



Earth Day events, p.6



Youth productions at GAC, p.7

Greenbelt Vaccination Sites Include Walk-up Service



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

Ron Call is pre-registered for a coronavirus vaccination by a member of the Maryland National Guard at a walk-up/drive-up site at St. Hugh of Grenoble Church on Wednesday, April 21.

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

A Community Vaccination Center (CVC) at Greenbelt Metro Station is ready for all residents, ages 16 and up. Register at onestop.md.gov or by calling 1-855-MD-GOVAX (855-634-6829).

Regular hours are: Mondays and Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays to Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The shot is free.

FEMA staff also report that depending on availability, there

will be extra doses for walk-ups. Upon arrival, visitors can speak with a staff member who can help them register.

The hours recommended for walk-ups are: Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2 to 6 p.m. and Fridays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The CVC is in parking lot 1A at the station. Take the bus or Metro – or drive, walk or bike – to get there. There are wheelchairs for onsite use and translators available for several languages, including American Sign Language.

Greenbelt Schools Are Open; Only Some Students Attend

by Brittany N. Gaddy

As the public schools in Prince George's County reopen, Greenbelt students and teachers are entering classrooms that are different from the ones they remember.

"It kind of feels like a ghost town," said Patrick Gleason, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School English teacher, about returning to the school.

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Chief Execu-

tive Officer Monica Goldson announced plans to reopen schools February 17. In the first phase of the timeline, which began April 8, families of special education, pre-kindergarten to 6th grade and 12th grade students had the option of selecting a hybrid learning schedule that includes two days per week of in-person learning.

According to PGCPS, an estimated 32 percent of families indicated their children would re-

turn to school for hybrid learning.

Greenbelt resident Christine Doran is the mother of a 6th grader who returned to the classroom for in-person learning at Greenbelt Middle School. Her daughter didn't like virtual learning and didn't feel motivated to

See **SCHOOLS**, page 11

What Goes On

Saturday, April 24
9 a.m. to noon. Electronics Recycling, Public Works Yard
9 a.m. to noon. Document Shredding Day, parking lot behind the Credit Union at 112 Centerway
Monday, April 26
8 p.m. City Council Meeting: First Public Hearing on Budget
Wednesday, April 28
7:30 p.m. Budget Worksession: Recreation

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



PHOTO BY BRITTANY GADDY

A Prince George's County Public Schools bus enters Eleanor Roosevelt High School on April 13.

Byrd Proposes a Commission To Consider City Reparations

by Diane Oberg

Two items not discussed at the April 12 regular city council meeting could prove lively topics at the next (or a future) council meeting. These include a resolution to study and develop reparations for Black residents and an advisory report on a proposed development on Greenbelt Road. In other actions, council declined to support federal Green New Deal legislation and declined to establish a city Green New Deal.

Legislation

Mayor Colin Byrd re-introduced his resolution to establish a 21-member commission appointed by council to study and develop reparations for Black residents of Greenbelt. Councilmember Judith Davis had raised some issues as to whether the introduction at the last council meeting was sufficient. This resolution will likely be up for final adoption at the April 26 regular meeting.

The resolution begins with 30 "whereas" clauses laying out the basis for the resolution stating that Black people have been unjustly enslaved, segregated and incarcerated, subjected to discrimination in education, employment and housing and have historically and currently receive inadequate health care and have

been unjustly targeted by law enforcement and criminal justice procedures.

If adopted into law, the city council would be resolving that council apologizes and makes amends for its participation in and sanctioning of racism against Black people, and for "its enforcement of segregation and its accompanying discriminatory practices." Further, it calls upon other organizations and institutions in Greenbelt that have advanced and benefited from racial inequity to join the city in its apologies and to address racism in their own structures and programs. Council would also be resolving to call upon the

state to initiate policymaking and provide funding for reparations at the state level and encouraging the city manager to form policies and programs that will "establish the creation of generational wealth and address reparations due in the black community."

The resolution calls upon council to establish a 21-member commission to make recommendations that will make significant progress toward repairing the damage caused by public and private systemic racism. The commission would be charged with issuing a report "in a timely manner" for consideration by the city and

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

Everybody Is Rethinking Voting Methods – Including Greenbelt

by Kathleen Gallagher

At its meeting last Monday night, the Greenbelt City Council introduced for first reading a resolution to amend the city charter by replacing the section on absentee voting with a section on mail-in voting. All Greenbelt voters have had the option to vote in city elections by using an absentee ballot, with no excuse required, since early in the last decade, but the "mail in" aspects never really caught on. With the onset of early voting, the number of residents voting as absentees plummeted.

During this pandemic year, however, Maryland and Prince George's County used mail-in voting quite successfully and in the process exposed many voters to the advantages of its use. The city council and the city Board of Elections are hopeful that introducing a dedicated mail-in

voting option will be an attractive alternative to voters and, most importantly, will serve to increase Greenbelt's rather anemic levels of voter turnout for city elections.

While the proposed legislation would replace the absentee voting process with mail-in voting, the city's other longstanding voting methods would remain in place, health concerns allowing. Those methods include in-person voting for both early voting and voting on election day at one's precinct. And while mail ballots may indeed be mailed, other locations for drop-off will be available. It is expected that voters will have to apply to receive the ballot rather than receiving it automatically.

The changes would require additional legislation to complete the details and revise the city

See **VOTING**, page 9



PHOTO BY JAMAL AUSTIN

Zelda and Michael use chalk to draw on canvas at the Three Sisters Garden at Schrom Hills Park on Sunday, April 18. See more photos, page 7.

Letters to the Editor

Kindness Rolls On

Greenbelt is home to many who give and share with others in quiet and gentle ways. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge two of them, Laurie and Jeff, our Greenbelt neighbors and co-owners of Proteus Bikes in College Park. A bike issue grounded me. Knowing that my bike is my car, Jeff picked up my bike, immediately had the repair made and drove it back to me. As we navigate these times of troubled waters, random acts of kindness make all the difference.

Aileen Kroll

Shortcuts

I hope in her perambulations in search of shortcuts that Kyla will check out what I consider the bestest shortcut of all: the one that goes from 7 Court Crescent down to Lakeside and then between 8 and 10 Lakeside on to the path that goes between the museum and the tennis courts. It's the most direct way for those of us living at the far southwest corner of GHI (near where Crescent turns into Ridge) to get to Roosevelt Center, though I wonder how many of my neighbors are even aware of it. I think it took me a couple of decades to discover it.

It's clear to me that this was an official walkway once upon a time, as the part of it closest to 7 Court is paved. But then the paved part is cut off by the houses that were built along Lakeside, so it's a mystery to me where it went originally – taking the shortcut now involves veering off to the left and going over some sometimes quite muddy ground (warning to Kyla).

Kevin W. Parker

Study the Plats

I just saw Kyla's article in the News Review describing her search for the shortcuts off Greenhill Road. There actually are, in theory, public paths at the end of each of the cul-de-sacs she searched. You can see them on the plats. I wish they were all maintained, because it's a lovely forested area back there between Boxwood and Lake-wood!

Jessica Blacksten

Well Organized

I am writing to illustrate my own experience with the Co-vid-19 vaccination.

I pre-registered all three members of my family at the state website. The site was very well organized. When I reserved a spot for my first shot, it also forced me to schedule the second shot.

I arrived at Six Flags expecting long lines. And there were long lines. However, it was very well organized. There were people stationed to guide cars through the line, checking registrations and validating the reservation against a QR code given when you registered.

The main incoming lane was then split into many lines. Soon my secondary line was called to the medical tent. There, an administrator verified my ID and a nurse gave me my shot. This stage took only 2 minutes. I was then given my CDC-issued card with my shot information and the date/time for my second shot.

I was required to wait for 15 minutes in a waiting area in case I had any immediate reaction. People were stationed at that spot to help you if you did.

The entire process was drive through. I did not have to get out of my car.

Other family members got a call or text to reserve slots and did it on the phone. No need to get to the website. I have been to Six Flags for my second shot and with family members and found the same efficiency and organization every time.

The site and the process were very well organized and managed by the Maryland National Guard. I want to recognize the thoughts and efforts put into planning and executing this event.

I congratulate the entire team – management and the field workers for carrying out this massive undertaking so efficiently. Makes me proud to be a Marylander!

Rahul Mehta

In Response

In last week's News Review, [Ms. Sonneveldt] reported that Governor Hogan and the Maryland Department of Health have done a terrible job of managing vaccine information, especially for Prince George's County. It is easy to be a Monday Morning Quarterback.

Governor Hogan has stated that the number of appointments scheduled is based on the supply of vaccine doses. He would not allow for appointments to be made when the vaccine is not available. Governor Hogan has met with his staff on a daily basis to assess the current supply, outstanding issues, necessary corrections and methods to speed up the process. Twelve mass vaccination sites are now available. Maryland is doing a better job than New York and many of the New England states.

On February 12, Governor Hogan met with President Biden and urged the President to take

See **LETTERS**, page 4

Corrections

The article in last week's paper about Two Walks in the Forest Preserve on Saturday, April 24 was written by Susan Barnett. The News Review regrets giving someone else credit for the story.

Three Little Free Libraries were inadvertently omitted from the April 15 News Review article. Little Blue Libraries are located in each of the Three Sisters Gardens put up by CHEARS (chears.org): near Springhill Lake Recreation Center, near the Community Center and in Schrom Hills Park. These Libraries are stocked with books and replenished monthly by Robert Goldberg-Strassler and RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness). We welcome information about any additional libraries in Greenbelt.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.



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The Greenbelt News Review Seeks Advertising Staff

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Service or Garden Side?



Yes! I recycled all of my shipping boxes today!

- 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.



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

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.

Community Events

At the Library

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

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is entering Phase 2 with limited branch services starting on Thursday, April 22, by appointment at selected libraries. Appointments can be made for 1-hour computer use or 15-minutes of browsing borrowable library materials. The nearest libraries to Greenbelt are New Carrollton, Bowie and Laurel. Book appointments at pgcmls.info/reopening or 240-455-5451.

Greenbelt Branch Phase 2 Curbside Service hours (by appointment only starting April 28): Tuesdays, 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Greenbelt has also been added to the list of libraries where mobile printing is available. The first 10 black and white pages are free. More information is available at pgcmls.info/mobile-printing.

Vaccine Assistance

PGCMLS offers an English and Spanish Covid-19 Vaccine Hunter Hotline at 240-392-3622 operating Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The hotline will assist by directly booking vaccination appointments, adding people to vaccine pre-registration lists and answering questions about the vaccination process.

2021 Tax Season

The deadlines for filing tax returns or extension requests are Monday, May 17, for federal returns and Thursday, July 15, for Maryland state returns. The Library has a limited number of Form 1040/1040-SR (including Schedules 1-3) booklets and associated instructions in either English or Spanish. Customers may obtain two copies of each per curbside service visit.

Library Poetry Contest

The Library celebrates National Poetry Month with its second annual Poetry Contest. This year's theme is: What the Library means to you. Poems must be original works but can be any style or length. One entry per poet will be accepted through April, at pgcmls.info/poetry.

Winning poets will receive a gift card, an opportunity to share at an open mic night in May and publication in the Library's Poetry Hub.

Read to Hatch Program

PGCMLS offers Hatchlings: Read to Hatch, a program for expectant mothers, through May. 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 Kids Achieve Club program provides academic support through homework assistance and reading practice for English for Speakers of Other Languages 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.

Get Your Bike Ready for Riding



PHOTO COURTESY GHI BICYCLE

GHI Bicycle Committee will help get bikes ready for spring.

Got a bike that's been sitting all winter and is in need of a little TLC? Need to brush up on riding skills? Local bicycling laws? How about the ways and means of fixing a flat?

The GHI Bicycle Committee and the Washington Area Bicyclists Association (WABA.org) teamed up on March 27 with a Zoom clinic covering those topics and more. Now it's available for viewing as a 90-minute instructional video that will get rider and bike ready for spring riding. Catch it on Greenbelt Access Television, locally on cable TV, Verizon 19 and Comcast 77, or everywhere on GreenbeltAccessTV.org.

Celebrate Earth Day. Join the GHI Bicycle Committee to promote Pedal Power. Visit ghi.coop and click on the VOLUNTEER link. Meetings are every third Wednesday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Questions? Contact jbelltower@yahoo.com.

Earth Day Walks Honor Lives Lost

In honor of Earth Day, celebrate the Greenbelt Forest Preserve with the GHI Woodlands Committee and Greenbelt's Forest Preserve Advisory Board who are conducting two guided walks on Saturday, April 24, in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve.

At 11 a.m. Paul Downs and Susan Barnett will lead a Walk the Maglev Path and Stories of the Woods Hike for those who would like to learn about the proposed path of the train.

From 2 to 4 p.m. two trained guides, Ana Ka'ahanui and Josh Schwartz, will lead a Forest Bathing Walk. This slow-paced walk through the forest is designed to promote health and well-being by getting hikers out of their overworked heads and into a relaxed, mindful state where they can connect to the natural world through the senses. The program is for those 16 and older.

Group size is limited for each hike; registration is required. To participate register at tinyurl.com/6j7knjz2 or contact Barnett at suzanbwild@gmail.com or 443-388-2961, specifying which hike.

These events are held to honor Bill Duncan and all those lives lost to the pandemic.

Garden Club Plant Sale In Center Parking Lot



PHOTO BY MELISSA MACKEY

BGC Member-Vendor Lynn Title and her outstanding plants

Greenbelt will host the Beltsville Garden Club (BGC) Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 1 from 8 a.m. to noon in the same location and Covid-safe format as the Greenbelt Farmers Market. This popular event traditionally takes place at High Point High School, twice every spring, but pandemic precautions necessitated a venue change that the City of Greenbelt generously accommodated. BGC member-grown, healthy and unusual plants at reasonable prices will include tropicals, vegetables, trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials and native plants. Come early for the best selection, rain or shine.

Electric Vehicles Are the Future

Join a Green Teams Earth Day Environmental Zoom Sunday, April 25 at 7 p.m. about Electric Vehicles: Charging into the Future Today. They will review the status of electric vehicles (EVs) both now and in coming years. Learn what EVs are, how and where to charge them up, and the benefits of owning and driving an EV, personally and environmentally. Questions and discussion are welcome and encouraged. Presenters are John Lippert, the city Green Team chair and Dr. Luisa Robles, city sustainability coordinator.

This environmental Zoom series is sponsored by the Green Teams of Greenbelt Community Church, UCC and the City of Greenbelt. RSVP to Jane Young at gccjane@aol.com for Zoom information.

Career Kickstart Library Program

Prince George's County Memorial Library System ends its four-part Career Kickstart online series with Interviews that Impress, on Monday, April 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Registration is required, see pgcmls.info/event/4992259.



Donate Sneakers To Feed Hungry

The Board of Congregational Life at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. GotSneakers has developed a unique program that asks communities to reach into their closets, and not their pockets. This sneaker recycling program helps keep sneakers out of landfills, which has harmful effects on the environment, and will send the sneakers to countries where the poor often go barefoot out of necessity. For more information about GotSneakers go to their website at gotsneakers.com/fundraiser-press-release/.

A donation box for sneakers will be placed outside of Fellowship Center, the small building behind the church for people to drop off sneakers at any time. GotSneakers will pay GCC a varying amount for name-brand and off-brand laced up sneakers with no tears inside or outside. The company even pays for cleaning and shipping – all GCC does is collect sneakers. "We know that most people have extra sneakers in their closets they would like to donate rather than throw away. An additional incentive is now raising funds to feed the hungry and help the environment. It's a win-win situation for everybody."



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.

No May CROP Walk, Contribute Instead

Because of Covid-19 and social distancing requirements, the Park and Planning Commission has cancelled the annual CROP Walk, to have taken place on May 2. The CROP Walk, held to highlight the need to address world hunger, has occurred locally at Lake Artemesia. Individuals, churches, such as the Greenbelt Community Church, and other organizations, such as the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Club, have participated for a good number of years. However, one can still make a financial contribution.

Send contributions, made out to CROP, to local organizers Lyn and Bob Doyle at 3142 Gracefield Road, #103, Silver Spring, MD 20904. For more information, call Lyn or Bob at 301-328-7598.

Porch Greenbelt Food Collection is Growing

The April RUAK Porch Greenbelt food drive collected 592 pounds of nonperishable food as well as personal hygiene items from our now three collection areas. All were donated to the St. Hugh of Grenoble Food Pantry. The collection dates for front porch pickup next month between 2 and 5 p.m. will be May 9 for Woodland Hills and May 16 for Boxwood Village and Ridge Road from Lastner Lane to Research Road.

Thank you to all the Greenbelt residents who have made donations. You are making an important difference in our community! Mother Teresa said, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

We welcome volunteers who would expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer with Porch Greenbelt, please contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Friday April 23 - Thursday April 29

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	f y
8 am	Democracy Now! • Repeat of Yesterday's Program	
9 am	Classic Movies ★★★★★ <small>Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Drama • 1939</small> • The Little Princess Shirley Temple • Richard Greene <small>Directed by Walter Lang</small>	
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel • Local Community Programming	
12 pm	Democracy Now! • Today's Syndicated Program	
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs • Elementary Edition Glenn Dale v Hillcrest Heights	
2 pm	Music at the New Deal Café • Campfire Sessions • Songwriters Showcase with Host Joey Campfire	
3 pm	Classic Movies ★★★★★ <small>Hosted by Ron MacCloskey</small> • Harold Lloyd Ron interviews Suzanne Lloyd	
3:30 pm	GATE Community Production • Getting Ready for Spring Riding John Campanile	
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs • Elementary Edition Glenn Dale v Hillcrest Heights	
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel • Local Community Programming	
7 pm	Democracy Now! • Today's Syndicated Program	
8 pm	Classic Movies ★★★★★ <small>Hosted by Ron MacCloskey Drama • 1939</small> • The Little Princess Shirley Temple • Richard Greene <small>Directed by Walter Lang</small>	
10 pm	Music at the New Deal Café • Campfire Sessions • Songwriters Showcase with Host Joey Campfire	
11 pm	Democracy Now! • Today's Syndicated Program	
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel • Local Community Programming	

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Live Online: Saturday, May 1 at 7pm & Sunday, May 2 at 3pm
discussion after each show greenbeltartscenter.org

Also showing: Two Noble Kinsmen by the Rude Mechanicals, April 30 & May 1

Letters continued from page 2

any steps in his power to increase vaccine production. The President offered the help of FEMA.

On Maryland's vaccine website it states that older adults and adults with disabilities that have questions should call their local health department or call 211.

I called the Prince George's Health Department and applied online. When my roll out group came available, within two days I was texted a time, date and location (Six Flags) to get the vaccination and a bar code to identify myself. There were several hundred cars in line, but it was well organized and the staff were friendly. I waited in my car until I was guided under the tent where the vaccine was being administered. Yes, for that amount of people in line, it took a long time. On April 14, I received my second vaccine in much less time. The people guiding and helping were out in the rain. I received both my vaccines with no problems.

Randy Crenwelge

More Favorable Light

A recent editorial in the News Review and a five-person majority of the city council have expressed extreme displeasure at Mayor Colin Byrd's comments at the April 7 opening of the Greenbelt Metro vaccination site. Some of us see Byrd's words in a much more favorable light.

On April 7, Byrd expressed his concerns and lifted up the concerns of his constituents. I find the mayor's actions commendable. We want the mayor and other elected officials to speak up when they believe that constituents are at risk. The most effective time for an elected official to get the attention of other elected officials may be when they are face-to-face and the cameras are rolling.

The News Review and some city councilmembers seem to be saying that ritual and politeness are more important than using whatever platform we each have to protect lives and the interests of our community.

Seemingly unaware of the irony, the city council itself violated both ritual and politeness when it entertained a major vote on April 12 – a vote on the first-ever formal censure of a mayor in the town's history – without publicizing in advance that this

historic action would be on the agenda. Typically, major items are included on the agenda, days in advance, so that residents can participate in the meeting if they are so moved.

With equal irony, the News Review failed to maintain the polite distinction between neutral reporting and editorializing. The title of the front-page story about the April 7 event used the word "attack" to describe Byrd's actions. If an elected official makes comments such as "with all due respect, governor, you reopened too fast," a journalist would describe that as "criticism," not an "attack."

Owen Kelley

Objects to Editorial

I was surprised to read the outraged condemnation of Mayor Colin Byrd following his impassioned comments on the failures of state government's response to Covid-19 in our community. An interesting theme joining the city council's statement of censure and the unsigned editorial in the April 15 News Review was the accusation that he failed his duty to represent the city. Who articulates the views of the city, and why should we expect those views to be always harmonious? What is the point of voting one person into office over any other if their function is simply obeisance to higher authorities? This appeal to the shared interest of the city that never exactly names what that interest entails or who has the right to name and contest its meaning is anti-democratic. Democracy can be unruly. I am glad Byrd voiced his anger at the failures of state government because that anger represents many of us. Our elected officials, at any level, are not automatically entitled to respect and good behavior from those of lower

station. Our mayor is not a vassal serving His Lordship Hogan. All evidence points to a profound failure by the governor to protect the people of our county – the lack of vaccine resources devoted to the hardest-hit county in the state despite months to prepare has killed our neighbors and prolonged this crisis. People are dead. More will die in the coming weeks. If we expect our local elected officials to bow and scrape and kiss the ring in the face of such failures because our economic development depends on their servility to state officials, what does that say about the nature of our government?

Alec Armstrong

Editor's Note: Editorials represent the opinion of the News Review.

Censure Not Appropriate

I write in sadness on the Greenbelt city council vote to censure Mayor Colin Byrd in a 5-2 vote for his recent remarks at the press conference for the FEMA vaccination center at Greenbelt Metro.

At the press conference Byrd was curtly directed by Governor Hogan to "wrap it up" after roughly 10 minutes of remarks where the mayor thanked the Biden Administration and the county executive for advocating for equity. The mayor also addressed the impacts of the pandemic and held pretty much everyone accountable, including the governor, for failing communities along the way.

Was the press conference uncomfortable to watch? Yes. Was it disrespectful? Absolutely not. Initially, I worried about the implications of Byrd's statements, but then I remembered this quote by James Baldwin: "I love America more than any country in this world, and, exactly for this



PHOTO BY TOM JONES


On Thursday, April 15, 10 residents held a rally in front of the Municipal Building, chanting "Mayor Byrd speaks truth." Holding the megaphone is Chrissy Wilkin.

reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually."

Democracy is not a popularity contest. Byrd used his platform to raise awareness of the teachers from Roosevelt who had rallied to insist the school was not ready to open. He called attention to the rampant inequity of the pandemic response which has been thoroughly documented and deeply felt in our community.

Is Byrd passionate? Without a doubt. Does he represent those who don't have a voice? Every

See LETTERS, page 9



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

"Man's distinction lieth not in ornaments or wealth, but rather in virtuous behaviour and true understanding." – Bahá'u'lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

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

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 25 10 a.m.

"Resistance, Resilience and Renewal"

PBUUC Chalice Dancers -- Sharon Werth, Director and Choreographer; with Worship Associate Nori Myrdon-Ward

We have resisted by marching, advocating and working for justice, and thereby creating our own liberation. We have been resilient in finding a balance between self-care and self-determination as we focus on ourselves and our community. We dance so that we may renew and expand our sense of wholeness and oneness in a larger community within the web of life, light and love.

ONLINE ONLY. Streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

The Bible Says...

But to this day whenever Moses is read,
a veil lies over their heart;
but whenever a person turns to the Lord,
the veil is taken away.
2 Corinthians 3:15-16



Sunday Worship Services

10a-11a ONLINE

MCFcc.org/online



Greenbelt Community Church

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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
God is still speaking

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

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



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 26, 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

- National Small Business Week Proclamation
- Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2022 Budget

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

- Statement for the Record - Closed Session, April 7, 2021

Administrative Reports

Committee Reports

LEGISLATION

- 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) - 2nd Reading
- An Ordinance Concerning an Annual Comprehensive Crime Reduction Plan 1st Reading
- A Resolution Concerning Monthly Crime Stats 1st Reading

OTHER BUSINESS

- Basketball Courts in Greenbelt East (at the intersection of Mandan Road and Ora Glen Drive)
- Reconsideration of Sidewalk Installation at Plateau Place and Ridge Road
- Recognition Group Policy - Waiving matching funds requirement for FY 2021 due to the pandemic
- NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Master Plan and Transportation Management Plan
- \$15 minimum wage for City employees
- Paid Family Leave for City Employees
- Council Activities
- Council Reports

MEETINGS-Scheduling of Future Meetings

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

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



MOONLIT MOVIES

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

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://greenbelttheatre.org/> for more info.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR APRIL 26-30

Monday, April 26 at 7:00pm **GCERT and GCART** Speaker: Steve Peterson is a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM®) specializing in emergency communications in both the public and private sectors.

Monday, April 26 at 8:00pm **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING/1ST PUBLIC HEARING ON FY 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, April 27 at 3:30pm, **SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, April 27 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, On the Agenda: Planning for Student Award.

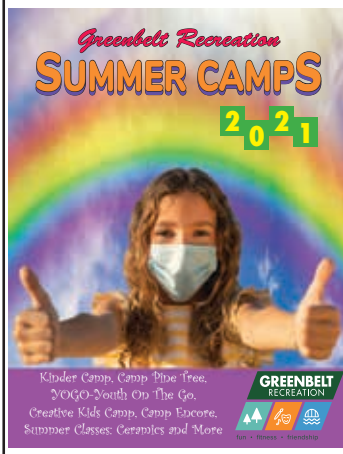
Tuesday, April 27 at 7:30pm, **GREEN ACES AND GREEN TEAM**

Wednesday, April 28 at 7:00pm, **MAGLEV TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, April 28 at 8:00pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION re: Recreation** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltd.gov/municipaltv

Thursday, April 29 at 7:00pm, **ZERO WASTE CIRCLE**

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@greenbeltd.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.greenbeltd.gov.



Greenbelt Recreation Summer 2021 Camp Guide

NOW AVAILABLE!
Visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at www.greenbeltd.gov/recreation
Resident registration going on now. Non-Resident registration begins on Monday, May 3 at 10am



Greenbelt Recreation is now hiring!

Summer Camp Staff, Lifeguards, Park Rangers, and Recreation Center Leaders

Please visit www.greenbeltd.gov/jobs to apply now.

Call 301-397-2200 for more information.

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Greenbelt City Council has scheduled a

PUBLIC HEARING

To be held during the Regular Meeting of Council on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 8:00 p.m.

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

This is the first of two Public Hearings on the budget. The second will be held on Monday, May 24, 2021. The Public Hearing will be held in virtually via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged. All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and to ask questions concerning the entire budget.

Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltd.gov/budget>.
For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**NATIVE PLANTING
SATURDAY, APRIL 24
10 AM – 1 PM
Buddy Attick Park
555 Crescent Road**

Be a part of the community effort to restore native plant species to the environment around Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove weeds and invasive species, install native plants, and mulch around planting areas. Masks will be required at all times.

Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
- Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
- Students: bring community-service forms
- Volunteers must register in order to participate
To Register: Contact Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltd.gov

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, AND PAINT

RECYCLING

Saturday April 24 2021
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Recycle Your Old Computers and Other Electronics!

Accepted items include: CPUs, monitors, key-boards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires and power cords. Expanded polystyrene (block "Styrofoam" #6). NO Styrofoam cups, egg cartons or food trays.
SORRY, ALKALINE BATTERIES AND TUBE TVs ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED.
PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.



Yuck Old Paint -
PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. In order for paint to be properly used, the contents on the inside need to match the label on the outside. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$50 service fee. Yuck Old Paint, LLC

Questions? Greenbelt Sustainability Office 240-542-2153

SHREDDING DAY

Saturday, April 24 from 9 AM – 12 NOON
(or until the truck is full)

COVID19 safety procedures in place

The Greenbelt Federal Credit Union will be shredding your documents in the parking lot behind the Credit Union at 112 Centerway

Only 5 file boxes/bags per person. Must wear a mask. Personal records only (no business). Follow directions.

No contaminants accepted. NO BATTERIES. No plastic binders and sheets... Abandoned boxes/bags will be put in the trash.

For more information, call the Public Works Office at 301-474-8004

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

GREENBELT VACCINATION STATION- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

FEMA and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is asking for 30 volunteers a day to help out at the Greenbelt Metro Station.

- Please sign up through the Maryland DART system and register www.mddart.org
- If you have problems with DART registration, you can send an email with your availability to GreenbeltCERT@gmail.com.

- 1) Please include your name, cell number, and dates/times available.
- 2) Let me know if you would like to be considered for an early vaccination. Volunteer hours may be required before you can be vaccinated.
- 3) After every volunteer day, please send your hours to GreenbeltCERT@gmail.com so we can credit your time.



Register at: www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/

Earth Day

Potomac Watershed Cleanup Focuses on Indian Creek Trail

by Julie Rapp



PHOTO BY JULIE RAPP

The day's work crew poses with their haul, loaded onto the truck for proper disposal.

A group of 12 dedicated volunteers met on Saturday, April 10, behind Beltway Plaza, near the Shell Station located on Cherrywood Lane, for the Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup event that took place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by Greenbelt Public Works, which partnered with the Alice Ferguson Foundation, this year's event was to clean up the section of the Indian Creek Wetlands Trail that runs from the Cherrywood trailhead to Branchville Road. "The portion of the creek trail the volunteers worked on was City of Greenbelt property up to where it terminates at Branchville Road," said Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, the city's environmental coordinator. Public Works has held this event annually at other locations but according to Carpenter-Driscoll, "Indian Creek Trail was an area of concern when it came to removing trash and litter." The group collected 242 pounds of trash and 107.2 pounds of recyclables. Among their more unusual finds was a large round table with wrought iron legs as well as some other pieces of furniture just off the trail.

In coordination with this event, as part of the Trash Free Potomac Network, the Greenbelt Station Activities Committee also organized a neighborhood cleanup. Those 10 neighborhood volunteers also brought up bags of trash and recyclables, and a very large, heavy tire from near Indian Creek.

The Alice Ferguson Founda-



PHOTO BY KRISTEN WEAVER

Roderick Rose and Rube Ahmed rest after rolling a large and very heavy tire up the slope from a spot near Indian Creek.

tion sponsors the annual event and provides supplies such as trash bags and gloves. Carpenter-Driscoll said, "The goal of the Annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup is to engage the public and spread awareness about the environment throughout the Potomac watershed." According to the Foundation's website, this cleanup event has grown from a few cleanups along the Potomac River to a regional event spanning Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

The Potomac Watershed includes all the land area that drains into the Potomac River. By cleaning streets, school yards and parklands, the volunteers at these events prevent trash from spilling into storm drains or other waterways that dump into

the river. The Alice Ferguson Foundation's Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative seeks to prevent litter and the negative impact of trash in the water. It also promotes environmental awareness and stewardship among the public.

Carpenter-Driscoll added, "Groups of volunteers from all over will adopt a worksite to remove trash and litter from the environment before it has the opportunity to enter the watershed, either blown in by wind, washed in by stormwater or from illegal dumping activities. Everything that enters the Potomac watershed will eventually make its way into the Bay and ultimately the ocean."

For more information about the Alice Ferguson Foundation go to fergusonfoundation.org.



PHOTO BY LESLIE PEREZ

Greenbelt Station neighbors, from left, Jean Dickason, Savreen Hundal, Kathryn Fricks, Camille Moore, Roderick Rose, Sherell Fuller, Kelly Roane, Rube Ahmed, Scott Sheck and Kristen Weaver

Earth Day

Weed Warriors Help Increase Biodiversity by Planting Natives

by Matthew Arbach

To commemorate Earth Day, on Saturday April 24, the City of Greenbelt Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, will be holding a native planting at Buddy Attick Park pollinator garden near the main parking lot. "Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to install native plants, remove undesirable weeds and add mulch around new plantings," he said.

According to Carpenter-Driscoll, "anyone can become a 'weed warrior' and help the environment." Weed warrior, he said, is "an umbrella term I use to advertise my conservation stewardship volunteer programs." They are committed "to help increase biodiversity in Greenbelt's natural areas so they can become more resilient and provide more environmental services in the future."

Time of the year and weather

permitting, Carpenter-Driscoll plans events about every two weeks. Typical activities include invasive plant removal, native plantings and litter pickups. In light of the pandemic and social distancing, volunteer turnout for these outdoor events rarely exceeds 25 participants.

While there are no official weed warriors, individuals like Erica Hernandez and Xochitl Zamora-Thompson have "adopted some city property near their homes to maintain, in an effort to combat invasive species and eventually try and restore some native plants."

For those interested in future activities, events are advertised in the Greenbelt News Review and on the city's website under green volunteer opportunities. People can also contact Carpenter-Driscoll personally at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov.



Weed warriors remove invasive plants from Buddy Attick Park.

- Photos by Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll



We the People
Calling All Forest Friends to Help Save Our Forest Preserve!

Create a gift from the forest (visual art or written message) in an art square (8 1/4 inches by 8 1/4 inches). It will be collected with others, to become a paper-quilt display in pop-ups around Greenbelt!

Pick up/Drop off squares at the Co-op Supermarket Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt.

Deadline for submitting art: *May 14, 2021.*

For more information: greenbeltforestpreserve.org; jnewcomb1@mac.com; 301-441-9023



Youth Producers, Directors Bring New Shows to GAC

by Melissa Sites



The youth cast, producers and directors: top row from left, Mecca Lartigue (producer), Marlon Brown (actor), Brandon Fuller (actor) and Niya John (Shutter). Second row from left, Mara Hanson (stage manager), Anya Wilkinson (producer), Andrea Fontaine (director) and DaNya Ford (director). Third row from left, Apple DeGeorge (actor), Madeleine McComb (actor), Sydney Taylor (actor) and Evelyn Christina (actor). Bottom row from left, Sasha Sehgal (costumes master) and Stella Satterfield (actor).

At Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC), an important set of three one-act Free Plays toward an Antiracist Tomorrow is being produced by two Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) juniors, Mecca Lartigue and Anya Wilkinson, youth liaisons to the GAC Board of Directors.

Tasked with involving more youth in GAC and attracting young audiences, Lartigue and Wilkinson immediately knew these short plays by Idris Goodwin fit the bill. The set was selected by the producers to help people start conversations about race that they might not otherwise feel comfortable having. Lartigue states that the plays present three main themes: “a theme of moving forward, social justice and social change, and looking to the future while acknowledging the past.” Wilkinson adds that these were chosen “with the intention of making change, and in terms of race, how we move forward.”

Lartigue and Wilkinson chose the plays, proposed them to GAC, found directors for each play, and generally worked out what the production would be about and who would be involved. Both have been very active in Greenbelt theater, including Greenbelt Recreation’s Camp Encore and winter musical, as well as drama at ERHS, where both are members of the International Thespian Society chapter, which meets weekly and helps plan productions at ERHS.

As the student liaisons’ first project, this production is already successful, because they have brought in teens who have never before worked with GAC and will bring in more youth audience members.



PHOTO COURTESY MECCA LARTIGUE



PHOTO COURTESY ANYA WILKINSON

GAC Youth Liaisons Mecca Lartigue (left) and Anya Wilkinson

Niya John, a 2020 graduate of ERHS currently at University of Maryland, Baltimore County, is directing The Water Gun Song, appropriate and accessible to ages 6 and up. This play portrays a conversation between a parent and a child about why a water gun may not be perceived as simply a toy. A talk-back will follow each play so that audience members can ask questions, and will also feature a panel of specialists qualified to speak on these topics.

The other two plays, directed by ERHS students working with mentors, are intended for audience members 14 and up. Andi Fontaine directs #MATTER, in which two young adults who were friends in high school – one a Black woman, the other a White man – debate issues of race. DaNya Ford and Kate Maggill Robinson direct Black Flag, in which first-year college stu-

dents rooming together come into conflict over decorating with a bit of “Southern pride.” Lartigue and Wilkinson described Rikki Howie, a widely respected local director, as “a mentor and guardian angel who helps us whenever we need it. She was originally brought on just to mentor one director but she’s been helping us with the virtual production. She’s been kind enough to take on so much more.”

The production will be live on Saturday, May 1 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 2 at 3 p.m. There will be two talk-backs per performance. The first one, after the first play, is appropriate for children. The second talk-back will be at the very end following the two other plays, which are recommended for ages 14 and up. Visit greenbeltartscenter.org for more details.

Chalk Drawing Event At Three Sisters Gardens

On Sunday, April 18, a chalk project took place in the Three Sisters Gardens throughout Greenbelt. See page 1 for a photo from Schrom Hills. This activity was part of Chalk One Up for Greenbelt! Arts in the Gardens, sponsored by Connecting Across Greenbelt, The Space Free Art For All, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) and CHEARS (The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society).



PHOTO BY CAROLYN LAMBRIGHT-DAVIS

A young artist adds pizzazz to the community chalk drawings at the Three Sisters Garden behind Springhill Lake Recreation Center.



PHOTO BY JAMAL AUSTIN

At the Three Sisters Garden outside the Community Center, Vijay Parameshwaran uses chalk on canvas instead of chalk on the sidewalk, which is his more standard medium.



PHOTO BY HEATHER ETTUS

A beautiful spring day by the Lake



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\$55 DENTAL IMPLANT CONSULTATION
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COVID INFECTION CONTROL CERTIFIED



Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, Dr. Richard Duarte, and Dr. David McCarl are licensed general dentists.

Greenbelt 301.474.4144 | Shipley’s Choice Medical Park 410.987.8800

BELTSVILLE GARDEN CLUB

PLANT SALE!

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021
8 AM - 12 NOON
RAIN OR SHINE

ROOSEVELT CENTER PARKING LOT
CENTERWAY, GREENBELT, MD

See the story on page 3

COUNCIL continued from page 1

participating community groups for incorporation into their respective short- and long-term priorities and plans.

The resolution notes that the report may include but not be limited to increasing minority homeownership and access to other affordable housing, increasing minority business ownership and career opportunities, strategies to grow equity and generational wealth, closing the gaps in health care, education, employment and pay, neighborhood safety and fairness within criminal justice.

Proposed Development

Council accepted as part of the consent agenda Advisory Planning Board (APB) Report 2021-02 regarding the preliminary site concept for a proposed development at 7010 Greenbelt Road. This location, near University Square, was previously occupied by a nursing home. Armory LLC is now proposing to build 90 age-restricted units in four buildings and is seeking city support for two zoning text amendments and one zoning variance to permit the project to move forward. The net effect is to lessen density and green space requirements for the development. In addition to reviewing and supporting city planning staff recommendations on these requests, APB voiced concern about potential for traffic accidents under the current configuration of the entrance from the property onto Greenbelt Road.

This proposal was discussed at a March 17 council worksession, which was reported in the March 25 issue of this paper.

Green New Deal

Council rejected a request from Byrd to support federal Green New Deal legislation. His motion died on a three-to-four vote with Roberts, Mach and Byrd in favor and Jordan, Davis, Putens and Pope opposed.

Council also defeated Byrd's motion to charge GreenACES, the Advisory Committee on Trees and the Forest Preserve Advisory Board to develop recommendations as to whether and how Greenbelt should enact a local Green New Deal. The motion died on a two-to-five vote with Byrd and Roberts voting aye.

Maglev

Council unanimously approved sending letters to State Senator James Rosapepe and several Anne Arundel County officials encouraging them to join Greenbelt in opposing the maglev train and to President Joseph Biden and other federal officials in opposition to that project.

Trail Management

Council accepted without discussion Forest Preserve Advisory Report 2021-02 requesting council approval of a pilot program to address trail maintenance issues to inform the development of the Master Trails Plan. The issues to be studied include ways to improve drainage of eroded or muddy sections of trail, develop ways to make trails in persistently wet or muddy areas passable, dealing with trees fallen across trails, standards for controlling brush alongside trails and development of a process for public reporting of problems and suggestions related to trails.

Updates

City Manager Nicole Ard reported that staff has started discussing what will be needed to resume in-person meetings. She

said some staffers, and likely some residents, are not able to participate in in-person meetings so they are looking to develop some form of live/online hybrid.

Ard updated council on the status of the police collective bargaining negotiations. Staff have met with legal counsel and look forward to working with the Fraternal Order of Police over the next few weeks. She identified the city's negotiating team as Human Resources Director Mary Johnson, outside counsel, the assistant city manager (when named), herself, the City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon and Police Chief Richard Bowers.

Statue

Council awarded a contract not to exceed \$8,895 to Wellman Conservation to assess and clean the bas reliefs on the Community Center, to clean and repair the mother and child statue in Roosevelt Center, to fabricate and install an interpretive panel to be placed near the statue and to paint the front façade windows of the Community Center.

Proclamations

Byrd presented a proclamation declaring the week of April 11 through 17 as Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Greenbelt and recognizing Communications Supervisor Alicia Williams and Communications Specialists Jessica Houle, Maria Auchter, Sarah Gignac and Jazmyn Fujii for their service.

Byrd also issued a proclamation in honor of Earth Day on Saturday, April 24 and urged residents to celebrate by supporting and joining in efforts to protect the environment and to preserve the beauty, wonder and diversity of the earth.

Council welcomed the new Executive Director of the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Megan Baco and praised the efforts of prior director Aaron Marcavitch, who is leaving the post at the end of April.

College Park Joins Maglev Fight

by Amy Hansen

On Tuesday April 13, College Park City Council voted to support the City of Greenbelt in its fight against the maglev, putting \$10,000 into Greenbelt's legal fund.

County Council member Danielle Glaros provided a brief overview of the environmental issues that maglev would create, including problems with construction through neighborhoods, waste disposal, vibration of buildings and land use for housing equipment and emergency egress

buildings.

Greenbelt Mayor Colin Byrd and Bladensburg Mayor Takisha James each addressed the College Park council, adding that maglev will hurt ridership for Amtrak commuter rails and the economic benefits are questionable.

The College Park City Council voted unanimously to give the City of Greenbelt the money, saying that they were showing solidarity even though the maglev wouldn't impact them directly.



A female cardinal

PHOTO BY JAN MORROW



Pinxter Azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*), a native azalea, is seen along the new trail designed by the GHI Woodland Committee (above the tunnel which goes under Hillside Road.).

PHOTO BY CATHERINE PLAISANT

City Notes

City staff presented maglev information for two Greenbelt East homeowners associations.

With two baby chickens and a rabbit adopted and a pregnant cat impounded, the Animal Shelter hosts three dogs, two cats and a rabbit. Thirty-four permitted pooches enjoy the Dog Park. Park rangers monitored grill use and warned ice cream trucks at Buddy Attick Park.

Horticulture/Parks planted 14 varied trees and made safety improvements at several playgrounds. Refuse/Recycling collected 30.41 tons of refuse and 12.87 tons of recyclables. Sustainability/Environmental coordinated two forest tours for the Maglev Task Force. Public Works repaired the Pool's hot tub heater.

Recreation's archery class series drew 52 participants. Preschoolers studied butterflies and Artful Afternoon featured painting on the lawn. The Virtual Recreation Center featured Spring Activities and Kits, Outdoor Movies and Summer Camp information.

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program offered a Produce/Diaper distribution and 34 seniors received Food and Friendship meals. Therapeutic Recreation Zoom monitored a Golden Age Club meeting featuring Greenbelt gardens.

Urban Foraging At Botanic Garden

Alexis Nikole Nelson, "The Black Forager," will present Unexpected Foraging, an online presentation from the U.S. Botanic Garden, on Saturday, April 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Discover some of the surprising edible plants to be found in D.C. and the Mid-Atlantic region. Nelson will share her foraging history and expertise to help you get started on a found-food journey.

Pre-registration is required. For more information and the registration link, go to usb.gov/programs.

MAKE AN EARTH FRIENDLY SWAP!

In Historic Roosevelt Center
www.greenbelt.coop

Easy Better for the Planet Choices

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

Celebrate Earth Day, April 22 at the Co-op!

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.

Shooting Incident

April 10, 12:38 a.m., Greenbelt Road near Kenilworth Avenue. Several shots were fired from a passing vehicle in the direction of the 7-Eleven in the 8900 block Edmonston Road, where three uniformed police officers were standing.

Assault

April 10, 9:23 p.m., 5811 Cherrywood Terrace. A man approached a woman and slapped her, which knocked her to the ground. He then fled in a silver-colored 4-door vehicle.

Fraud

April 8, 7:22 p.m., 90 block Ridge Road. A person put a letter containing a check in a mailbox. The letter was stolen, the check amount was altered and then it was cashed by unknown person(s).

April 9, 2:27 p.m., 54 Court Ridge Road. A person put a letter containing a check in a mailbox near 54 Court Ridge Road. The letter was stolen, the check amount was altered and then it was cashed by unknown person(s).

April 10, 9:04 a.m., 39 Court Ridge Road. A person put a letter containing a check in a mailbox near Crescent and Ridge Roads. The letter was stolen, the check amount was altered and then it was cashed by unknown person(s).

April 10, 5:29 p.m., 7712 Hanover Parkway. A man responded to an email in which the sender convinced him to open his online bank account. He did, and then unintentionally gave the email sender full access and control of the account. The sender then threatened to take all of the man's money from his bank account, unless he purchased gift cards and gave them to the sender. He did this and gave the card information to the email sender.

April 12, 4:19 p.m., 4 Court Ridge Road. A person put letters containing checks in a mailbox near Roosevelt Center on February 20 and March 27. They were stolen, the amount of each check was altered and then both were cashed by unknown person(s).

Theft

April 8, 3:32 p.m., 5911 Cherrywood Terrace. A bedframe delivered to an apartment residence and left in the hallway was taken.

April 9, 9:36 a.m., 7415 Greenbelt Road. Copper wiring and aluminum were taken from a rooftop HVAC system at Greenway Center. Further investigation revealed that copper wiring was also taken from several other HVAC units there.

Burglary

April 8, 6:37 p.m., 6301 Golden Triangle Drive. A 23-year-old nonresident was arrested for fourth degree burglary after he was located in what was supposed to be a vacant room at the Sonesta Select Hotel. He was released to the custody of the Department of Corrections for

service of an open arrest warrant. Other charges are pending.

April 10, 4:30 p.m., 8100 block Greenbelt Station Parkway. A red and white Trek Damani road bike was taken from a garage.

Vandalism

April 12, 9:46 a.m., 10 Crescent Road. Graffiti was placed on the sidewalk.

April 12, 11:28 a.m., 406 Ridge Road. The rear sliding glass door of an apartment residence was broken.

April 12, 8:28 p.m., 9126 Edmonston Terrace. A rock was thrown through the bedroom window of a residence.

Vehicle Crime

Two vehicles were stolen. A gold 1998 Toyota Camry was taken from the 9200 block Springhill Lane on April 11. The person suspected of being involved is known to the owner and the investigation is ongoing.

A silver 2017 Dodge Durango with Maryland tags 3DL5745 was taken from 5913 Cherrywood Terrace on April 14 after it had been left unlocked and with the engine running. Several firearms were inside the trunk.

Multiple stolen vehicles were recovered. A 2010 Toyota Prius taken April 9 from Ora Glen Drive near Ora Court was recovered the same day by New Carrollton Police at an undisclosed location.

A 2020 Honda Civic taken from 420 Ridge Road was recovered the same day by Prince George's County Police at an undisclosed location prior to it being reported missing and after it was involved in a hit and run accident.

A 2007 Volvo XC90 taken from the 9100 block Springhill Lane was recovered April 10 by Riverdale Police in the 4500 block of Sheridan Street in Riverdale.

A 2010 Honda Accord reported stolen March 2 from 6001 Cherrywood Court was recovered April 12 by Prince George's County Police in the 5400 block St. Barnabas Road in Temple Hills.

A 2018 Ford Expedition reported stolen to the Arlington City Police Department was recovered on April 12 at 9130 Edmonston Terrace.

A 2020 Honda CRV reported stolen April 1 from 9220 Springhill Drive was recovered April 14 by Metropolitan Police in the 4500 block Third Street S.E. in Washington, D.C.

Four tires and rims were taken from a vehicle at 7802 Hanover Parkway.

Five handicap placards were taken from vehicles at 19 Court Ridge Road, 9148 Edmonston Road and 9003 Breezewood Terrace after windows had been broken to gain access.

Windows were broken at 9148 Edmonston Road and 5919 Cherrywood Terrace. The interior of a vehicle was vandalized at 9310 Edmonston Road.

Letters continued from page 4

time. Do I always agree with him? On substance, usually. Are some Greenbelters skeptical that he is striving to seek national office and not put Greenbelt first? Perhaps. But on the dais at Greenbelt Metro the only thing Byrd did, I contend, is speak too long and aim too true for Greenbelt.

With the council's vote of censure, it leaves me thinking: What more can we ask of an elected representative than to speak the truth?

Melissa Ann Ehrenreich

Speaking Up

The story of the Covid-19 pandemic in Greenbelt is still being written, but local history is certain to record the following:

(1) The Hogan Administration dragged its feet when it came to distributing vaccines to the majority-Black population centers of Baltimore City and Prince George's County, and Governor Hogan doubled down on this decision when criticized for it.

(2) When the mayor of Greenbelt held the governor accountable for his actions during the pandemic, the Greenbelt City Council voted to censure the mayor.

I realize there are members of the council who are more inclined to pay attention to the latest finger-wagging about civility on the Greenbelters Facebook page than to the plight of their

own (Black) constituents, but this was really a new low from our council.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts, thank you for your No vote.
John Appiah-Duffell

In My Opinion

Congratulations to Greenbelt Mayor Colin Byrd for stating in a public forum what many of us can see: the vaccination program of the state has had many failures, including lack of organization and the initial major problem of finding where to register for an appointment. Most of my vaccinated neighbors received their shots through Doctors Hospital. For Byrd's speaking out, the council block of five led by our two former mayors on the council used a parliamentary ploy to censure Byrd.

I think the current situation on the council is not primarily racial but reflects the apparent attempt by some to take us back to five or 10 years ago when the two former mayors largely set the policies of Greenbelt. Private meetings were a common practice then. For the last six weeks, the News Review reports on the council have contributed to the split by frequently quoting the former mayors as authoritative, when what the mayors say is already known to those paying attention to the issues. The other councilmembers seem to be quoted much less often. When

did Byrd announce he is running for the U.S. Senate, or is that assertion an editorial comment by the reporter?

I think the council should spend full time on today's problems: Covid recovery, maglev, the new changes in Maryland police regulations, plastic waste, protecting the Forest Preserve, etc. etc.
Henry Haslach

Thanks for Perspectives

A big Thank You to both Paul Downs and Matthew Arbach for their respective pieces on the impact maglev would have that was published in last week's News Review.

Paul's beautifully written ode to our champion tree and the forest the mighty tree belongs to is wonderful. He also reminds us that the fight to save our forest, successful over 20 years ago, is not over. Threatened again, we need to be vigilant and determined to continue that work and preserve that what makes us who we are, our Greenbelt.

This is a local battle in a worldwide war on nature. Trees bring us life, the oxygen we breathe, the rain that grows our food and so much more. It is our responsibility that they live so that we can.

Matthew points out so many of the flaws in the grandiose scheme that is maglev. Three times more energy needed than conventional trains. Destruction

See LETTERS, page 11

VOTING continued from page 1

election code, but those would involve the usual simpler resolutions.

On the other hand, because the pending legislation is in the form of a charter amendment resolution, further steps are required. The city must notify the public by posting a copy of the charter amendment resolution in a public place for at least 40 days after its passage. It must also publish a "fair summary" of the resolution not less than four times at weekly intervals in a newspaper of general circulation in the community

(watch this space!).

The amendment will become effective 50 days after being passed if it is not petitioned to referendum. City residents may, however, seek to nullify a charter amendment by acquiring the signatures of 20 percent of the qualified voters of the municipality, as well as meeting other requirements.

The charter amendment resolution should be introduced for its second reading and adoption at the council's next regular meeting on Monday, April 26.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

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

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YARD SALES

BOXWOOD VILLAGE (Greenbelt) Community Yard Sale, Saturday/Sunday, April 24th/25th, 9 a.m. to Noon. Maps with the addresses of participating families will be provided at the playground at the corner of Lastner and Ivy Lanes in Greenbelt starting at 8:30 AM each day.

YARD SALE Saturday, 24 April 9-noon, 105 Hedgewood Drive. Household goods, games, books, CDs, etc.

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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CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

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).

AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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Please call us today if you have been thinking about selling.

301-441-1071 #1 in Sales For Greenbelt in 2020!

SCHOOLS continued from page 1

keep up with it, Doran said in an email.

"The teachers did a great job but, for her, being in the school environment surrounded by her peers was a vital component of learning," she said. "In this case, I think the advantages for her mental health and wellbeing outweigh the risks of [Covid-19] at this point, though I wish I didn't have to weigh up one against the other."

Gleason said he had expected PGCPSS would reopen as he saw local counties make the same decision. But returning to the almost empty high school was a surreal experience for him.

"We just have such a low number of students returning. It's not a normal return," he said. "But I think ... some students really do want to be back and need that, so I'm just willing to do whatever I need to do for the people I'm serving."

According to Gleason, only one student out of the 62 12th graders he teaches elected to return for hybrid instruction.

"I really enjoy building relationships with students and getting to know them – just being able ... to greet someone

in-person as they're coming in," Gleason said.

Although the student is present in the classroom, she still learns on Zoom with the rest of the class. Until all of Gleason's students return for in-person learning, he said Zoom allows them to interact with each other, which is especially important in an English class in which they share and discuss ideas.

Teaching students on Zoom and in-person is a hard juggling act, said Greenbelt resident Melinda Brady, a substitute teacher at Berwyn Heights Elementary School.

Brady teaches kindergarten through 6th grade. She said the little kids are very excited to be back in the classroom, but there's going to be a learning curve in balancing teaching on Zoom and in-person simultaneously.

"As a teacher, it would be easier to have everybody in one place," she said. "But also as a teacher, we need to be doing what is best for the kids and for their [families]."

Brittany Gaddy is a journalism student at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.

Scholarship Fund Deadline Nears

The David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund (DCMSF) Board chooses an Eleanor Roosevelt High School senior each year to receive a scholarship for tuition assistance in continuing higher education. This local scholarship is available to all ERHS seniors. To be considered for this year's scholarship, students must submit the application form by Friday, April 30.

The award recipient is recognized for academic standing, but with greater emphasis given to those qualities that David Craig possessed: active involvement in religious community, leadership in civic community and participation in individual and team sports.

One recipient has been selected each year for over 34 years. The current scholarship, for \$12,000, is paid over a four-year period.

The DCMSF is totally funded by private donors and 100 percent of the monies are used for financial assistance at the institution of the scholarship recipient's choosing. This completely volunteer organization is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit for IRS purposes; that is, all donations are tax deductible.

Any and all questions and concerns can be directed to 301-474-7874, or P.O. Box 761, Greenbelt, MD 20768; emails to dahammer61@yahoo.com; website at David Craig msg.blogspot.net; or on Facebook.

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, began 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, with the remaining sessions as follows: 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.



Letters continued

of our overpass, ground vibrations harming our buildings, loss of woodland, safety concerns and so many more negatives.

What is the upside to the maglev? A commuter can save 15 or 20 minutes going from D.C. to BWI airport? Save a couple of driving or train-riding hours commuting to NYC?

This boondoggle project will take decades to build, if ever. Are all these commuters eager to go north wanting this system for themselves or their grandchildren? If they all have to get there yesterday, why not take the 1-hour shuttle flight from Reagan airport?

So, our town, our forest, and all that line its proposed path can live, this maglev project needs to die on the drawing boards and stay dead.

Frank Gervasi

Maglev DEIS

I support the "No Build" option. I own a unit within the Greenbriar Condominiums in Greenbelt. The property is situated very close to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. On page 110 of the DEIS, there is a description of a proposed action to close the Gladys N. Spellman Overpass to accommodate the construction of the Unique Route – Build Alternative J which is one of the possible options preferred by BWRR.

The Overpass currently connects the residents of Roosevelt Center, a part of Old Greenbelt, to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School located in Greenbelt East. The entrance to the Overpass, located between two buildings on the Greenbriar property, leads directly to the school across the street. The high school students from Old Greenbelt use the Overpass to safely arrive and depart from the school.

An article in the Washington Post, dated December 29, 1977, explains why the Overpass was constructed: "Every day, between 50 and 100 Eleanor Roosevelt High School students scramble through a hole in a chain link fence and make a mad dash across the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to and from the city

of Greenbelt. So far, no one has been hurt. After a recent meeting of federal, state, and city officials sponsored by Rep. Gladys N. Spellman (D-Md.) to discuss building an overpass just north of the Greenbelt Road interchange near the favored pathway, hope was expressed that no one ever would be."

Closing the Gladys N. Spellman Overpass would disconnect the residents of Old Greenbelt from Greenbelt East and force our children to resort once again to the dangerous practice of making a "mad dash" across the Baltimore-Washington Parkway in order to travel to and from Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Leslie M. Cummings

Maglev for Idiots:

- 1) Environmentally damage a struggling, diverse county.
- 2) Layoff those (temporary) "good" jobs.
- 3) Drive Acela (the train rich people already have) out of business.
- 4) Run into the red after the BLING wears off.
- 5) Require (unimaginable) infrastructure repairs.
- 6) Burden (unbenefited) taxpayers.
- 7) More delayed arrivals, more debt, more anger.
- 8) Provide excuse for the new (can't fail!) "Rocket Train."

Lesley Kash

See LETTERS, page 12



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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

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, back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

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

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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

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

Earth Day

Greenbelt Forest Preserve: She Brings Us Many Gifts

by Susan Barnett

Our Greenbelt Forest Preserve encompasses 226 acres of living, breathing plants, fish, birds, mammals, insects and their habitats all woven together among beautiful trees, streams and soils. It is rare to have a forest in a town. Why? Because they are often clear-cut and developed before anyone realizes what is happening. In Greenbelt we are fortunate to have this forest – we almost didn't.

These 226 acres were part of the original Green Belt, the belt of green that surrounded the town, a 1930's planned community. Most of that original "belt" sadly was sold and developed early in our history. But these 226 acres, although sold to a private owner, were not initially developed.

However, in November 1987 the owner decided to develop this much-loved land and the front page of the Greenbelt News Review showed blueprints of a proposed development of townhomes and single-family homes and roads. In response, the Committee to Save the Green Belt was born. The city embarked on a decades-long battle to gain ownership of the forest with the goal to protect it from development. The citizens rallied and standing-room-only was the norm for city council meetings. Such was the passion that Greenbelt held for its forest!

The city worked hard to regain ownership and in so doing brought into play a host of strong protections for the forest. So strong that it would take an act of Congress to be removed. Something we thought we would never have to face. Yet here we are looking at a project that, if it progresses through the NEPA process, could lead to a test of those protections. The SCMaglev train project proposes, in one route, to plow through the Greenbelt Forest Preserve leaving it fragmented and its capacity to benefit us greatly diminished.

So why is it important that we work hard to keep our forest? What gifts does she provide? What do we stand to lose if she is cut up into parts and loses her trees, her soils, her beauty? Let us go there and find out together.

We get to the Forest Preserve usually by taking a road. The roads often consist of impervious surfaces (asphalt, cement) which don't breathe, do not absorb rain water, do not absorb carbon from the atmosphere, nor offer much to our health or our planet – all things our Forest Preserve does provide. Rather, a road allows cars and trucks and other vehicles to roll along unimpeded. As we come close to the Forest Preserve however, you may notice that there is shade, it might feel cooler, and she invites us in to experience her gifts.

Entering the forest, we gain a sense of the terrain as each step we take may be different. We step on roots or soil and our whole selves must respond – we enliven our muscles, our joints, and gain a different sense of balance. As we move, we might feel a plant's tendril brush up against a leg or an arm. We start to notice that not all the plants are alike, our first encounter with



In late spring, a child walks the trail that circumnavigates Blueberry Hill within the North Woods tract of the Forest Preserve.

- Photos by Owen Kelley



In April, jack-in-the-pulpit blooms in the wetlands of the Forest Preserve that would be impacted if the proposed Baltimore-Washington maglev were built. This species and many other wildflowers are described in A Hundred Wild Things, a field guide to the Greenbelt Forest Preserve available from local author Owen Kelley, the Greenbelt Museum, and elsewhere.

biodiversity. As our feet gain traction and confidence, our eyes may begin to wander further – we see trees, the forest's largest plants. And we notice they don't all look alike. No, the bark varies, the leaves, which are just coming out, are different from tree to tree. And wait now, it seems some trees are standing, some have fallen, some are clearly decaying. Yes, the great cycle of life is right in front of us. Our forest needs all of these stages of the cycle, she needs the decaying trees to provide food, habitat and soil for a whole range of other forest inhabitants. The forest connects everything and all is needed for her to stay healthy and thriving. She needs the insects, the animals: squirrels, rabbits, foxes and they need her. She needs the streams with fish, frogs and turtles and they need her.

What was that? Hmmm? Was that a sense of quiet? Amidst the bird calls? The scurrying sounds of squirrels? Indeed, the forest offers us a symphony of sounds we don't normally hear. And in the deeper areas of the forest, it can seem rather quiet and hushed. True, the parkway is not far away and we do hear this, sometimes loudly. As the forest leaves return in spring, she offers us a bit of a sound buffer and allows us a gentler sound environment as we walk through her. Yet, another gift.

Now that you are deeply in the forest have you noticed that you are not thinking quite so much about the work tasks you have to finish, the shopping you need to do, the endless demands on your attention, all that perhaps leave you stressed, anxious or not feeling so well? In the forest you will find you drift away from these things and in fact it may be that the forest is helping you to feel less anxious. You might breathe more easily as your

thoughts shift more inward and away from the day-to-day tasks. Sometimes you might actually find you can solve a problem that has been on your mind because you have become calmer and more focused. Such a gift!

In fact, the forest is helping us, as she helps herself. She needs carbon dioxide, which she breathes in and then releases clean air for us to breathe. So, take in a good cleansing breath and thank the trees.

Research tells us that our walk in the forest is bringing on several changes. Our blood pressure decreases, anxiety and stress have lessened, our immune system has been boosted and we are better able to focus. We are even more likely to experience awe and empathy. When all of our senses are enlivened by our walk in the forest, we experience the greatest benefit. We actually benefit from being bathed in the atmosphere that trees and soils create. More gifts.

The Japanese have given a name to the intentional practice of contemplative immersion in the sights, sounds, touch and smells of the forest. They call this shinrin-yoku which means forest bathing. Forest bathing, sometimes referred to as forest therapy, is a slow and mindful way of walking. The goal is not to walk far but rather to walk in nature with the intention to take in the forest through our senses.

Walk in the Forest Preserve to get to know her, to enjoy her, and to bathe in the gifts that she provides to all who go there. Then give back to her by working to protect her from the threat of the maglev train proposal. To take steps to stop the train, join Simple Steps to Stop the Maglev by contacting Susan Barnett at suzanbwild@gmail.com. Our Forest Preserve will thank you and shower you with her gifts.

Letters continued

Acknowledgements For Joint Efforts

The Greenbelt Community Garden Club (GCGC) thanks the five City Council members who came to the gardens on April 10 to assess the impact of shade on the gardens. Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) members also participated and were helpful in pointing out the specific recommendations from their report that would mitigate shade on the gardens and preserve the historic community gardens for the next generation of Greenbelt citizens. Members of the FPAB and GCGC members were available to talk with Councilmembers Emmett Jordan, Silke Pope, Leta Mach, Judith Davis and Edward Putens.

Councilmembers saw a demonstration of the solar pathfinder (a device that determines the amount of sun and shade a specific area receives on a given day and time) in multiple garden plots. The device clearly showed to the councilmembers how a substantial amount of the garden plots receives less than 4 hours of full sun per day, limiting the vegetation that can be grown. The group also looked at woodland edges around gardens for which it was proposed that volunteers could create forest gardens of native shrubs, small trees and perennial plants that would provide

a soft woodland edge to replace invasive growth and provide food and shelter for wildlife and pollinators.

We appreciate the interest and concern shown by council members and we thank the FPAB for not only their thoughtful report but their continued support of working together as a community. We are grateful to Stephanie Warner who provided the demonstration of the solar pathfinder.

GCGC Executive Committee

Fragile Pollinators

Given the current fragility of pollinators such as bees, I hope the city can take a proactive stance to protect potential habitats. Right now much of the grassy fields around Greenbelt contain flowers that sustain these insects through spring. There are many areas where mowing is necessary right now such as playing fields, but a plan could be implemented to reduce or cease mowing where it isn't critical. Some examples would be the grass around the observatory or outside the exterior of the fence on Northway Fields. With a little thought and awareness, I hope the city can be a model of decisions that aid pollinators and environmental stability as well as reduce their mowing time and costs.

Mimi Noorani



Light bounces off a fallen tree against a backdrop of spring leaves in the Forest Preserve.

- Photos by Kristi Fletcher



Life exists on a micro level in the Forest Preserve.

visit
www.greenbeltnewsreview.com