



Captain Pracht retires, p.4



Summer Camps, p.7

More Exploring on Foot Trails

by Kyla Hanington

Part Two of a Series

Having now walked an entire 2.3 miles over the course of four days on behalf of the News Review and the good residents of Greenbelt, I did the next obvious thing I could: I signed up for a (virtual) half marathon for June 16. Obviously, I am totally ready to walk that. Still, there were parts of Greenbelt that remained unexplored and I guessed the extra conditioning wouldn't hurt, so off I continued.



Kyla Hanington

PHOTO COURTESY KYLA HANINGTON

Forest Preserve, which runs between the center of Greenbelt and the USDA farmlands, with access points off of Ridge Road, Laurel Hill, Plateau Place, Northway extended, Hamilton Place (and probably more). Out in the Forest Preserve I can once again imagine I am particularly hardy, the sort of person who might be asked to write an essay about walks, for example, a person who might build a lean-to by hand and befriend a bear, over-winter on a diet of dried

hardy, the sort of person who might be asked to write an essay about walks, for example, a person who might build a lean-to by hand and befriend a bear, over-winter on a diet of dried

The Forest Preserve
I always enjoy walking in the

See WALKS, page 11

Tim Houchens Retires from Public Works After 35 Years

by Melissa Sites

Tim Houchens worked for the City of Greenbelt for 35 years during an amazing time of growth and change. With Greenbelt Public Works from 1986 to 2021, Houchens held the title of Facilities Maintenance Manager while city facilities were improved, expanded or created anew, including the Police Station, the Aquatic & Fitness Center, Schrom Hills Park, the Community Center and the Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Jim Sterling, director of Public Works, said of Houchens, "He's seen in his time the city grow from four buildings to nine buildings now. He's been instrumental in getting them built and maintaining them. Tim will be remembered for his dedication, hard work and willingness to respond to emergencies. He's known for his relentless pursuit to get it



Tim Houchens

PHOTO COURTESY TIM HOUCHEMS

public buildings, because "Greenbelt runs all their own facilities, except the Firehouse and the Library." Public Works also maintains ballfields, tennis courts and underpasses. The lighting alone for the city's many public spaces is a major maintenance concern. He added, "The city takes care of the [Roosevelt] Center, even though it doesn't own the buildings."

Houchens was there when the Police Station was built. When Houchens first came to work for Greenbelt, the police were based in two trailers near City Hall, and he recalled how, over time, the force expanded from 20 officers to more than 60, plus support staff. Part of his job remodeling the city offices in 1990-91 included dismantling and removing

right and do a good job."

Houchens and his crew have maintained all the city-owned buildings, doing everything from major maintenance to minor maintenance. Houchens pointed out that Greenbelt is different from other cities who have fewer

See HOUCHEMS, page 9

Three Win GATe's Rose Awards for Best Videos



by Claude Aubert

Last week, Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) announced the winners of its first Rose Award for Best Greenbelt Community Video. When this contest was launched last year, the plan was to award the winner a prize of \$200. GATe's board, encouraged by the number of great submissions, decided to award prizes to the second and third place winners as well. GATe received a total of 19 qualified submissions for the 2020 contest.

The winning entry, Walking the Maglev Path, was submitted by Catherine Plaisant. The 3-minute video impressively shows the devastating impact the Maglev train would have on the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, if it were built. The second place went to Susan Harris for her video My Front Garden Makeover with Vines and Paint. The video tells the story of a makeover by Harris to the exterior of her 1937 block Greenbelt Homes Inc. rowhouse, using vines and beads to update the front yard and a new coat

of paint on the exterior of the house. The third prize went to Sally Davies for Labyrinth of Life. A local artist, Davies created this 2-minute time-lapse film of one of her award-winning works by photographing her canvas repeatedly as she painted.

GATe station manager Phoebe McFarb commented: "I wasn't sure what to expect when we started this contest, what kinds of videos we would receive and how many. In the end, I was pleased to see we'd gotten quite a few and I was so impressed by the creativity of the submissions. I love that the three winning vid-

eos showcase such different styles of content. The first year of the Rose Award was a resounding success and I'm looking forward to seeing all the video submissions we will get this year."

Congratulations to all the Rose Award winners and a big thank you to all participants, as well as the three judges, Chris Haley, Holly Fountain and Leta Mach. The winners received a certificate and a check - \$200 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$50 for third place.

The prize-winning videos can be viewed on the GATe website, greenbeltaccess.tv/rose-award.



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

The FEMA-sponsored Covid-19 vaccination clinic at Greenbelt Metro holds a soft-open on Tuesday, April 6, with the full opening scheduled for April 7. The clinic tents take up at least one third of the metro parking lot, though there is still plenty of space for cars. All parking fees are waived and access is good from both the Cherrywood Lane entrance and the Beltway. Patrons report that FEMA is using the Pfizer vaccine and that the line moved quickly.

Budget 2022

City Revenues Weather Covid-19 Year Better than Expected

by Diane Oberg

The City of Greenbelt revenues survived the coronavirus-related shutdowns and capacity limits surprisingly well in the current fiscal year (FY21) and are projected to rebound slightly in the fiscal year beginning July (FY22). The adopted budget for FY21 anticipated \$29.623 million and staff estimate that revenues are now at \$29.599 million, down \$1.2 million from actual revenues in FY20. For FY22, the city is projecting total revenues of \$31.310 million.

It is possible the city could receive funds from the American Rescue Plan although it is not yet

clear how much. Councilmember Judith Davis noted that any revenue received could not be used to cut the city's tax rate.

Farewell

Before immersing themselves in the budget, council and staff took a moment to recognize the work of Assistant City Manager David Moran and to wish him well in his retirement. City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon, noted that he knows "everything" about the budget and that she will miss him. Mayor Colin Byrd jokingly referred to the recommendation

See BUDGET, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, April 12
8 p.m. City Council Meeting

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER STERLING

Children enjoy activities with the Easter Bunny on Monday, March 29 at Schrom Hills Park, during Greenbelt Recreation's Hopping Around Town. See more photos, page 12.

Letters to the Editor

Front Page 4/1

☺ Well done, News Review, well done!

Colette Zanin

Fools Rush In . . .

Loved loved LOVED last week's Greenbelt News Review, especially the map on Page 1. Made me want to update my Zillow listing for my home that I was not planning to sell anytime soon. "Upcoming bucolic waterfront property! Soon to be just across the B-W Parkway pedestrian bridge from the new Greenbelt Maglev station."

I could list the house for double its market value . . . and find a NoVa buyer self-absorbed enough to find it a bargain and buy it "as is." Ka-ching!

Aref Dajani

You Got Me!

I picked up last Thursday's edition of the News Review and my eyes immediately fell on the maglev story. I skimmed the first paragraph then got to where maglev officials said that "trains zipping along the elevated guideway will bring 'new energy' to impoverished communities along the route." I could read no longer. I was irate! How could these idiots consider Greenbelt impoverished? I was so upset I didn't pick the paper back up until Saturday, and upon reading through the paper a bit more I realized that I'd been had. Kudos to the staff at Greenbelt News Review! I had a good laugh. Keep up the excellent work.

Tim Uber

Thanks

I want to thank all of you dear Greenbelt friends who have reached out to me and my family after the death of my husband, Bill Duncan.

Your kindness, love and care are so appreciated.

We hope to have a memorial service in the summer when it will hopefully be safer to gather.

If you would like to make a donation in Bill's name, consider one of the following:

- Greenbelt Community Foundation, greenbeltfoundation.org/donate-now/

- Cedar Ridge Community Church, [Ipala Guatemala Fund](http://IpalaGuatemalaFund.org/our-guatemalan-partners/)

- Our Guatemalan Partners, Cedar Ridge Community Church. Donation link pushpay.com/g/crcspencerville. Under Give please select Guatemala.

With grateful appreciation,

Shobha Duncan

Consider Other Current Realities

This letter is written in response to the letter to the editor in the March 25 issue, Current Realities of GATE. In sum, we believe the "disaster" of the annual meeting described, was overstated. Yes, there were technical challenges (Zoom passcode) and some procedural issues (non-private voting), and feel the decision by the board to postpone the meeting was a wise one. The March 25 letter uses this one short meeting, and a claim that some board member(s) were unfamiliar with the bylaws (at the previous meeting), to conclude that: "GATE is not able to

serve our community well." This statement does not seem to take into account the full spectrum of GATE's purpose. GATE's mission is to provide public access and training on video equipment, as well as provide educational content for the GATE television station and YouTube channels. In addition, GATE supports the Utopia Film Festival, which is one of Greenbelt's gems. Perhaps the authors have not seen the Black history and Woman's history content created by the talented staff at GATE in the last two months.

We are happy to see the increased interest in the station, and hope the many new GATE members check the "current realities" of the channel at greenbeltaccessstv.org and the GATE YouTube channel, rather than basing their opinion on one meeting. Hopefully the next meeting will go forward without a great deal of drama, and the election will be conducted so that at least the majority of members are satisfied. Meanwhile, GATE will continue to serve the community.

Neil McConlogue
Derrick Early

GHI HIP

The article in last week's News Review about GHI's Homes Improvement Program was excellent on the whole, but I disagreed with two of the statements made.

First, the article describes the mini-split heat pump as providing "supplemental heat." Since we've had ours installed, we've been able to heat the entire house with just the living room unit, sometimes assisted on chillier days by turning on the dining room baseboard heater. Admittedly, we've only had ours for about a month, but all of my fellow GHIs I've talked to about this have said that they get through the winter relying entirely or almost entirely on the mini-split.

Second, the article describes

the mini-split as "the most expensive member option." For those of us for whom adding insulating siding was an option, it was over a third more expensive than the mini-split, though well worth it – our electricity usage dropped by close to half.

On the other hand, I am definitely among the GHI members who give HIP Director Joe Wiehagen high marks. He's very hands-on, stopping by regularly to make sure the work is done properly and that we're happy with it; very understanding about how disruptive some of the activities can be and as accommodating as he can be to special situations and needs.

Kevin W. Parker

Café Management Experience Is Critical

The New Deal Café intends to select a new restaurant vendor from a field of three final proposals out of more than 70 interested parties. The board has done a good job, although when asked, they refused to provide any general criteria as to how they would select the finalists other than they need to be able to work with the cooperative. Criteria such as a demonstrated record of successfully running a full restaurant operation should be at the top of the list, although the board would not confirm this when asked. Any operation should have the ability to attract outside visitors with a unique and desired offering as did DC Vegan and the now Cedars of Lebanon operators. Vegans and international food enthusiasts will go out of their way to patronize.

The Café board was asked at its March meeting if it would be willing to host a membership review and feedback of the three finalists' proposals. The Café's recent newsletter of April 1 related that the board would choose a vendor "in the coming weeks" prior to the Café's annual

See **LETTERS**, page 6

Service or Garden Side?



- B. Glee

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

The Greenbelt News Review Seeks Advertising Staff

Duties:

- Record incoming display or classified ads
- Advise advertisers on ad sizing and composition
- Size and price ads
- Prepare ads for publication
- Check proofs

Qualifications Desired:

- Working knowledge of Excel, Word & File Explorer
- Ability to organize information and follow processes
- Ability to interact effectively by phone and email
- Attention to detail

We work in the Community Center at one or more of three weekly times. Monday and Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, 6 to 8 p.m. We take safety to heart and our large office hosts only four staff simultaneously

Compensation: GNR is a worker cooperative. Members receive dividends based on the newspaper's financial performance. Dividends are token payments only.

To apply: email ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com with a brief description of your qualifications and experience.

Community Events

At the Library

Curbside service is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Customers may place new hold requests via catalog.pgcmcls.info/polaris or Ask a Librarian Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. The library's Spanish language call center is available at 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

The library is not accepting book donations for the foreseeable future. Customers can place donations in the third-party book donation bin; do not place donations outside the bin if it is full.

All Prince George's County Public Schools students have access to the library's online resources with their LINK card number. Adults may register for a free virtual library card or renew an existing card at pgcmcls.info.

Vaccine Assistance

The Prince George's Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) launched an English/Spanish Covid-19 Vaccine Hunter Hotline on April 1. The number for the hotline is 240-392-3622 operating Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The hotline will assist by directly booking vaccination appointments based on eligibility and availability, adding people to vaccine pre-registration lists and answering questions about the vaccination process.

Read to Hatch Program

PGCMLS offers Hatchlings: Read to Hatch, a program for expectant mothers as a part of the Maryland State Library's Hatchlings pilot project from March to June. This program is based on the early-literacy Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings program for parents and caregivers of children from birth to 3 years old and the Mother Goose on the Loose Goslings program for premature babies and mothers.

Kids Achieve Club

The mission of the Kids Achieve Club program is to provide academic support through homework assistance and reading practice for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students in grades 1 to 6. The program was created to support the unique needs of English learners to foster a love of reading and to provide academic support. Children of all backgrounds and ethnicities are invited to participate.

One Community

Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG), in collaboration with RUAK, will be sponsoring an art project on Sunday, April 18 at each of Greenbelt's Three Sisters Gardens. More details will follow.

CAG is a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of residents who gather virtually monthly to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. The group is building multiple resources. The first is research-tested coping strategies for self-care and stress management called Caring and Connecting Toolkit (bit.ly/CAGtoolkit). Residents are invited to share their ideas and help build resources together.

To find out about the group's monthly meetings, email communityconnectionsbg@gmail.com.

Porch Collection Off To Good Start

RUAK's (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) Porch Greenbelt food drive had a successful first month with its March roll-out. RUAK collected about 450 pounds of nonperishable healthy food and personal hygiene items from the Woodland Hills and Boxwood Village neighborhoods, all donated to the St. Hugh of Grenoble Food Pantry.

A third collection neighborhood is starting in April: Ridge Road (from Lastner Lane to Research Road) and Research Road. The collection dates in each month are the second Sunday (April 11) for Woodland Hills and the third Sunday (April 18) for Boxwood Village as well as Ridge and Research Roads.

Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer with Porch Greenbelt, please contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.



Listening Skills For Relationships

The Prince George's Community Collaborative Resolution Center (PGCCRC) announces a virtual learning series designed to help improve relationships with the individuals who matter the most, whether family, neighbors or work colleagues. The PGCCRC is Greenbelt's local mediation center and has partnered with the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy to help fulfill one of the city's goals of building a community that embraces diversity and fosters relationships across cultural and ethnic lines.

Collaborative Listening for Relationship Building, a four-part series, begins April 10. The goal is to help families and individuals in Greenbelt and the surrounding area develop tools to better communicate in ways that strengthen their relationships, even when conversations are hard. The free series will take place virtually on four consecutive Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, as follows: April 10, Listening When It's Hard; April 17, Speaking When Emotions Are High; April 24, Asking Questions That Encourage Understanding; May 1, Brainstorming for Agreements and Resolutions.

All sessions can be accessed through Eventbrite at eventbrite.com; type in "collaborative listening." For more information, contact the PGCCRC at pgresolutioncenter@gmail.com.

GCAN Hosts Legislative Recap

Join the Greenbelt Climate Action Network for their next monthly Zoom meeting, on Wednesday, April 14, 7 to 9 p.m. The Zoom link is available at cheers.org/gcan.

"Sine Die," the last day of the Maryland General Assembly is on Monday, April 12. Therefore, the April Meeting will be a recap on important legislation that survived or died this session. Bills will include: Climate Solutions Now Act, Transit Safety & Investment Act, several recycling bills including the Plastic Bag Reduction Act, several incineration bills and two bills about Beltway widening.

There will also be updates about the Maglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the School Board Climate Change Action Plan and the County Commission writing our Climate Action Plan.

The May meeting will turn to a number of federal campaigns. Volunteers are sought to investigate them and present back to the group.

For more information, contact Lore Rosenthal, SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com, 301-345-2234.

Career Kickstart Library Program

Prince George's County Memorial Library System continues its four-part Career Kickstart series on Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. to gain valuable skills necessary to achieve employment in the public workforce. Learn basic computer and job searching skills, résumé writing and interview etiquette, as well as discover online resources to assist with the job search.

Remaining dates and topics for each session of the series: April 12, Soft Skills that Sell; April 19, Résumés that Represent; April 26, Interviews that Impress. Registration is required, and sessions can be attended individually.

Some Simple Steps To Stop the Maglev

Are you wanting to take steps against the maglev but don't know what to do and don't have much time? Join Simple Steps to Stop the Maglev. Simple Steps, which can be accomplished in 10 minutes or less (most of the time), are sent three to five days per week and it is optional to follow them. Anyone wanting to join can contact Susan at suzanbwild@gmail.com.

Golden Age Club

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club is still meeting virtually each week, via Zoom or by telephone call-in. The group meets at its regular time, 11 a.m. each Wednesday. We encourage all Greenbelt seniors to participate, whether you are a current member or not. To join the Zoom or phone list, contact Rebekah Sutfin, therapeutic recreation supervisor (Senior & Inclusion Programs) at 240-542-2056 (leave a message) or at RSUTFIN@Greenbeltmd.gov.

There will be two presentations this month. On April 14, in honor of National Gardening Day, Greenbelt's Susan Harris will take us on a virtual tour of some of Greenbelt's finest gardens.

On April 28, Dr. Leigh Ryan, a volunteer at Riversdale House Museum, will discuss an exhibit she is working on devoted to enslaved workers. She will talk about the Plummer family, including Adam who was enslaved at Riversdale and his wife Emily who was at Three Sisters in Lanham.

All are invited to attend these interesting presentations.

April Activities

- April 14, Susan Harris on Greenbelt Gardens
- April 21, Birthday celebrations
- April 28, Dr. Leigh Ryan, Riversdale House Museum

April Mindfulness

Greenbelt Unplugged is branching out a bit this month to explore the mindful aspects and benefits of chanting. Joe Parks will lead participants in a chant that goes "Nam-myohorenge-kyo" – as he describes it through this chant, one is able to experience the oneness of body and mind; the oneness of self and environment and the oneness of self and others. The virtual meeting is on Sunday, April 11 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. For the Zoom link send an email to events@greenbeltunplugged.org.



North End Virtual Tour Postponed

Greenbelt Museum lecture, The North End: Greenbelt's World War II Community has been postponed. Stay tuned for the new date. It will be announced on the Museum's website, greenbeltmuseum.org, on our Facebook page and via email newsletter.

Maglev Hearings April 8 and 10

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) announced an extension of the public comment period for the environmental review of the private-sector Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project.

The public comment period will now run through May 24. The SCMAGLEV Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available online at bwmaglev.info. The public hearings in April will be held as follows: Thursday, April 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, April 10 from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m.

To sign up to provide live public testimony go to bwmaglev.info. Those wishing to provide one-on-one testimony or listen to the live testimony during a hearing may call 1-855-450-1219.

The public also can submit comments for the record at the project website, by email at info@bwmaglev.info or by mail to SCMAGLEV Project, c/o Lauren Molesworth, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 Saint Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21202. For updates and to join the project mailing list, visit bwmaglev.info.

Greenbelt Recreation Is Now Hiring

Greenbelt Recreation currently has full-time and part-time job openings and summer hiring will be starting soon. Among the positions are center leader, park ranger, and park and facilities attendant. For job listings and to apply, check greenbeltmd.gov/jobs.

2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Sunday April 18 at 3pm on ZOOM

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION, INC. CONNECT WITH GATe ON

Our recessed online Annual Membership Meeting will continue Sunday, April 18 at 3pm.

To receive a link or phone number to join us on ZOOM please email:
greenbeltaccess@gmail.com

We will be voting on three Board Member positions. Instructions for the private ballot will be emailed to current members.

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Friday April 9 - Thursday April 15

TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!
<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey>

PROGRAM	SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE	CONNECT WITH GATe ON
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	GATe Classic Film <small>Drama/Romance • 1932</small> ★★★★	• Rain Joan Crawford • William Gargan <small>Directed by Lewis Milestone</small>
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Syndicated Program
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Elementary Competition University Park v Yorktown
2 pm	Music at the New Deal Café	• Fast Eddie and the Slowpokes • Chicago Swing Jump Blues Soul
3 pm	GATe Classic Film <small>Drama/Romance • 1932</small> ★★★★	• Rain Joan Crawford • William Gargan <small>Directed by Lewis Milestone</small>
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Elementary Competition University Park v Yorktown
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Syndicated Program
8 pm	GATe Classic Film <small>Drama/Romance • 1932</small> ★★★★	• Rain Joan Crawford • William Gargan <small>Directed by Lewis Milestone</small>
10 pm	Music at the New Deal Café	• Fast Eddie and the Slowpokes • Chicago Swing Jump Blues Soul
11 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Syndicated Program
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• Local Community Programming

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream

Obituaries

Jeffrey Whiting

Greenbelter Jeffrey Andrew "Jeff" Whiting died suddenly of heart disease on March 30, 2021, at his home on Ridge Road. He was born March 1, 1962, in Washington, D.C., to Jack and Doris Whiting. He grew up in Riverdale, moved briefly to San Antonio, Texas, in junior high, and then to Greenbelt in 1976, where he spent the rest of his life. He graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in 1980, where he played baseball and was in the Honor Society, then received a Bachelor of Science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1984. He worked as an aerospace engineer for a few years, then began a career in computer programming for federal government contractors, first with NASA and then NOAA. He was working for IMSG at NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction in College Park at the time of his death.

Jeff loved all animals but especially cats, and his interests included history and hiking, which he combined on numerous trips to places of local interest such as Harpers Ferry and Antietam and Gettysburg National Battlefields. He played baseball from age 8 to age 18, for the East Pines and Greenbelt Boys Clubs and the Roosevelt Raiders high school team, and he played softball for more than 30 years as part of the Goddard Slow-Pitch Softball Association. His last season was in 2019, when he coached his team to a somewhat unexpected but hard-won and well-earned second-place finish.

Jeff is survived by his long-time companion Marie Unger of their home in Greenbelt; his mother Doris Whiting of Millersville; his sister Connie and brother-in-law John Richards II of The Villages, Fla.; his brother John and sister-in-law Nonie Whiting of Greenbelt; his nephew John Richards III; his nieces Karen McLaren, Susan Ryan, Megan Whiting and Erin Miller; and his great-niece Allison Ryan and great-nephews Nathan Cohen, Liam McLaren and Tristan Miller. Jeff was preceded in death by his father and by his sister Linda Cohen. He also leaves behind many friends, colleagues and teammates, whose recently-shared remembrances of him as smart, kind, patient and generous with his time, expertise and humor are greatly appreciated.

The family hopes to hold a gathering to celebrate Jeff at a time and place to be determined. If so inclined, please consider making a donation to a state or national park, or a nature or animal charity.

Eileen Farnham

A memorial service will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Thursday, April 8 at 2 p.m., officiated by Pastor Stephen Mentz. There will be space for some in-person attendance in the church, but where possible, attendance should be through YouTube via the church website, myholycross.com. Plans include a later scattering of ashes.

James Tharpe

James Mann Tharpe died on March 23, 2021, at the age of 80. Born in Luray, Va., on August 19, 1940, Jim spent most of his childhood in Hyattsville and graduated from Northwestern High School. He took a position with the United States Postal Service where he worked for 45 years.

He had lived in Greenbelt on Hillside Road since 1970, thus was a 50-year resident of Greenbelt. He was a fan and supporter of the Bowie Baysox. Jim spent most of his time in church-related activities and with local friends. He regularly visited with family in Virginia. Church was a major focus of his life, along with his cat, Nibbles. Jim is loved and missed by his many friends and family.

Jim is survived by three sisters: Eleanor Tharpe, Virginia Brubaker and Jane Norman; a brother, Edward Tharpe; and eight nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by two sisters, Frances Brown and Ann McCann. Donations may be made in his name to the ASPCA.

Obituaries

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

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



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:

FDeBernardo@aol.com



PHOTO BY JON KERR

Jeff Whiting at Great Falls



Our condolences to the family and friends of Jim Tharpe who died on March 23. Our condolences also to the family and friends of Jeff Whiting who died March 30.

Congratulations to Captain Gordon Pracht who has retired after long service with the police department. Captain Pracht conceived of and put into action

the provision of free masks at Greenbelt Lake to accommodate visitors during Covid-19 in the summer of 2020.

Three cheers for the winners of the GATE Rose competition – Catherine Plaisant, Susan Harris and Sally Davies.

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



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Police Captain Gordon Pracht, left, shakes Police Chief Bowers' hand at Pracht's retirement party. Pracht served the Greenbelt Police Department for 26 years.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on Facebook [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.

Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.

10 a.m. Sunday mornings



"The equality of women and men is not a condition whose effects will be limited to half of the world's population. Its operationalization will revolutionize all facets of human society."

– Bahá'í International Community



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish, but have eternal life.

John 3:16



Sunday Worship Services

10a-11a ONLINE

[MCFcc.org/online](https://www.mcfcc.org/online)

Mishkan Torah Congregation

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield



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

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



April 11 10 a.m.

"The Ethical Journey of Gene Editing"

Reverend Lynn Strauss, Minister; with Worship Associate Susannah Schiller

Rev. Strauss will offer reflections on the science and possibilities of gene editing as considered by author, Walter Isaacson in his latest book, "The Code Breaker." Keeping up with big scientific breakthroughs has been a liberal religious quest, beginning with the work of Darwin and up to popular scientist, Neil deGrasse Tyson, just to name two. Come with a curious mind and a heart that knows that nature is beautiful.

Worship with us at
Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical
Confessional
Reformed
Gospel Centered

Join us OUTSIDE Sundays at 11:00am/Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
Instagram/Facebook/YouTube

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>

www.greenbeltbaptist.org

301-474-4212

@GreenbeltBaptist

Greenbelt Community Church

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

This Sunday's Sermon on Facebook Live Sunday at 10:15

Peace: Our Revealing Gift

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

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Legion Sponsors Girls State Training

Greenbelt American Legion Auxiliary Unit 136 is looking for applicants to attend the 2021 session of Maryland Girls State to be held virtually from June 20 to 26. Girls State is a training program for high school juniors and is operated annually by the American Legion Auxiliary in all 50 states. The objective is to provide interactive training in the management of a democratic government at city, county and state levels. Citizens participate in a variety of activities such as learning the structure of various levels of government; participating in a two-party political system; running for office, campaigning and voting in primary and general elections; formulating a party platform; playing the role of a legislator in the 2021 Maryland General Assembly; discovering first-hand the role lobbyists play in state lawmaking; and learning what it's like to hold political office from some of the people who do.

While the program is normally restricted to students just finishing their junior year, the Maryland session will also accept 2021 graduates for this year only. All fees will be covered by the Unit.

Interested students should log on to either of the following websites and complete an interest form at facebook.com/alamdgs or alamd.org/girls-state.html. They may also contact Unit Chairman, Rusty Beeg at rbeeg5908@gmail.com. Male students interested in Boys State opportunities may log on to mdlegion.org/boysstate. Filing deadline is April 30.

For information, Beeg also may be reached at 5908 Lundy Dr., Lanham, MD 20706, 301-602-7214.

Library Scam Alert

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) has learned that customers may be receiving fraudulent phone calls, text messages or emails requesting payment for outstanding library fines and fees. These communications are spam and not authorized by PGCMLS. The Library is fine-free (as of July 1, 2020). Official communications regarding lost material fees are sent via email.

Those who receive a message they suspect is fraudulent should notify PGCMLS at pr@pgcmls.info or 240-455-5451.

Individuals are also encouraged to report the fraudulent activity to the following agencies:

- Prince George's County Police Department Financial Crimes Unit, 301-699-2940
- Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, 410-528-8662
- Federal Trade Commission, 877-382-4357



Car Auction

APRIL 8 – APRIL 22
10AM.

4EJP MORGAN COURT
WALDORF MD 20601

1968 FORD MUSTANG
8R01T101193



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING Monday, April 12, 2021 8:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations

- Telecommunication Week Proclamation
- Earth Day Proclamation

Petitions and Requests

(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

Minutes of Council Meetings

Administrative Reports

Committee Reports

- * Advisory Planning Board Report #2021-02: 7010 Greenbelt Road Development Proposal – Requests for City Support
- * Forest Preserve Advisory Board Report #2021-02 (Interim piloting of trail management activities in the Greenbelt City Forest Preserve)
- * Board of Elections Report #2021-1 (Resident Noncitizen Voting)

LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Amend Section 2-22 of the City Code to Authorize the Finance Manager to Sign Checks, Vouchers and Purchase Orders, 2nd Reading, Adoption
- Reparations Commission Resolution- 2nd Reading
- A Resolution to Amend Section 27 Titled "Absentee Voting" to be replaced with "Mail-In Voting" of the Greenbelt City Charter (Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2021-1) - 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS

- Award of Contract – Cleaning and repairs to Mother and Child Statue and Bas Reliefs
- Letter to Congressional Delegation Supporting a Federal Green New Deal
- Greenbelt Green New Deal
- Federal Infrastructure Bill (Opposition to SCMaglev Funding) Letter
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- * Greenbelt Arts Center Lease Agreement
- * Appoint to Advisory Board
- * Reappointments to Advisory Board

MEETINGS-Scheduling of Future Meetings

COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL Cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

Resident participation: Information will be posted on Meetings Calendar at www.greenbeltnmd.gov

In advance the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR APRIL 12-16

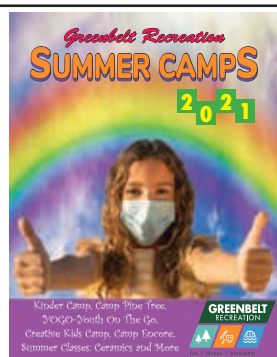
Monday, April 12 at 5:30pm **YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD** virtual meeting. *On the agenda: Crime Prevention, video progress updates, Maryland Youth Advisory Open Forum, Advisory Committee Liaison Reports, NLC Attendance Recap*

Monday, April 12 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00pm, **MAGLEV TASK FORCE**, virtual

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltnmd.gov.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltnmd.gov.



Greenbelt Recreation Summer 2021 Camp Guide

Will be available on April 8th. Visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/recreation
Summer Camp Registration Start Dates
Greenbelt Residents: Mon. April 19 10am
Non-Residents: Mon., May 3 at 10am

SUMMER CAMP JOBS will be posted at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/jobs
Applications will open on Monday, April 12 at 3pm.

For City Services, Events, Meeting, Info and more
www.greenbeltnmd.gov
Follow @cityofgreenbelt on Facebook and Twitter

33rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup

April 10, 2021

Indian Creek Trail off Cherrywood Lane
10 AM – 1 PM

Join the City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works and the Alice Ferguson Foundation for a stream cleanup event as Greenbelt participates in the 33rd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Volunteers are needed to clean up litter along Indian Creek.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms
- Face masks must be worn and social distancing protocols must be followed at all times
- Volunteers must register in order to participate
- Limited to 25 volunteers

To Register: Contact Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltnmd.gov



MOONLIT MOVIES

Braden Field
Behind the Youth Center
Fridays, April 2 - May 28

Outdoor movies have been a tradition in Greenbelt since 2014, and this year they will be a safe, fun way to get back to the movies! Greenbelt Recreation and Old Greenbelt Theatre will feature

family fun films. This is a partnership of the City of Greenbelt and Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Tickets will be sold through Old Greenbelt Theatre. Purchase a circle for up to 5 household members at \$25 per circle. Event max participation is limited to 100 guests.

Visit <https://greenbeltheatre.org/> for more info.

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Employee Relations Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000



Free Produce Distribution

April 15, 2021 from 1:00pm-3:00pm
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER, 15 CRESCENT ROAD, GROUND FLOOR EAST (near flagpole)

¡Gratis! Distribución De Verduras
15 de Abril, 1:00pm-3:00pm
GREENBELT COMMUNITY CENTER, 15 CRESCENT ROAD
LA ENTRADA SERCA DE UNA ROTONDA Y LA BANDERA!



EMERGENCY DIAPER PICK-UP

Need help with diapers? In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, The Greenbelt Nursery Project is supporting

needy Greenbelt families by distributing diapers on

Thursday, April 15th, 2021.

Parents are required to bring state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate, proof of Greenbelt residency (mail from a federal, state, or local government agency which display their name and Greenbelt residential address). No walk-ups accepted. Please register online at

<https://forms.gle/PM9PWYkYUWtbC99PA>

Registration required. Time and location given upon submitted registration.

Letters continued from page 2

membership meeting in May, so the answer is no.

If there are other Café patrons or members who would like to ask for a separate meeting or survey to review the general proposals and provide input please contact me at NewDealCafe@gmail.com to coordinate. The current five-member board is almost two years past the last elections so would be making the decision unilaterally and essentially unelected. For a decision this significant, perhaps they should delay the decision until after board elections or get Café community input. That would be the cooperative/democratic way.

I hope the Café's extended community can expect an experienced unique food vendor to also attract those patrons from outside the Café's member lists and Facebook page.

Peter May

Fearful

In the Police Blotter in the March 25 issue, there was a robbery reported at 4:10 p.m. on March 13. Three youths robbed a woman of her cell phone. In the process, she was knocked to the ground and punched several times. This is frightening to anyone being outside. Apparently, we cannot be outside anymore without fearing for our safety. I am outraged.

Name withheld upon request
Editor's Note: The News Review has been informed that two suspects have been apprehended in this attack and are facing charges.

No Fooling On Maglev

The humorous hyperbole and sarcasm skillfully employed for April Fool's Day sound eerily plausible as Greenbelters become aware of convoluted schemes and millions being spent to hype this foolhardy project.

Thankfully, there are rays of hope. The comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been extended to May 24 (as noted in the City Connector, rather than April 22 as noted in last week's News Review). Maryland Senator Paul Pinsky is sponsoring a bill, currently before the Budget and Taxation Committee, to prohibit any appropriation for maglev. A growing number of Prince George's and Anne Arundel County residents are speaking up, backed by organizations including Maryland Public Policy Institute and Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit.

In response to last week's headline: Any "Radical Design Changes," however meticulous, are merely ridiculous corporate and government efforts to green-or-white-wash this fiasco and will never appease us the objectors. We the people will stop this train, no fooling!

Marjorie Gray

Maglev Is The Larger Threat

I was saddened when anger and virtual fist fights erupted on social media at the mention of 125 trees being threatened, to alleviate shading of the historic community gardens. Letters were immediately written. Just the initial Facebook post-

ing received 192 comments. It made me dream of witnessing the same level of energy to comment against the maglev. The maglev proposal indicates that between 519 and 627 acres of forest would be destroyed (depending on the option; see Table 4.12-1 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, or DEIS). Counting 200 trees per acre that means that roughly 120,000 mature trees will be destroyed, nearly a thousand times more trees than the number discussed in the garden study.

If half of the 192 comments were speaking against cutting mature trees, then I would expect 960 times more comments written against the maglev. So let's get busy now, as that makes 92,160 comments to write. Greenbelters can do it! Multiply that by 20 if we also want to defend the immature trees.

In other words, the maglev is an infinitely larger threat to fight against, and has zero long-term benefit to anyone I know. Oh, and that is not counting the maglev planning to remove the Gladys Noon Spellman overpass, or the additional 100 acres of shrub land, 500 acres of fields and 40,000 linear feet of aquatic habitat to be wiped out (and many many other issues).

Please google "DEIS Maglev" and voice your concerns and outrage using the form available on the front page of the DEIS, before May 24. It's easy, let's all do it, now.

Catherine Plaisant

Support the Gardens, Forest Preserve

I can understand that people wish there were an easy, painless solution to the shading issues at the Greenbelt Community Gardens, but that's not the case.

A key conclusion from the analysis of garden sunlight and shading that the Forest Preserve Advisory Board submitted to City Council on March 1 is that just

cutting limbs above the mowed area or even only in a 25-foot buffer would be insufficient to assure sunlight for the gardens.

The solution the FPAB proposed advocated for both garden sunlight and diverse forest garden borders.

Donna Hoffmeister

Disclosure: I post this letter as a resident; I do not speak for the Forest Preserve Advisory Board.

Preserve the Gardens

I am writing this letter to support the Community Gardens/Forest Preserve Action Plan. In 1938, the community gardens were established in what was a wide-open field. Since then, forests have grown to surround the gardens. In 2003, both gardens and forests were included in the new Greenbelt Forest Preserve.

It has long been recognized that shading from surrounding trees is a threat to the future of the gardens. Both the 2007 Forest Preserve Management and Maintenance Guidelines and the updated 2019 Stewardship Guidelines state that tree removal will be necessary to preserve adequate sunlight for cultivation. Several years ago, an eight-foot-wide mowed buffer was created around the gardens, but no other management has been done.

Some parts of the gardens were abandoned in previous years. While this might seem like a benefit to the surrounding forests, instead it poses a threat to forest health. Exotic invasive shrubs, such as honeysuckle and multiflora rose, dominate the forest floor and limit the growth of native plants. One open area has become so overrun with exotic shrubs and vines, particularly wisteria, that trees are not able to grow there. These plants can spread far from the gardens and harm other areas of the forest.

The proposed action plan will address these problems in a way that both eliminates shading of

the gardens and improves the health of the forest. In areas immediately adjacent to the gardens, exotic plants will be removed and native plants, including shorter tree species, will be planted in their place. The large patch of wisteria will be removed and the area reclaimed as gardens.

In order to keep the current gardens productive, it will be necessary to remove approximately 150 trees shading the gardens. While this may seem like a large number, in context it is not excessive. Based on the 2016 Forest Health Assessment there are approximately 234 trees per acre and almost 19,000 total trees in Hamilton Woods alone. According to a 2004 study by Nowack et al., trees in Baltimore

forests have a 5.9 percent mortality rate, which if translated to the Hamilton woods is a loss of about 1100 trees per year. Even if mortality in Hamilton woods is half that rate, the number of trees being removed is small in comparison.

Greenbelt can have both a healthy Forest Preserve and thriving community gardens. But to do so, we need to recognize that the border between the two must be carefully managed to benefit both. I urge the city council to adopt the plan.

John Paul Schmit

Disclosure: Although I am a member of the Forest Preserve Advisory Board this letter represents only my personal opinion.

Dem Club, GreenACES To Celebrate Earth Day

by Jane Young and John Lippert

Mark Sunday, April 18 at 5 p.m. on the calendar to celebrate making the community more environmentally sustainable with the GreenACES Team. Participants can sign up at the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club webpage (rooseveltclub.com) to be sent the Zoom link to the meeting.

The city and its citizens' commitment to preserving and enhancing its environment is expressed in numerous ways, be it dealing with invasive plants, preserving trees, opposing the use of athletic turf fields or managing organic plant and pest problems. As stated in the Public Works Department's Sustainable Land Care Policy, that policy "is the culmination of planning and collaboration between the City, multiple citizen advisory groups, and external partners."

The Democratic Club has invited one of those important

citizen advisory groups, the City of Greenbelt Green Team, which will present an overview of projects and activities that the Green Team initiates and implements to make Greenbelt more sustainable. Topics include zero waste, solar energy, green transportation, sustainable land use and land care, water and stream issues, Timebank, pollinators and monthly environmental Zoom presentations. This presentation will be offered to give broad information about Green Team activities and to encourage citizen involvement, be it saving butterflies or working with allies to oppose the maglev project and develop more intelligent approaches to reduce congestion in the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

One might say that "Greenbelt practices what it preaches" when it comes to the environment.

For more information call Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369.



MAKE AN EARTH FRIENDLY SWAP!

In Historic Roosevelt Center
www.greenbelt.coop



Easy Better for the Planet Choices

- Paper Products
- Hand & Body Lotions
- Household Cleanser
- Feminine Hygiene
- Cleaning Wipes
- Deodorant
- Detergent
- Sunscreen

Celebrate Earth Month at the Co-op!

Greenbelt Summer Camps Plan to Use Hybrid Model

by Melinda Thompson

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Greenbelt camps will be back this summer and they will be using a hybrid model aimed at accommodating as many families as possible.

Anne Oudemans, the assistant director of city recreation programs, said the camps would have a mixture of pre-recorded activities, Zoom conversations and on-site activities in the morning. The on-site portion of the camps will be outside as much as possible.

“Basically, this summer we will be offering a combination of on-site morning camp,” Oudemans said. “And I will also be offering some virtual programs for families that might not feel comfortable having their kids return to on-site activities.” There are a variety of camps for kids in grades K through 12 including Kinder Camp, Camp Pine Tree, Creative Kids Camp and Camp Encore.

Chris Cherry, the city’s performing arts coordinator, told the News Review that some of the camps have been combined to ease demand on instruction. “This year we won’t be offering circus camp as a stand-alone camp, we’re going to be incorporating circus instruction into the curriculum for Creative Kids,” said Cherry.

According to Oudemans, staff are trying to limit the work for the camp counselors by keeping them working with one group or pod. Cherry said that the camp counselors will have pre-recorded material that will be sent out in a daily email for families doing full day virtual programs. The same counselor will instruct everyone through Zoom. The Zoom activity will allow for the children to have some interaction without thinking about the coronavirus safety precautions.

Recreation Director Greg Varda remarked that these pods will help limit exposure to the coronavirus within the camps. “We want our campers to be safe so they’re putting all those precautions in place,” he explained. Varda anticipates that the kids will move around in small pods throughout the day, so that if there were to be a Covid-19 incident, exposure would be limited to the pod rather than involving the entire camp. “The pod might then be required to stay at home for a few days,” said Varda.

Varda went on to say that, because of the coronavirus they don’t have the resources to safely do full-day programs and that parents will have to pick up their children at the end of the morning portion of camp. Staff are planning to incorporate Covid-19 restrictions including masks, social distancing and being outdoors as much as possible. “Our camps are licensed and regulated by the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Youth Camps and their guidance for this summer is going to be to follow CDC guidance on summer camps,” said Oudemans.

Most importantly, the camp organizers are concerned with making sure that the camps are



Emma and Stella Friend-Gomez make crab-themed headbands for “Under the Sea” week at Kinder Camp in 2020.

PHOTO BY CARLY FRIEND-GOMEZ



City cameraman Scott Crawford films camper Iris Gaycken at the underpass near the Greenbelt Museum historic house at 10-B Crescent Road during the 2020 Creative Kids Camp.

PHOTO BY AIDAN LARKIN

fun for the children and that they have time to interact with their peers.

“We’re just so excited to be able to have kids back this summer,” Oudemans said. “You know we did virtual camps last summer and we were happy to stay connected with a lot of our camp

families and are really excited to have folks back on site and to hopefully by next summer, return to our traditional, full-day camp offering.”

Melinda Thompson is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.



Daffodils

PHOTO BY MARA HEMMINGER

Stop the Maglev Rally #2 with Mayor Byrd at the U.S. Department of Transportation

- When
 - Tuesday, April 13th, at 5:30pm
- Where
 - U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters
 - 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC 20590



Greenbelters Rally at DOT Against SCMaglev Project

by Donna Hoffmeister



Greenbelters join the rally at the U.S. Department of Transportation on April 2.

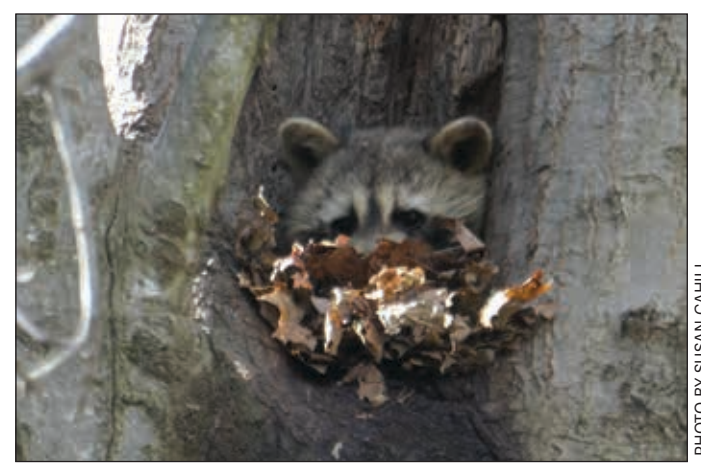
PHOTO BY DONNA HOFFMEISTER

Over a dozen people turned out for Mayor Colin Byrd’s rally on April 2 in opposition to the SCMaglev at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) headquarters. Despite the high winds and nippy temperature, the event drew an enthusiastic crowd that included Bladensburg City Councilmember Jocelyn Route; Greenbelt Councilmember Rodney Roberts; Stanford Fraser, public defender in Prince George’s County; and Rich Elliott, a candidate for State Delegate in District 24.

Greenbelters included Bill Orleans, Susan Barnett and Beth LeaMond. Barnett spoke about the damage to the green space

along the Baltimore-Washington corridor while Route talked about the disruption to her Bladensburg neighborhood. Observing from the sidelines were six D.C. police officers, one of whom asked Byrd to extend personal greetings to Captain Tim White of the Greenbelt Police. With a ratio of one officer to two participants, it was perhaps a smaller crowd than the police had expected.

The group will meet again next Tuesday, April 13 at 5:30 p.m. at DOT and at intervals after that, but especially on May 24, when the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement closes.



For this little nocturnal fellow, a tree on Hillside Road is a safe place to sleep during the day, hidden away from predators.

PHOTO BY SUSAN CAHILL

GRANT SEASON IS NOW: EARN MONEY FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

GREENBELTFOUNDATION.ORG



DC Invitational FIRST Robotics Scrimmage 23-25 April 2021

Combining enthusiasm of competitive sports with the rigors of science and technology. High school students build industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game in alliance with other teams. We’re pleased to announce this local and live competition in the Washington, DC metropolitan area: See Unique Game Designs made by students on Friday and the robots built for STEAM. Hosted by the Airtigers.org Community Robotics Aerospace Interact Club. Washington Education Zone, Wagner Gym, 8401 Good Luck Rd, Riverdale, MD 20706.



Doors open 7:30 am each day. See <https://airtigers.org/frc-challenge>.



Children of all ages are welcome. The event will strictly adhere the Prince Georges County guidelines. Check the <https://airtigers.org/frc-challenge> website for the latest information.

Business

The News Review invites Greenbelt businesses to submit brief announcements for the business column. Tell us about events such as new employees, anniversaries, awards won, new programs, and other newsworthy items. Send brief (40-50 words) items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

A Review

Vegetarian Take-Out

by Jon Gardner

My wife and I gave up eating meat for Lent, joining our teenager, who is vegetarian year-round. We are continuing to get take-out at least once per week, in order to support local restaurants during the pandemic.

Each week, we enjoy picking up our "Meatless Mondays" meals from the Greenbelt Co-op in Roosevelt Center. The Co-op rotates through several different meals. I look forward to the weeks featuring Asian dumplings, my wife likes the pasta carbonara with sliced meatless sausage, and our teen likes the samosas. If you are hungry, the portions are a little small (although still good value at under \$8), so you can supplement with the brown rice vegetarian sushi tray or the meatless spring rolls. Walk-ins are welcome, but to be certain, order before 1 p.m. by calling 301-474-0522 and pick up at the deli in the back of the store between 4 and 7 p.m.

Chef Karim of Cedars of Lebanon is almost halfway through his second decade in Greenbelt. His vegetarian Lebanese feast platter generously serves two, or you can add a few extra cheese or spinach fatayer pies to satisfy three people. The feast is a sampling of 10 different mezze items, along with grilled vegetables, pita bread and rice. For lunch, or if you are on your own, the veggie sandwich platter makes a good meal. Always save some room for Maria's delicious homemade desserts. Call Karim at 301-345-0100 to place your take-out order and pick up at 103 Centerway.

Silver Diner, in the parking lot in front of Beltway Plaza, has four vegan entrées, easily found by scrolling down in their online ordering system. Our clear favorite was the coconut-glazed tofu skewers, served with spiced green lentils. The pineapple basil vegan stir-fry over gluten-free quinoa pasta was also a hit. We were not as fond of the Beyond Meatballs mac 'n' cheese, so don't order that unless you are already a fan of that brand of plant-based meat substitute.

Most of the other restaurants in Greenbelt also offer one or more vegetarian options. All four of Greenbelt's Chinese restaurants (reviewed in the February 4 issue) have teen-approved vegetable lo-mein. Beijing of Greenbelt also offers veggie chicken (made from soy beans) and veggie beef (made from Chinese mushroom stems) cooked into traditional entrées. If you eat eggs, don't overlook the possibility of ordering all-day breakfast from Generous Joe's. And there is always veggie pizza.

If you don't mind going further afield or you want to celebrate a special occasion, the very highly rated Amber Spice Indian restaurant in Laurel (301-477-4828) has an extensive vegetarian menu. Everything we have ever ordered from there has been delicious. The NuVegan Café in College Park (240-553-7567) is also an excellent choice for take-out; I recommend the ginger-spiced tofu or the barbecue tofu with rice while sampling from the many delicious sides.



PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS

Chef Karim of Cedars of Lebanon greets customers on St. Patrick's Day.

BUDGET continued from page 1

that the city establish some financial policies saying that he wished that they could adopt a financial policy that Moran could not retire, before wishing him well. At the end of the meeting, Moran, who noted that this was his last meeting with council, thanked council, the community and city staff for their support and for making his a wonderful career.

Revenues

The bulk of the city's revenues come from real property taxes. The city had projected real property taxes to amount to \$18.1 million in FY21 but now estimates it will receive \$19.4 million. This increase is mostly due to a 65 percent decrease in the allowance for commercial property abatements. Unlike residential property, commercial property is assessed based upon the revenue stream generated. Property owners can request retroactive reductions in their assessed valuations if they do not generate the anticipated level of revenue. The proposed budget sets aside \$620,000 for potential abatements in the current year, down from \$1.8 million in the adopted budget and has budgeted \$450,000 in the proposed FY22 budget. Together, these allowances will permit the city to absorb a total of over \$1 million in potential abatements.

Personal property taxes are now estimated to come in at \$1.85 million, down slightly from the \$1.87 million in the adopted budget and are estimated to remain at that level in the next fiscal year.

Over time, the city has become more and more dependent upon real estate taxes. In the FY22 proposed budget, such revenues account for 65 percent of total general fund revenue. This is up from 61.5 percent in FY16 and way up from the 48.5 percent in FY1989. In her written comments, Gaymon cautioned that the trend of high reliance on real estate revenue could make the city vulnerable in the next recession, whenever that occurs. Elsewhere in the budget book, Gaymon states that it is possible that the city has reached or nearly reached its maximum size in terms of what the community can afford. (Former City Treasurer Jeff Williams had voiced similar concerns in his last budget.) The city should not partially fund new initiatives expecting that future revenue growth will support the full cost of the project, she advised. In addition, she wrote, future increases in salaries and benefits will be difficult to afford should the economy slow or decline.

Other taxes (\$3,688,600) including the city's share of the state income tax, are estimated to be \$392,350 less than projected in the adopted budget and to recover most of that loss in FY22. The stay-at-home orders and business closures and restric-

tions hammered revenue from admissions and amusement and hotel/motel taxes, where the estimated FY21 revenue dropped by 91.4 and 80 percent, respectively, from that projected in the adopted budget. The city expects this revenue will partially recover in FY22. Thanks to action by the state, which Davis attributed to action by the Maryland Municipal League, Highway User taxes will not be cut as anticipated in the current fiscal year and are expected to increase further in FY22.

Licenses and permits are essentially flat at \$1.4 million in the current fiscal year and \$1.3 projected in FY22. Estimated revenues from other government agencies including the federal, state and county are 7.2 percent above the adopted budget level and are projected to go down slightly in the next year. Charges for other services dropped significantly in the current year, to \$943,500 down from the \$1,673,200 in the adopted budget, largely due to the closure of most recreation activities in March of 2020. City staff believes that by the start of FY22, the city will be offering summer camps and a variety of other classes. This rebound should continue into the fall and by January it is hoped that the city will be able to offer unlimited in-person classes at all recreation facilities. If these projections are accurate, revenue from other services will more than rebound in FY22, coming in at \$1,833,900, an increase of 9.6 percent over the FY21 adopted budget. Revenue from parking citations and municipal infractions dropped by roughly half from the adopted budget with total revenue from fines and forfeitures totaling \$566,100 in FY21, down 7.3 percent from the adopted budget and projected to rise slightly to \$569,000 in the next fiscal year.

Thanks to the Federal Reserve Board actions in response to the pandemic, the city's interest revenue was nearly zapped with current estimates of \$10,000 in FY21 a mere 6.7 percent of the \$150,000 estimate in the adopted budget. The proposed budget anticipates a slight rebound to \$50,000 in FY22.

Miscellaneous revenues dropped 14.6 percent to \$239,300 and are projected to increase to \$248,900 in the proposed budget.

There was minimal discussion of revenues at the March 24 budget worksession. Councilmember Emmett Jordan wanted to budget so that residents paid the same amount of taxes as they did the year before. However, Davis pointed out that doing this would require reducing the expenditures by an amount equal to revenue.



City Notes

Animal Shelter residents are two rabbits, three dogs and a cat. Thirty-one permitted pooches enjoy the Dog Park, which is patrolled daily. Park rangers observe predominant mask compliance, though several mask signs were found in the woods.

Horticulture/Parks beautified planting beds and sanitized playgrounds. Stumps were removed in Franklin Park and a tree was removed near St. Hugh's playground.

Refuse/Recycling collected 28.81 tons of refuse and 12.36 tons of recyclables. Sustainability/Environmental scheduled Forest Preserve tours for the Maglev Task Force. Three Weed Warrior volunteers removed invasive plants.

The first Spring Outdoor Movie sold out and the Hopping Around Town spring event was also a success. Spring recreation classes are mostly still online. Springhill Lake Recreation Center launched outdoor Fit Club classes. Therapeutic Recreation staff scheduled American Red Cross blood drives, monitored Zoom fitness classes and facilitated frozen meals for 40 seniors.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program applied for an AARP grant for dementia care.



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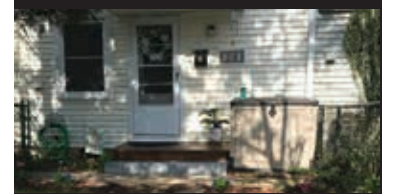
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Police Blotter

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

Threats

March 31, 1:14 p.m., 6200 Greenbelt Road. An employee at Burlington Coat Factory saw a man cut a security sensor off a suitcase and then start concealing clothing in it. When the employee confronted him, the man threatened to cut him and then fled in a vehicle.

Theft

March 28, 7:35 p.m., 7595 Greenbelt Road. A wallet was removed from an unattended shopping cart at Safeway.

March 30, 7:23 p.m., 7415 Greenbelt Road. Two lockers were broken into at LA Fitness and a key fob and wallet were taken.

Fraud

March 26, 2:12 p.m., 100 block Lakeside Drive. A woman reported that on March 7 she put a letter containing a check in a mailbox. Someone got possession of the check, changed the amount and name of payee and cashed it.

March 29, 10:04 a.m., 16 Court Ridge Road. A woman reported that on March 7 she put a letter containing a check in the mailbox. Someone gained possession of the check, changed the amount and name of payee and cashed it.

Vandalism

March 29, 3:01 p.m., 8150 Lakecrest Drive. A youth kicked the glass rental office door, which shattered. He is known to management and the investigation is ongoing.

Vehicle Crime

Four vehicles were stolen, of which two had been left unlocked with engines running. Those are a black four-door 2016 Toyota Camry with Maryland tags 7CL5855, taken from the 9100 block Springhill Lane on

March 25, and a red four-door Honda Accord with Virginia tags VMV2980, taken from 9230 Springhill Lane on March 29.

The other two stolen vehicles are a gold four-door 2005 Toyota Prius with Maryland tags JHL7633, taken on March 30 from 5905 Cherrywood Lane, and the other a blue four-door 2008 Nissan Altima that had no tags, taken on March 30 from 6000 block Greenbelt Road.

Five vehicles were recovered. A 2016 Ford Fiesta reported stolen on March 19 near 5913 Cherrywood Lane was recovered March 27 on Breezewood Drive near Breezewood Terrace.

A 2006 Acura TSX reported stolen to Maryland State Police was located March 28 at 7505 Greenway Center Drive.

Three vehicles were recovered by Metropolitan Police in Washington, D.C. A 2003 Toyota Camry reported stolen on March 7 from 9158 Springhill Court was recovered March 29 in the 2300 block Ainger Place, S.E.; a 2014 Mazda 6 taken from 6103 Breezewood Court was recovered March 29 in the 100 block 41st Street, S.E.; and a 2001 Toyota Corolla reported stolen February 3 from 6023 Springhill Drive was recovered March 31 in the 2400 block 22nd Avenue N.E.

Thefts from vehicles include a catalytic converter from 6218 Breezewood Drive and rear Maryland temporary tag T0364856 from 7822 Hanover Parkway.

Windows were broken and handicap placards were taken from 12 vehicles in the 7800 block Hanover Parkway. A purse was removed after a window was left down.

the jail cells from the building.

Houchens was part of the major renovation and expansion of the city pool. The pool had been the first public pool in Prince George's County, and still exists as it was originally built, with the old snack shack as part of the new expansion. The indoor pool was built in 1990, an \$8 million project. The fitness wing was added a few years later.

In recent years, Houchens led a major renovation of the Old Greenbelt Theatre, taking out the air-conditioning system that was original to 1937. "It was a dinosaur," Houchens said, but "it lasted 80 years." He helped design the new system and its backup; the pool and the Police Station also reflect the same backup strategy.

Houchens points out that facilities maintenance means dealing with many different types of inspections, including fire alarm inspections, generator inspections and kitchen hood inspections, just to name a few. With important programs housed in the Community Center, including adult day care and Greenbelt Nursery School, he noted that, "You don't want to shut down a program if you didn't keep things straight."

Special events were an important facet of Houchens' work. "Labor Day grew and grew until the crew had to put down \$30,000 worth of electric ... and maintain the power the whole time the carnival was there," Houchens said. As a city man, Houchens did stints driving the snowplow, remembering "150 hours straight plowing snow, four hours sleeping, then back on the road."

Over the years, with the expansion of city facilities, the number of emergency calls increased. "It was more than a 9 to 5 job," he said, and could include problems with broken windows, vandalism, broken pipes or no heat. "The pool was open 365 days a year. The Police Station doesn't close. The Community Center is open into the night. At the theater, what if there's no heat, or the popcorn machine or the ice maker's not working. The popcorn machine's important because that's for the public."

Houchens lives in Bowie and graduated from Parkdale High School in 1980. Instead of knowing just one trade, Houchens was always eager to learn more about how things work in the facilities he maintained. Whenever he took on a new project, he asked questions and expanded his skill set. "I got to see how the buildings work, work with the contractors and learn how things were supposed to work."

Houchens' family members still work for the city. His wife Gaye runs the beloved Mom's Morning Out program. His son Matthew Houchens works on the street crew, and son-in-law

Doug White works part time at the Youth Center. Houchens has a daughter, Courtney, and one granddaughter. In his retirement, Houchens looks forward to spending time hunting and fishing, and working on restoring a 1957 Chevrolet Nomad Wagon. He looks forward to building a cabin on his 40 acres of land near Paw Paw, W.Va., rich in wildlife including bear, bobcat, turkey, fox squirrel and, of course, whitetail deer. "To enjoy hunting, you just need to dress well and keep warm, with good wool socks and plenty of insulated clothing." Tim Houchens is always prepared for every eventuality.



PHOTO BY JOHANNA GODERRE

Icelandic poppies



PRELIMINARY AGENDA GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, April 15, 2021

- A. **GHI Special Open Session – starts at 7:00 p.m. (open to members and visitors)**
 - Approve Motion to Hold an Executive Session Meeting on April 15, 2021
- B. **GHI Executive Session – starts after the GHI Special Open Session meeting adjourns (closed to members and visitors)**
 - Approve Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting held on March 18, 2021
 - 2021 Gutter Cleaning Contract – 2nd reading
 - 2021 Contract for Replacing Roofs on Frame Homes and Additions – 2nd reading
 - Contract for Crawlspace Improvements to Pilot Buildings, Units on Woodland Way and Additions – 2nd reading
 - 2021 Contract for Replacing Roofs on Attached and Detached Garages – 1st reading
 - Request by a Member for an Exception to the Two-Year Profit Limitation Provision in the MOC
 - Request by a Member for a Rental Permit Extension
 - Request by a Non-Member for an Extension of Time to Reside in a GHI Unit
 - Member Financial Matters
 - Member Complaint Matters
 - Employee Matters
- C. **GHI Regular Open Session Meeting – starts at 7:45 p.m. (open to members and visitors)**
 - Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Held on April 1, 2021
 - Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Held on April 15, 2021
 - Approve Minutes of Special Open Session Meeting held on March 18, 2021
 - Approve Minutes of Regular Open Session Meeting held on March 18, 2021
 - Consider Selection of a Member to Fill a Vacancy on the Board of Directors
 - Presentation of 2020 External Audit Report
 - Companion Animal Committee Report for July to December 2020
 - Proposed Agenda for the May 13, 2021 Annual membership Meeting
 - Interim Report from the Transition Task Force to the Board of Directors
 - Member Comments re: Finance Committee's Recommendation to Charge a Fee for Permit Reviews
 - Review 2020 Investment Committee Report
 - Buildings Committee Recommendation re: Attic and Basement Rim Joist Insulation Options for Larger Town Homes

Contact information for attending the Board meeting via Zoom is as follows:

When: Apr 15, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJAduuivqT4pE92CTmyybWem7KhhOnP1mZGU>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

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Lions Club Offers College Scholarships

The Greenbelt Lions Club announces the return of the Stan Hoke Memorial Scholarship Program. This year, the Club is awarding two \$1,000 scholarships.

To qualify, applicants must meet the following criteria: (1) be a resident of Greenbelt; (2) be a high school senior graduating from a high school located in Prince George's County; and (3) be matriculating to a community college or a four-year university.

Those wishing to apply should request the official application form by sending an email to greenbeltlions@gmail.com. The completed application must be returned to the same email address no later than midnight on Friday, April 16 to be considered for this year's scholarship.

Scholarship recipients will be notified on or before May 31.




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Overpayments Policy

To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, effective March 25, 2021, the News Review will accumulate overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contribute the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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WALKS continued from page 1

mushrooms and acorns. There are numerous pathways cutting through the woods and plenty of opportunities to clamber over fallen trees and muddy streams. At the right time of year there are tadpoles to be found, deer prints to follow and blueberries to scavenge. And at the end of the afore-mentioned Northway extended, you will find several interesting things: ballfields, an astronomical observatory and a mountain made entirely of mulch.

Greenbelt Park

My friend Josh told me that the Perimeter Trail at Greenbelt Park is an easy five miles and I, tubby yet ambitious, thought that sounded perfect. The main entrance of the park is blocked to cars due to construction, so you can either park on Walker Drive and walk in or park on the back side of Westchester Park Drive and find an entrance path. There are shorter walks in Greenbelt Park but Dan and I, lulled into complacency by the word easy, went for the Perimeter Trail. After about three-and-a-half miles I started wondering where the medivac helicopter would land. By mile four I was sobbing slightly and Dan had stopped talking to me. In conclusion, easy is relative, but if you're modestly fit and don't mind a few hills and rocks, it's a fun way to be out in the woods, looking for snakes and birds and bears. (Disclaimer: There are no bears in Greenbelt Park. Trust me. I've looked.)

Indian Springs

And speaking of Walker Drive, my daughter, Findley, and I decided to head up there and see what there is to see at Indian Springs, which you can get to by going to the lowest parking lot at 7833 Walker Drive and looking for the picnic tables. If you head left at the picnic tables, you come up to the Walker Cemetery, one of the three historic cemeteries in Greenbelt. This one holds a DAR monument surrounded by a perimeter fence, and I decided to walk on the outside of the fence to see if I could find any walking pathways or other delights. I could not. Two out of 10, do not recommend. Back at the picnic tables, Findley and I took the lower path, which went on for about 50 feet and brought us to a dead end – a muddy patch of water before a short concrete wall and the road. Not much to walk here, but if you're interested in DAR monuments, there's one to see.



PHOTO BY KYLA HANINGTON

The end of the trail at Indian Springs off Walker Drive

Mandan Road Field

Lastly, Findley and I headed out to the field at Mandan Road. Soccer field, baseball field, basketball court, treed pathways – this spot has it all for a post-Covid-19 friend hang-out, a pick-up game of soccer or a nice walk around the field with a buddy. There weren't any obvious ways to extend the walk into unex-

plored wilderness, but for those of you not yet familiar with it, it's a wide-open space worthy of a visit.

If there are walks in Greenbelt that I have missed, let us know by writing to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com. My knees and I would love to explore more of what Greenbelt has to offer.

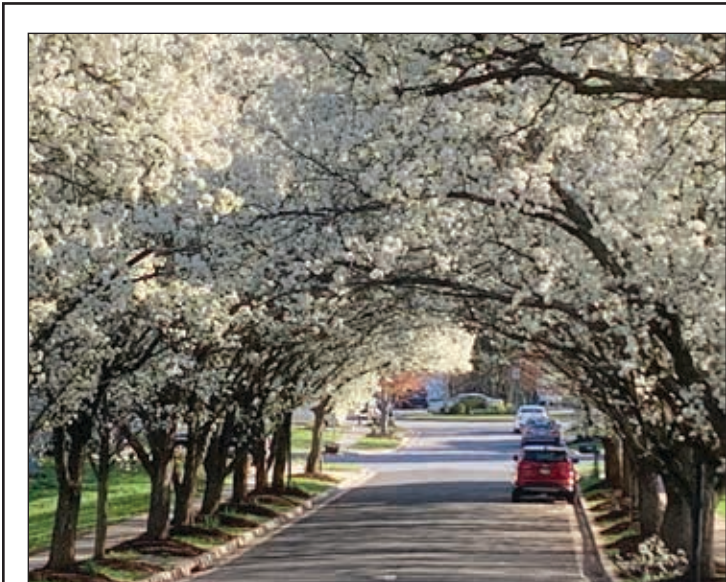


PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS

Flowering trees on Megan Lane

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Senior Living 55+ Community 2Br 2Ba condo w/fireplace & more! Remodeled w/new kitchen, modern baths, sunlit enclosed patio, new carpet & paint.

Cape Cod Home Investors - priced to sell! 3Br 1.5 Bath home with large fenced yard, dining rm., br & full bath on mn. lev. \$208,900

SOLD

Estate Sale GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

Large floorplan w/addition Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

Cape Cod SFH 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced backyard, brick patio, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

SOLD

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

Charlestowne Village Single-level 1-br condo w/ hardwood floors! Parquet flooring, remodeled kitchen. With SS appliances. \$149,900

SOLD

Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome, remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen, full size washer. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

SOLD

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900

Full Attached Inlaw apartment 5 BR, 4 Bath home with lots of space. Elevator to bedroom level; no stairs! 2 Full kitchens, generator, fireplace & more.

Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center

Free Art for All Is Both Inspiring and Therapeutic

by René Sewell-Raysor

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

One way to avoid mission drift is to be reminded of the goal daily with the organization's name above the door. The Space Free Art For All is an acronym for Sharing Positive Artistic and Creative Energies. Shaymar Higgs, who lends his artistic vision and energies to the nonprofit located in Beltway Plaza, is a believer that everyone is creative and just needs to find the right medium to express it. "The Space Free Art For All is a place for creating community through the creative process. The Covid-19 pandemic has created both opportunities and challenges. People are looking for something to do," he says.

Volunteers, along with Higgs, have curated art kits containing a number of different media that can be taken home or used in the Space every third Saturday. Higgs and a staff of five dedicated volunteers share skills and encouragement. One artist came in saying, "I know you don't have anything to cut vinyl." The volunteer staff was able to point to a vinyl cutter that the emerging artist uses regularly to create face masks and shirts.

The shelves have morphed into a Community Library and books on a variety of subjects are dropped off and find their way to a second life.

One of the offshoots of The Space Free Art For All is the Free Market. Gently used clothing is dropped off and anyone who needs it can browse and choose from an interview outfit to something more eclectic. Gently used clothing is accepted Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Coding at The Space Free Art For All has been amended to include art. They've gone from STEM to STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Fun and creative coding with a focus on art.

New Deal is a Big Deal

Higgs' artistic path began with his opening his mother's garage and inviting his neighborhood to join him in creating art. That was the springboard to hosting pop-up art spaces in D.C., temporary sites dedicated to exploring one's inner artist. Later, he interned at the Freer Gallery and credits that long association with making contacts, gaining experience and opening doors to him. Now the path leads to an exciting collaboration with the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center.

The trope of a starving artist plays well in literature, but in reality, artists want to show their work and making a few dollars is not out of the question. The mashup of art and entrepreneurship birthed Artrepreneurship. Higgs explains that it will give a platform to high-schoolers to run a gallery: "They find artists, mount the shows and curate the shows." He sees a natural collaboration with tech savvy students to market the shows using social media and other media outlets.

"Covid has been a seesaw," he said. Adding, "It is important to help each other learn new skills and while learning new skills it can be therapeutic in helping us



The Space Free Art For All presents a lively exterior to Beltway Plaza.

- Photos by Shaymar Higgs



to cope with depression and isolationism."

The Space Free Art For All is located in Beltway Plaza across from the movie theater. It is open

Tuesdays to Fridays from 3 to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 7 p.m. Information can be found on FreeArtForAll.org, Instagram and Facebook or call 240-297-9171.



A bee investigates blooms on a red bud tree.

PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN



Ranunculus

PHOTO BY JOHANNA GODERRE



School Bus Protocols Change For Covid and Driving Safety

by Amy Hansen

Before Greenbelt students get back to the classrooms, many will need to get back on a bus. The experience, according to Meghan Gebreselassie from the Prince George's County Public Schools Office of Communications, will be different than it was pre-pandemic.

"Our entire bus fleet has been upgraded with new technology to improve safety both on and off the bus," she said.

The buses now have a new camera inside that will be used to ensure that sanitizing protocols are followed, and will assist with contact tracing if necessary. They also have new exterior cameras that allow the bus to take photos of any car that illegally pulls around a bus that has its stop sign extended. Those photos will be turned over to the police de-

partment and the drivers ticketed. In addition, buses have GPS tablets that will provide turn-by-turn directions. The tablets will also keep track of the bus inspections and sanitizing protocols.

Other protocols have changed as well. Each bus will hold only 21 students. Students will sit one student per seat on each row, sitting near the window. The seat immediately behind the driver will be left vacant. Bus attendants will help monitor the students and ensure physical distancing.

Gebreselassie added that the county now has a new app for parents called StopFinder. "StopFinder," she explained, "allows parents, guardians and caregivers to see where a child's bus is and information about their bus schedule."



Children and families enjoy activities with the Easter Bunny on March 29 at Schrom Hills Park, during Greenbelt Recreation's Hopping Around Town. Participants painted flower pots and planted seeds as well as getting to know the bunny. Similar events were held in Springhill Lake and on Braden Field.

- Photos by Jennifer Sterling