglev echo-chamber. Therefore, I am not surprised no one from proponents decided to come. The math of a 100-120 feet deep tunnel that is 43 feet in diameter is unclear whether 100 feet is the top, middle or bottom of the tunnel. The half of the people who use Metro in the audience are getting way more magnetic field from the third rail than birds will get from a buried maglev.

The concern for Metro improved funding is very important, but I could not follow the argument that maglev, yes or no, would have any bearing on it. In general, we can hope for more light and less heat on this subject, soon.

Joseph Lomax

**Editor's Note:** We had an informational article (the second in a series) available for publication last week, but not enough space to use it.



Dorothy is played by 13-year-old Loraine Hamlett. The production of *The Wizard of Oz* continues at Greenbelt Arts Center through December 17.

PHOTO BY JON GARDNER

## MAGLEV continued from page 1

in 1985 became a popular site at the Tsukuba Exposition, even though its speed was 19 mph. Its successor, the HSST-04 revealed at the Saitama exhibition in 1988, recorded a speed of 190 mph.

The second is a Superconducting maglev (SCMaglev) under development by the Central Japanese Railway Company since 1968. It has attained speeds of up to 321 mph. This still-experimental train is the prototype for the Baltimore-Washington proposal.

### Prototype

In a CNBC April 19 on-line report with video clip, "What it's like to hold Japan's super train golden ticket," reporter Akiko Fujita states that it will be 10 years before the Japanese SCMaglev line will be completed. Planned to run over a 215-mile stretch between Tokyo and Nagoya in 40 minutes, there is now only a 25-mile test track built 20 years ago, Fujita says. Rides are offered to the public some 40 times a year and there is a lottery for eager Japanese to buy seats. Other crowds watch the train from an observation site. Fujita says most of the track is in a tunnel and not visible.

In 1993, Korea completed the development of its own maglev train, shown off at the Taejŏn Expo '93, which was developed further into a full-fledged maglev capable of travelling up to 68 mph in 2006. This final model was incorporated in the Incheon Airport Maglev which opened on February 3, 2016. This unmanned train line is 3.8 miles long and rides are offered free of charge.

### Shanghai

The Shanghai Maglev train,

also known as the Transrapid, was developed in Germany. It is the fastest commercial train currently in operation and has a top speed of 270 mph. The line connects Shanghai Pudong International Airport with the outskirts of Shanghai, covering a distance of 19 miles in 7 minutes, 20 seconds.

In an article, "Shanghai's 430 kph. train benefits wider economy," in the January 4 on-line edition of *The National*, a publication in the United Arab Emirates, Richard Smith reports that the line cost \$1.2 billion to build, much higher than originally planned, because shifting soil required building twice as many columns to support the trestle. Smith also reports that passenger ridership has been 20 percent of capacity.

"Such low levels are attributed to limited operating hours, the short length of the line, high ticket prices and the fact that it terminates at Longyang Road in Pudong – another 20 minutes by subway from the city centre," Smith reports.

### Maryland History

According to the maglev article in Wikipedia and other sources, back in the 1990s the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century empowered the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to establish a National Magnetic Levitation Transportation Technology Deployment Program that was to provide a demonstration project of about 40 miles in length. The federal government was to put up \$1 billion

See [MAGLEV](#), page 9



### PRELIMINARY AGENDA

**GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Thursday, December 21, 2017  
GHI ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- A. GHI Executive Session – Begins at 7:00 p.m.**
- Business Owners' Insurance Policy Renewal - 2nd reading
  - Contract for Pre-sale Repairs to 12-B Hillside - 2nd reading
  - Member Financial Matters
  - A Member Complaint Matter
- B. GDC Executive Session**
- Approve Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting Held on November 15, 2017 Business Owners' Insurance
- C. GDC Open Session – Begins at 7:30 p.m.**
- Approve Minutes of the Open Session Meeting Held on November 2, 2017
  - Approve Minutes of the Open Session Meeting Held on November 15, 2017
- D. GHI Open Session**
- Expenditure Authorization for the 2017 Operating Budget- 2nd reading
  - Companion Animal Committee's Semi-annual Report
  - Companion Animal Committee's Report on the Use of Rodenticides and Other Poisons by Members
  - Status of Additions with Non-conforming Foundations that are not on the Addition Maintenance Program



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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police)  
 Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

## Robbery

November 30, 12:23 p.m., 8200 block Mandan Court. A man using social media agreed to purchase a camera and meet the seller in Greenbelt East to complete the transaction. When the buyer arrived at the location, two men asked to see the money. They then assaulted and punched him and threatened him with a knife. They fled on foot after getting the money. The buyer was not injured.

December 3, 8:40 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. A man approached a food delivery person from behind, punched him, took the food and fled on foot. The delivery person was not injured.

## Theft

November 29, 9:40 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. A large package was taken from the front of an apartment door.

November 30, 12:09 p.m., 9000 block Breezewood Terrace. Money was taken from a purse in a residence.

November 30, 2 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt road. An unattended purse was taken from a shopping cart at Big Lots.

December 2, 10 a.m., 7400 Morrison Drive. A charcoal grill was taken from the patio of a residence.

## Trespass

December 4, 6:54 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A 21-year-old resident was arrested and charged with trespass after he was located on the grounds of Beltway Plaza after having been banned from the mall by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

## Burglary

November 30, 5:59 p.m., 6200 block Springhill Court. A 14-year-old Greenbelt youth and a 14-year-old nonresident youth were arrested and charged with burglary and trespass by officers responding to a report of a burglary in progress. Each was released to guardians pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

December 4, 2:51 a.m., 6200 block Greenbelt Road. Officers responded to a report of an alarm sounding at Boston Market and found the glass front door had been broken out and a safe and money had been taken.

## Vandalism

December 4, 4:43 a.m., 9100 block Edmonston Court. A rock was used to break out the bedroom window of a vacant apartment.

## Vehicle Crime

A white 2005 Cadillac Escalade SUV with Md. tags 6BR7009 was stolen from the 6100 block Breezewood Court on December 5.

A 2013 BMW 528i reported stolen September 16 from the 7400 block Greenbelt Road was recovered December 6 by Maryland State police in the 12500

block Southern Boulevard in Dunkirk.

Five tires and rims were taken from each of two vehicles in the 8000 block Mandan Road and four tires and rims from one vehicle in the 100 block Westway, all on December 1.

Two rear tags were stolen, Md 3AL6048 from the 7400 block Frankfort Drive and Md. T317363 from the 8000 block Mandan Road.

Documents were taken from an unlocked vehicle in the 9100 block Springhill Lane and a wallet from the 6000 block Springhill Drive.

## Free Lymphedema Support Group

On Monday, December 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. Doctors Community Hospital will hold a free education and support meeting for those combating lymphedema. The meeting will take place on the 5th floor of the North Building. To register call 301-552-8144.

## Astronomical Society Invites Students

There is an opportunity to attend the American Astronomical Society's annual conference at National Harbor in January. It's free for middle/high school students with reservations.

The American Astronomical Society, the nation's most prestigious professional astronomy organization, will be holding its 231st Annual Meeting from January 7 to 12 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

During the conference, there will be a free Student Astronomy Outreach Event targeted towards middle and high school students. Local student groups, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program participants, home schoolers, families and camps are invited to the event on Wednesday, January 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on demonstrations and speak with world famous scientists and engineers at the forefront of astronomy research.

Student groups and individual families can make reservations at [aas.org/students](http://aas.org/students).

Read about the success of this program in other cities at [aas.org/meetings/aas227/epo\\_article](http://aas.org/meetings/aas227/epo_article)

This event is underwritten through a sponsorship from Associated Universities, Inc. There is funding available for transportation if needed.

For questions or to make a reservation, contact Debbie Kovalsky, AAS/DPS exhibits and sponsor coordinator, 202-328-2010 x110.

# MAGLEV continued from page 8

and twice as much was expected to come from other sources. FRA selected seven projects for study in 1999 and made a Baltimore-Washington project and one in Pittsburgh the two semi-finalists.

The project received federal approval for a continued funding study in January 2001. A draft EIS was issued and public hearings on it were scheduled for December 2003 and online comments were to be accepted until January 30, 2004. That study came to a halt and no final EIS was issued after the Maryland legislature enacted a law in 2004 prohibiting the state from spending any money in any way on a maglev project.

## Revitalized

On November 3, 2014, Max Smith of WTOP television reported that the effort for a northeast corridor maglev line had been revitalized with a new advisory board being formed that was to be led by former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle and to include former governors Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania, George Pataki of New York and Christine Todd Whitman of New Jersey, along with former secretaries of transportation Rodney Slater and Mary Peters and Under Armour's founder, Kevin Plank. Smith reported that the group claimed to have raised \$50 million in addition to other funding streams. The group also hoped to get financial help from the federal government.

Two corporations were formed, the Northeast Maglev, LLC (TNEM) and Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail, LLC (BWRR), both led by Wayne L. Rogers, chair and CEO. TNEM promotes the development of a maglev line in the Northeast Corridor while BWRR is to build the first segment between Washington and Baltimore.

According to Bloomberg, Rogers is a former chair of the Maryland Democratic Party, has 27 years of experience in the renewable energy business and has led numerous energy-related corporations. He served as chair of Governor Martin O'Malley's Energy Transition Team and accompanied President William Clinton in his visit to India.

## Franchise

Tucker Echols reported earlier in a September 4, 2014, story for the Washington Business Journal that BWRR had applied to the Maryland Public Service Commission for a franchise to operate a railroad using the maglev technology. In its application, BWRR revealed that the Japanese government had committed to

provide \$5 billion (in financing) for the Baltimore Washington project. Echols also reported that the Central Japan Railway Company had agreed to transfer SC-Maglev technology to BWRR for its project without license fees.

BWRR's application for Transfer of Abandoned Railroad Case No. 9363 Franchise was made to the Maryland Public Service Commission. The commission's September 23, 2014 staff report said the application, "specifically requests that the Commission transfer the abandoned franchise of the former Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis Electric Railroad Company to BWR, to enable it to construct and operate a 'superconducting magnetic levitation ("MAGLEV") train," between Washington and Baltimore.

The original electric railroad franchise became bankrupt in 1935, but the Baltimore and Annapolis Railway was formed and picked up the franchise, operating train service between those two cities until the early 1980s, the staff reported. There was never any service to Washington. Staff questioned whether the commission had the authority to grant the request and said it would be better for the Maryland legislature to grant a new franchise. It also noted the legislature would need to act if the line were extended to Delaware, unless another abandoned franchise could be found.

The staff report also noted that the state had little to say in railroad construction, which is regulated by the federal government under the Surface Transportation Act. It concluded that, "The need for a delegation of the state's eminent domain authority is likely one of the primary reasons why BWR filed the instant Application . . . ."

The commission rendered approval on September 14.

## Federal Funding

At about the same time, on November 7, 2015, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation had awarded \$27.8 million in Federal Railroad Administration funds to support ongoing efforts by the private sector to bring SCMaglev trains to the Northeast region. The Maryland application for the federal grant was submitted in April with the understanding that the Japanese government would be a source of significant financial backing for the project, along with private sector support from BWRR, the press release said.

"The ability to travel between Baltimore and Washington, D.C.,

in only 15 minutes will be absolutely transformative, not just for these two cities, but for our entire state," Hogan was quoted as saying in the release.

On June 4, Hogan and Maryland Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn had joined executives from the Central Japan Railway Company and BWRR to ride the 27-mile-long Yamanashi Maglev Line located outside of Tokyo. That train had achieved a record-breaking 375 mph speed earlier that year, according to the press release.

"The experience of riding on SCMaglev was something that greatly exceeded my expectations," Rahn was quoted in the release. "Maryland will be on the leading edge of technology as the only state in the nation with the private-sector-led pursuit of SCMaglev."

The release also reported that during that trade mission Hogan and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed on a memorandum of cooperation between the State of Maryland and the Government of Japan, which included high-speed rail.

Because the federal grant application needed to come through a public agency, the Maryland Department of Transportation and the Maryland Economic Development Corporation applied on behalf of Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail, the release continued. Pursuing Federal Railroad Administration funding did not require state funding, nor did it come at the expense of other planned projects in the Maryland Department of Transportation's six-year capital program, the release said.

## Japan

The Associated Press posted a story by Brian Witte on August 25, 2016, reporting that Japan's ambassador to the U.S. said his country authorized \$2 million to support the feasibility study. Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae made the announcement after signing the memorandum of cooperation with Hogan, according to Witte.

The MTA EIS is now in its early stages. A series of public information meetings have been held by BWRR without state participation and other public meetings have been held by municipal jurisdictions and Maryland Delegate Alonzo Washington. The EIS does not determine whether the SCMaglev line will be built, but identifies what impacts there will be on the environment by each of the alternatives if built and what mitigation efforts can be done to minimize such impacts.

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# Greenbelt Elementary School Offers Russian to 400 of their Students

by Matt Arbach



PHOTO BY CLASSIC PHOTOGRAPHY & IMAGING

**Dani Sanders is a Russian language teacher at Greenbelt Elementary School.**

As students file into Dani Sanders' third-grade Russian language class at Greenbelt Elementary School (GES), they are singing a Russian song, clapping in rhythm. Later, the boys and girls, in their teams of tigers and cats, compete for points in a contest of pronunciation. As the students file out after the lesson, several do so with Russian rubles in hand for answering some quick last-minute questions. These, along with many other activities, are a daily regimen of the Russian program as taught by Sanders and Alexei Dmitriev.

According to the American Association of Teachers of Russian (AATR), the Russian program at GES is the largest public school Russian program in the nation. On a daily basis, teachers Sanders and Dmitriev see more than 400 students, 214 and 197 respectively.

Currently, the language is taught from kindergarten through third grade. Adding another teacher for grades four and five is a definite goal, says Sanders, as evidenced by the interest of the students and parents, who "love the program" and send emails and letters to the county school board asking for further instruction.

The GES program utilizes the immersion approach where, in this case, only Russian is used during class, with the occasional use of English for translation les-

son. A typical class uses a wide variety of tools to teach new skills and reinforce old ones. Arts integration is a strong element of instruction, with visual arts and singing being used often. Drawing and coloring exercises are paired with energetic songs that teach vocabulary and phrases. Students learn rhythmic chants as well, delivered with enthusiasm, as observed in Sanders' third-grade class.

Games are a large part of each lesson, where boys and girls teams – tigers and cats are their mascots – compete in reading, counting and pronunciation contests, which earn points for later rewards. Students also individually earn points, in the form of Russian rubles, for correct answers to questions. Classes are fast-moving and lively with quick transitions and well-practiced drills.

Sanders and Dmitriev work from a two-pronged teaching approach. They use the structure and direction from the county-authorized, world language curriculum, yet implement it through their own lessons and materials, there being no textbook for their program. Sanders' classroom is filled with artwork and posters created both by her and her students.

Sanders, who teaches second and third grades, has been teaching Russian in Prince George's County for 10 years, three of those years at GES. Prior to GES, she taught at Robert Goddard French Immersion in Greenbelt (now Dora Kennedy French Immersion). Born in Bulgaria, she received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2014 to study Russian at Moscow University.

She uses a "gradual layering, contextualized" approach, each lesson contributing to the general understanding of the language and culture. She stresses the positive effect of language skills on many other areas, such as analytical thinking and learning in general.

This is Dmitriev's first year at GES, where he teaches K through first grade. He is a native Russian. Before coming to GES, he taught college level at the U.S. Marine Base at Quantico, Va. He is also a freelance travel writer, working mostly in Russian and English.

According to Maria Flores, supervisor of world languages for Prince George's County schools, "the Russian Program at GES is growing fast. There is a lot

of interest in this program. It is not a common language for an elementary program." There is a plan to develop Russian for K through 12 in the county. Currently, Russian is also taught at Dora Kennedy French Immersion, Parkdale High School and Bowie High School. Flores says that "it is the goal of the county to prepare students to become biliterate" in order to "be ready for the new challenges of the 21st century."

In 2016, the Maryland Seal of Biliteracy Program was established by the Maryland General Assembly. According to the program's website, the seal "is an award from the Maryland State Board of Education that recognizes a student's high level of proficiency in speaking, reading and writing in English and one or more languages." The program is voluntary and the award requires scoring well on a series of exams. It is primarily achieved at the high school level and this year a total of 90 students have received the award.

Sanders echoed the importance of learning another language laid out in the program's purpose, this being to "prepare students with critical skills necessary to function in a global society," as well as to "strengthen cross-cultural communication, affirm the value of diversity and honor the multiple cultures and languages in our communities." Sanders sees her efforts as a way to build bridges and to foster strong relationships between peoples, regardless of nations and politics.

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## Lions Breakfast with Santa Draws a Capacity Crowd

by Butch Hicks

This year's pancake Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 2, part of the Festival of Lights, gave the Greenbelt Lions Club charities and community support a welcome boost. With more than 200 participants bringing children to share Christmas wishes with Santa (Lion Rick Jones), play with Leo the Lion (Rodrigo Santos, a junior at ERHS) and sing along with Christmas carols, the day was a huge success.

The Greenbelt American Legion's Hofberg Hall echoed with the happy squeals and laughter of children; the Hometown USA Chorus added additional Christmas festivity with caroling supported by sing-alongs. As the fundraising breakfast served by Eleanor Roosevelt High School student volunteers was consumed, merriment continued around the hall. Santa was hearing Christmas gift requests from children and posing for photographs.

Standing amid the din of children rushing around, caroling and parental shouts to youngsters, Greenbelt Lions Club President Harvey Hauptman said, "It is gratifying to see the level of participation here this year. Our Greenbelt Lions Club volunteers, who did everything from setting up the tables, preparing and serving food and assisting breakfast participants, made this event work."

The Greenbelt Lions Club will also provide gift wrapping at



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

**Sunny Francis makes her case with Santa for Christmas presents.**

Beltway Plaza Mall on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas Eve. Hauptman said that during the holiday season, Breakfast with Santa and holiday gift-wrapping are the Lions major fundraising efforts. "It all goes toward community support projects such as assisting those with vision and other disability issues," he said. "We also establish a toy collection for children by placing boxes around Greenbelt, such as those at the Co-op and the Library. These activities at this time and throughout the year help Greenbelt Lions volunteers meet the Lions International motto of 'We Serve'. The club meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at 6:45 p.m. at the American Legion Post 136.



PHOTO BY BUTCH HICKS

**Margaret Barton and two-year-old Ruby Lahart contribute to the Toys for Tots collection.**

## Gumdrop Co-op Celebrates Greenbelt's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

by Elizabeth Gardner

One of the highlights of the Arts and Craft Fair last weekend was the Gumdrop Co-op, which sold candy, school supplies and handmade cloth pouches in a variety of pretty patterns. The shop was run by a group of 12-year-old girls, many of whom participated in Creative Kids Camp during the summer, learning about the history of Greenbelt and performing in *The Cookie Caper*, a play featuring vignettes from life in 1937 Greenbelt. One of the songs in the show was about the Gumdrop Co-op, a school store that was run by and for children using the Greenbelt cooperative system.

Greenbelt's first schoolchildren created and ran a highly successful business, modeled after the other cooperative businesses in Greenbelt. It was officially called the Junior Cooperative Store, but it was nicknamed the Gumdrop Co-op. Participating children paid 10 cents for a stock certificate and a share in the school store. An article in the Greenbelt Co-operator from January 12, 1938, stated that the children "have organized their cooperative to sell school supplies, candy, and gum to themselves ... share capital is piling up; bylaws are being discussed and revised; animated posters are being created during art periods; and complicated questions about purchase rebates and interest on shares are being asked of teachers."

By December 8, the schoolchildren's business was so successful that the mothers of the PTA borrowed money from the Gumdrop Co-op to capitalize a school lunch program. The Co-operator reported, "They approached the Board of Directors and came out of the conference with a loan of \$20, and a great deal of admiration and respect for the self-help activities of their children."

The store thrived throughout Greenbelt's first school year and the next, despite having to share space with the school dentist, which apparently made no dent in candy sales. The Co-operator reported on June 22, 1939, that "the kids' 'Gum-Drop Co-op' closed its books with \$25.04 in their treasury ... a rebate of 10% was given to members on the last day of school."

In celebration of Greenbelt's 80th anniversary this year, several children took a page out of history and organized and ran their own Gumdrop Co-op at the craft fair. When asked how the experience was for them, the girls quickly chorused, "It was a lot of fun!" Though some of the sewing and organization was difficult, they did it all with their friends



PHOTO BY AMANDA LARSEN

**Linden Dirksen, Sabina Ramirez-Skolnik and Zoe Larsen offer a gift-wrapping service at the Festival of Lights craft fair.**

and learned a lot in the process. While running their stand at the fair, they dressed up in 1930s-style outfits and got to spend their weekend together, with the Greenbelt community contributing to the craft fair and raising awareness of Greenbelt's history of cooperative success. The Co-op was run by Zoe Larsen, Rebecca Schmidt, Julia Delehart, Cara Cantwell, Mila Shapiro, Sabina Ramierz-Skolnik, Zorah

Hudson, Bea McNabb, Linden Dirksen and Sophie Cooper.

*Elizabeth Gardner is a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. She is serving as an intern for the Greenbelt Legacy 80th Anniversary Celebration.*



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