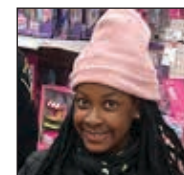




Golden Age party, p.13



Shop with a Cop, p.11

City Council Names Members Of Reparations Commission

by Susan Taylor

On Wednesday, December 14, the Greenbelt City Council named the 21 members of the Reparations Commission one year after voters passed a referendum directing the council to establish the body. The commission will meet for the first time in January 2023 to study and put forward ideas to address the legacies of institutional oppression in Greenbelt.

The members named are Tom Adams, Chelsea Barnes, Rhema Bjorkland, Francis DeBernardo, Lorena Ferdinand, Yahshuah Ford, Joseph Hamlin, Adriane Harris, Konrad Herling, Chiquita Jackson, London McCloud, Mark Miller, Shabnam Mojtajedi, Denise Nadasen, Robert Rand, Lois Rosado, René Sewell-Raynor, Jonathan Taylor, Pamella Taylor, Sarah Wampler and James Williams, Jr., with alternates Gail Crichlow and Mark Wilson.

The Proposal

In the spring and summer of 2021, council debated the proposal by then-mayor Colin

Byrd to establish a committee to study and develop reparations for Black residents. At the time, some councilmembers desired a broader inquiry addressing equality and diversity or had concerns about the city's jurisdiction. Without enough affirmative votes to create the commission directly per charter requirement (City of Greenbelt Charter, Section 8), the council decided to place the question directly to Greenbelt voters.

In the November 2021 city election, residents were asked to vote on the reparations referendum: "The City Council of Greenbelt should establish a twenty-one (21) member Commission to review, discuss and make recommendations related to local reparations for African American and Native American residents of Greenbelt."

Voters approved the question with 1,522 yes votes and 910 no votes.

See REPARATIONS, page 12

National Swimmer Shattuck Joins Greenbelt's Barracudas

by Rebecca Redeker

Zachary Shattuck is a current member of the U.S. Paralympic Swimming National Team and this year became the head coach for the Greenbelt Barracudas swim team.

Teaching Enjoyment

Though Shattuck wants his team members to perform to their best ability, he also believes it should be an enjoyable experience. "The most important thing about being a swim coach is that you never want to be their last swim coach," Shattuck explained. He would never want to be the reason that someone leaves the team or the sport. "I just want all those kids to keep enjoying the sport, fall in love with it, have some fun as they do it and hopefully continue to grow and improve as swimmers and as kids," Shattuck said.

A Return to Greenbelt

Shattuck has spent the last four years as a coach. He began coaching at the University of



Vice President Kamala Harris poses with Zachary Shattuck.

PHOTO COURTESY ZACHARY SHATTUCK

Mary Washington where he was an assistant coach for two years, then began coaching at club and local level teams. "Greenbelt's one of the most unique places, maybe ever," Shattuck said. He was born in Greenbelt and moved away when he was 6 years old. Since he has been back, he noticed that everyone is connected in some way and that Greenbelt is different from almost any other community.

See SWIMMER, page 15

Man-made Greenbelt Lake Has Natural Freshwater Life Cycle

by Erica Johns



View from the peninsula of the plant life in the Lake

PHOTO BY MARC SIEGEL

Recently increased vegetation in Greenbelt Lake may appear worrisome, but it is a sign of a natural ecosystem, of nature independently creating and sustaining the 23-acre lake's rich plant and animal life. If the growth continues, it would indicate the lake is evolving toward marshland.

What's Happening?

Local kayakers and fisherfolk have reported increased growth in coves both near the peninsula and Lakecrest Drive, and along the lake perimeter. Kayakers report enough growth to impede paddling. Fisherfolk note pros and cons; the plants catch lures,

but also provide habitat for fish to grow larger, for a more satisfying catch. The growth includes algae, water primrose, smartweed and the water chestnut noticed this summer (see greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20220804.pdf). The

See LAKE, page 9

Council Hears Presentation For Rent Stabilization Here

by Deb Daniel

On December 12, PolicyLink's Tram Hoang, CASA's Trent Leon Lierman and Laurel City Councilmember Martin Mitchell engaged Greenbelt City Council in a discussion of rent stabilization legislation at the invitation of Greenbelt Councilmember Ric Gordon. Rent stabilization attempts to control the rise in rent in a more moderate way than rent control; the latter uses strict price limits, but both limit the amount of rent that a landlord can charge.

Mitchell recounted some cautionary examples of cases in Laurel that disturbed existing tenants. In one case, a new landlord of a property that housed older residents doubled the rent for their current tenants (some

tenants had lived in the buildings for 20 years). The same landlord owns multiple properties in Laurel and other places, including Greenbelt. Mitchell was able to negotiate with the landlord to pay some reasonable increases with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, but realized that a long-term solution would require legislation.

PolicyLink Presentation

Hoang began her slide presentation by noting the cost of

an average two-bedroom apartment in Maryland would require a worker earning the minimum wage to work 93 hours a week. In Prince George's County, 85 percent of white residents, 87 percent of Black residents and 80 percent of Latino residents are cost-burdened, meaning over 30 percent of their income goes to their housing.

Different ways of restricting

See RENT, page 12

What Goes On

Monday, December 26, City Offices Closed
Wednesday, December 28, No Meeting

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

2022 GVFD SANTA SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 20th @ 6pm
Franklin Park Apartments
Motiva Apartments

Friday, December 23rd @ 6pm
Greenbriar
Windsor Green
Hunting Ridge
Greenbelt Lake Village

Saturday, December 24th @ 6pm
Old Town
Lakewood
University Square Area
Boxwood
Lakeside North



Holidays When There Is No Festive Mood ... Good Grief

by Gloria Walters-Flowers

It is hard to escape the frenzy of holiday cheer that starts earlier and earlier each year. Our ordinary surroundings become transformed into a Hallmark movie setting. As if a secret community alert message was issued, neighbors convene in their yards and balconies to hang their untangled, colorful lights that serve as a beacon that Christmas time is here.

Co-conspiring stores haul out their holiday merchandise as early as October. Every mall, radio station, elevator and even telephone hold-music feels obligated to provide a holiday tune. Friends and family, as if in competition, eagerly extend an avalanche of invitations to lift a glass, eat, dance and exchange gifts.

Don't You See Me Crying Here?

Amid all the holiday cheer, it is still possible to feel alone and perhaps even a little grinchy. For some, the festive world may seem out of sync with reality. If a loved one has died, there is a hole left in the heart. It can seem as if one is existing in a different land where few outsiders understand, where the fellow inhabitants, poor in spirit, would pay anything to leave and the new language is hard to master.

Death and grief are universal. While grief is not easy to navi-

gate, with no GPS and no one way out, it is possible to manage the grieving process, even during the holiday season.

Permission to Grieve

Here is a holiday survival kit. First, know that you are not alone. During this season, self-care is paramount. It is easy to forget to eat nourishing foods, drink water and get proper rest. Get outside, take in some fresh air, take a walk; all ensure a better mind-body connection.

Consider grief counseling or a grief support group – a nurturing environment where one has a safe space to have one's voice heard and feelings validated.

The Gift of Grace

Offer yourself the gift of compassionate grace. Use the power of no. Saying no to gatherings you don't want to participate in, saying no to putting up decorations that you'd rather not see and saying no to sending cards when the sentiment is not honest are things one has the right to suspend this year. Give yourself a pass – and don't.

Be honest and let family and friends know what you need. If you need companionship, especially if you have self-isolated, let people know. A quick lunch

See **GRIEF**, page 8

Correction

The caption to the photo of Elgin Gordon in last week's paper inaccurately referred to him as the "new" coach at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. As reported in the article itself, Gordon has been coaching at Roosevelt for 10 years.



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

SHOWTIMES:
December 23rd – 29th
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
The Fabelmans (PG-13) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (151 mins)
Fri. 4:45 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 4:45 PM, 8:00 PM
Sun. 1:00 PM
Mon. 1:45 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Wed. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM

Screen 2 -The Screening Room
Empire of Light (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (113 mins)
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM
Sun. 1:15 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM (OC)
Tues. 7:15 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM



- News Review, December 19, 2018

Break the Usual Stereotype: Try Delivery to Windsor Green

Recently, delivery of the News Review to Windsor Green was disrupted for a couple of weeks. We reinstated it on December 1 by asking our current carriers to take on an extra route.



This is not a sustainable solution. We have one new carrier who has now started delivering but we need three more (there are 654 homes in the complex). Each route takes about an hour each week, on a somewhat flexible schedule – Thursday afternoons or any time Friday.

The stereotype of a carrier is a jaunty youngster between the ages of about 12 and 15 wearing a cap and riding a bike. But that's not a definition. Over the years, the newspaper has had a variety of carriers and we encour-

age readers to think out of the box about whether doing this service would suit them.

For example, an active retired person might find this the perfect outlet. It offers exercise, public service and a \$10 payment weekly – a heady combination. And at the end of the year, tips can add up substantially – especially for a diligent and dedicated deliverer – to hundreds of dollars. For retired people, the regular nature of the activity also helps with keeping track of which day of the week it is – quite a bonus.

Another possibility is a family enterprise, where youngsters work with a parent to learn the value of work and what it means to do a job properly – for example,

See **CARRIERS**, page 7

On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

The Fabelmans

In this story from Steven Spielberg, young Sammy Fabelman falls in love with movies after his parents take him to see The Greatest Show on Earth. Armed with a camera, Sammy starts to make his own films at home, much to the delight of his supportive mother. "Spielberg's semi-autobiographical drama celebrates the magic of the moviemaking while reflecting on the important balance between art and family," says critic Rene Sanchez of Cine Sin Fronteras.

Empire of Light

Set in an English seaside town in the early 1980s, the film is a powerful and poignant story about human connection and the magic of cinema, from Academy Award-winning director Sam Mendes. Empire of Light features a stellar cast led by Academy Award winner Olivia Colman (The Favourite, The Lost Daughter), BAFTA winner Micheal Ward (Blue Story, Top Boy) and Academy Award winner Colin Firth (The King's Speech, A Single Man). It also reunites Mendes with Academy Award-winning cinematographer Roger Deakins (1917, Skyfall).

Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 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

The library will be closed Friday, December 23, through Monday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday and Saturday, December 31, through Monday, January 2, for the New Year's holiday.

The Greenbelt Library's regular hours are, Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the library's schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

Face masks are recommended for all customers and staff over the age of two in Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) buildings.

Reading Challenge

In conjunction with the Washington Wizards NBA team, the county library system once again offers its Winter Reading Challenge, from December 12 through March 31, 2023. Activities include reading, watching Wizards games, attending virtual library programs and staying active and engaged with the library and the Washington Wizards. Readers who complete the challenge will be entered into a raffle to win a variety of prizes. Books to read for children in various age groups (K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8) will be featured. Visit pgcmls.info for more information and to register for the Winter Reading Challenge.



Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

GHI Launches Search For General Manager

On December 16, GHI officially launched the search for a new general manager with the release of a board-approved position profile. This search is necessary because current General Manager Eldon Ralph will retire soon.

Those interested in learning more or applying for the general manager position can find a detailed description of the position as well as application requirements at ghi.coop/sites/default/files/attachments/news/GHI%20Position%20Profile%20FINAL.pdf. Review of submitted resumes will begin in early January. Questions about the search can be directed to the GHI Transition and Search Committee at ghitransitionandsearch@ghi.coop.

GAIL Caregiver Support Program

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is hosting a program both online and in-person for caregiver support groups. The group provides support for adult children, spouses, family or friends who provide care to a loved one.

In-person meetings begin in January. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Community Center, Ground Floor East. The virtual session will be on the third Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required and groups are limited to 10 participants. Contact Sharon Johnson, group facilitator, at 240-542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov. A Zoom link will be provided to registered participants.

Greenbelt Chess Club

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Monday, December 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the New Deal Café. This group welcomes all ages and skill levels. Teaching is provided as needed by our friendly members. Bring a chess set if preferred.

For questions about this club, call Effie at 443-415-1053.



Homeschoolers Meet At Youth Center

Monday meet-ups at the Greenbelt Youth Center return in January for the Greenbelt homeschoolers. Every Monday from January 23 through May 22, except for federal holidays, the group will gather from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with play for children and support for parents. All ages are invited.

The group will meet in the Youth Center's Multipurpose Room for play, socialization, age-appropriate activities and games and a brown bag lunch. All families in and near Greenbelt are invited to join. This is not a drop-off program; children must be directly supervised by their adult.

Contact Li'l Dan, parent volunteer/city liaison, at dceldran@hotmail.com or 240-643-3768 with questions or to RSVP before January 23.



Family Fun Sundays a Bust At Springhill Lake Rec Center

by Gloria Walters-Flowers

Organizers had hoped that Family Fun Sunday at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center would be an excellent way for Greenbelt families and neighbors to connect and make use of the facilities in the heart of Springhill Lake this fall. Unfortunately, the program failed to take off and was canceled for lack of participation. Rec Center Director Brian Butler believes the football season and competing interests thwarted the plan to play group games and have a drop-in time in the gym.

"Between the NFL season and the Boys and Girls Club Football Playoffs, there was just too much competition," said Butler.

The chance for parents to play with their children, create new memories and reconnect with their inner child was supposed to be enticing. In today's economy, finding a way to keep the kiddos entertained can be challenging. Having free activities nearby helps young families stay on budget and gives families access to games and equipment without taking on the burden of ownership. It also offers a recreation activity in an area of Greenbelt that doesn't have ready access to the center city's Youth Center,

Aquatic Center or Community Center without reliable transportation.

With so many families living in apartments, the space to spread out, run and make noise during the cold weather months is a welcome reprieve. Butler is not giving up on the idea of providing safe recreation for families. He plans to offer the program again after the new year. Board games, bowling and basketball will be available at the Rec Center during the family game time.

So, what program has been working at the Rec Center? The after-school program has been very successful. Most students come from Springhill Lake Elementary School, but it is open to all students aged 6 to 12. Young teenagers staff the program with the energy and enthusiasm to keep up with their young charges. Frank Jones provides academic support, while Butler, a self-professed kid at heart, dives into shenanigans with the kids.

The program runs from 2 to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. It currently has openings for new students. For more information call Springhill Lake Recreation Center at 301-397-2212.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

The jolly old elf hasn't noticed that one of his reindeer has fouled the reins.

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THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	Classic Movies	Santa Claus Conquers the Martians • 1964
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Benjamin Tasker v. Thomas Johnson
2pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON THREE	Four Shillings Short • Celtic and American Folk
3pm	Classic Movies	Santa Claus Conquers the Martians • 1964
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Benjamin Tasker v Thomas Johnson
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	Classic Movies	Santa Claus Conquers the Martians • 1964
10pm	Music at the New Deal SEASON THREE	Four Shillings Short • Celtic and American Folk
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Community Programming

Connect with GATE [f](https://www.facebook.com/gate) [y](https://www.youtube.com/gate) [i](https://www.instagram.com/gate) www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

*****2022 Washington City Paper Awards Winner*****

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Happy Hour! Monday - Friday, 4 - 7pm: \$1.00 OFF BEER & WINE!

Thursday, 12/22, Susan Jones Quartet (Eclectic Violin Led Jazz), 7:00 - 9:00pm

Friday, 12/23, The Wharf Rats (Psychedelic Jam), along with:

The 7th Annual Ugly Sweater Party! 8:00 - 11:00pm

Saturday, 12/24 and Sunday, 12/25, CLOSED

Monday, 12/26, Chess Club (All Ages & Experience Levels), 6:00 - 8:00pm

Tuesday, 12/27, Tunes Tuesday Open Mic w/ Michael Trouserpants, 6:30 - 9pm

Wednesday, 12/28, Scotch and Soda (Acoustic Jazz & Swing), 7:00 - 9:00pm

Thursday, 12/29, The Brothers Bill Quintet (Blues & Gospel Inspired Jazz), 8:00 - 11:00pm

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Obituaries

Robert "Bumpa" W. Mogel



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Robert W. Mogel

Robert "Bumpa" W. Mogel, 99, died Sunday, December 18, 2022.

Mr. Mogel was born in Reading, Pa., son of the late Ruth Lilian Moser and Paul Howard Mogel. He served in the U.S. Navy in the MARS/AROU unit during World War II. Mr. Mogel was a firefighter and retired as a captain from the Washington, D.C. Fire Department. He was a past chief and president of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department. Mr. Mogel enjoyed hunting and golfing. Soon after retirement he moved to Myrtle Trace, Con-

way, S.C., and spent his last 33 years there.

Mr. Mogel is predeceased by his wife, Jean Lutz Mogel; a daughter, Jan Mogel Perini; three brothers and a sister.

Surviving are one daughter, Marsha Ann Mogel Reed of Conway; son, Robert W. Mogel, Jr. of Taneytown, Md.; grandson, Jason C. Reed (Kendra) of Gilman-ton, N.H.; granddaughter, Jillian Reed of Nashville, Tenn.; and four great-grandchildren, Jackson Brody Reed, Keegan Quinn Cole, Logan Mica Cole and Silas Carlton Reed. Among Bob's many great friends: Carol and Frank Stilley of Myrtle Beach and the Bachtlers of Maryland.

A Celebration of Life service will be held at Myrtle Trace Clubhouse at a later date.

Sign an online guest book at goldfinchfuneralhome.com.

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Con-way Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

Community Church Christmas Eve

Greenbelt Community Church welcomes everyone to its annual candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24 at 7 p.m. led by Rev. Clara Young. The lighting, the choir and the setting make it a special occasion. The church is also holding a service on Christmas morning at 10:15 a.m. All are always welcome.

Condolences to the friends and family of Robert W. Mogel who died December 18 at age 99. He was a past Chief and President of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department.

Congratulations to Sally Davies, whose artwork has been awarded the Maryland State Arts Council's Creativity Award. Her paintings explore the small details of everyday life but amplify the bigger picture – community and compassion.

Her films *Our Fractured Life: Portraits of Strong Resilient Women* and *We Are Stardust on This Mortal Coil* were shown at the Utopia Film Festival this year. In the past three years, her films have won awards and nominations at the Paris International Film, Kansas Arthouse, Vancouver Indie, Toronto Indie, San Francisco Indie Short, Women's Int'l, Heritage Festival, Panama City Indie, National Short and Spotlight Short.

She plans to spend the award money on a new iPad, electronic storage space for her films and financing the cost of entering film festivals.

Congratulations to the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Robotics Team for their win at the Capital Beltway Challenge December 17. See story on page 15.

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



"...if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbor that which thou chooseth for thyself."
– 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

Pastor Evelyn Romero

In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Come as you are



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

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org

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



PHOTO BY DERRICK EARLY

Sally Davies poses with Rachel Caravan and her baby Denton at Davies's gallery reception. Rachel's eye is featured in Davies's painting behind them. Caravan, also a Greenbelt resident, was a nurse working in full PPE and pregnant during 2020, before vaccines.

The Bible Says...

For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
MCFcc.org



MCFcc.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

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



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



December 24, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Rev. Ann Kadlecak with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

On this night before Christmas, we celebrate with the ancient story, carols, dance, readings, ritual and words from Rev. Ann. Please have a candle ready to light during this service.

NOTE: This service is online only and begins at 5pm. No Sunday Service on Christmas Day.

Streaming to our Facebook page.



Please Join Us

- Advent Services Sundays at 10:15 a.m.
- Christmas Concert Sunday, Dec. 18, 4:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve Service Saturday, Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Service Sunday, Dec. 25, 10:15 a.m.



Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

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

Obituaries

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

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



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

MASS

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Road

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FDeBernardo@aol.com

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Biblical
& Reformed

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Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD
www.greenbeltbaptist.org



City Notes

Eleven cats, five kittens, two dogs and three bunnies are in the animal shelter.

Horticulture/Parks removed eight loads of curbside leaves and trained snow tractor drivers. Refuse/Recycling collected 29.01 tons of refuse and 10.53 tons of recyclables and Street Maintenance repaired potholes throughout the city.

At Sustainability/Environmental's Breezewood Playground workday, 15 volunteers trimmed paths, removing invasives.

At the Community Center, Arts and Dance staff hosted an active parents' night out. Other activities included the Concert Band's Holiday Concert, the city holiday party and meetings of GAIL, Golden Age, GIVES, Girl Scouts, PRAB, Farmer's Market, Greenbelt Astronomy and PG Peace and Justice.

Recreation and Public Information added winter activity content to the Virtual Recreation Center.

The Aquatic and Fitness Center hosted two swift water trainings and collected 45 Toys for Tots.

Park rangers welcomed a CHEARS poetry reading at Schrom Hills Park.

CARES offered an active parenting session titled Parenting a Teen During the Pandemic.

**Become a Plogger
Make Greenbelt Sparkle**

What is "plogging"? It's an eco-friendly exercise that involves picking up trash while jogging or walking – taking care of one's health at the same time. Plogging was coined by Swedish outdoorsman and environmentalist Erik Ahlstrom and comes from plocka, the Swedish word for pick up.

Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK initiative, is a fun and engaging way to clean up litter from the streets, paths, streams and ponds while raising awareness on the importance of preventing storm-water pollution.

Join other fellow Greenbelters in helping make Greenbelt sparkle.

Those interested in joining Greenbelt Plogs should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

**Donate Sneakers
For People in Need**

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

The Bus
Seniors, Children with School ID
and Customers with
Disabilities **RIDE FREE**



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.

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 26-30

Monday, December 26, **NO MEETING**

Wednesday, December 28, **NO MEETING**

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@greenbeltmd.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 meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed
Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2
in observance of the Christmas & New Years Holidays.

**REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE
WEEK OF DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2**

Monday Route – collected Tuesday
Tuesday Route – collected Wednesday
Wednesday Route – collected Thursday
Thursday Route – collected Friday
There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, December 30, and Friday, January 6.

GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Sunday & Monday, December 25 & 26; and Sunday & Monday, January 1 & 2.

GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN!

WINTER ACTIVITY GUIDE

Classes for children and adults! Fitness, Art, Swimming, Dance, Yoga, Ceramics, & More... Check out our Winter 2022 Activity Guide for gift ideas or call Greenbelt Recreation at (301) 397-2200 or visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide

GREENBELT LITTLES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

This program is for kids ages 3-5 years. Children must be fully potty-trained. Winter and Spring classes available.
Call (301) 397-2200.

**Greenbelt ARPA Funds Assistance Programs Update
(as of 12/5/22)**

- Rent and Utility Assistance
· 396 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$1,958,253.04
- Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance
· 17 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$61,856.17

**GREENBELT RECREATION'S
2023 WINTER ACTIVITY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE**

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide to view and register.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

FREE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

CARES currently has daytime hours available from 9 am-4 pm for individual counseling for ages 16+. Waitlist available for evening hours starting at 5 pm.
Call (301) 345-6660 or email cares@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

This FREE program is available for Greenbelt families with newborns to 2 years old. Service includes monthly diapers, formula, baby milestone progress review, and more.
Call (240) 542-2019 or email kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is offering support groups online or in-person beginning January 2023. Registration required.
In-person: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm at Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East
Online: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2-3 pm.
Call (240) 542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

This FREE program occurs every 3rd Thursday of the month from 1-3 pm. Look at this section of the GNR or the City calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar for information.

**ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM AND PAINT RECYCLING
Saturday, January 28 from 9 am until 12 pm**

Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road

Paint Recycling \$5 per container

- NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs
- NO Tube TVs/Questions?

For more information, call (301) 474-8004.

**CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE
CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS**

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas).. This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND: Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

GREENBELT RECREATION: Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

**NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT
WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS**

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt Road 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on the flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

**BECA DE EDUCACIÓN
GREENBELT**

El período de solicitud está abierto del 15 de diciembre de 2022 al 31 de marzo de 2023.

**GREENBELT EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP**

Application period open December 15, 2022 until March 31, 2023.

Scan here to apply!



¡Escanea aquí para aplicar!

For more information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

Mishkan Torah Synagogue Celebrates Hanukkah

by Jonathan Katz

On Sunday, December 18, Mishkan Torah held a Hanukkah party in honor of the first night of Hanukkah. Attendees from Greenbelt and beyond lit hanukkiot (menorahs for Hanukkah), watched a play by the students of the Karp Family School and ate freshly made latkes, doughnuts and other treats.

Hanukkah is an eight-day festival that celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple by the Maccabees during the Seleucid occupation of the Holy Land in the 2nd century BCE.

Mishkan Torah holds a party every year for people of all ages - and all were excited for this first in-person Hanukkah party since the start of Covid.



PHOTO BY JONATHAN KATZ

Isaac Hoskey and Maggie Brown perform in the Karp Family School play.



PHOTO BY KAREN KNEE

Rabbi Saul Oresky and Mishkan Torah congregants light hanukkiot.

Greenbelters Celebrate Solstice With Food, Music and Fire

by Melissa Sites

The winter sun set over Schrom Hills, as Greenbelters gathered on Saturday, December 17, for their Annual Winter Solstice Celebration, organized by CHEARS member and Greenbelt's Outstanding Citizen Maggie Cahalan and co-sponsored by RUAK, Connecting Across Greenbelt and the Peace and Justice Coalition of Prince George's County.

CHEARS has celebrated the Winter Solstice annually since 2006. This year, visitors to Schrom Hills enjoyed a meditative twilight stroll around the perimeter of the park, picking up small gifts from the trail, such as pine needles, pollen catkins from Prince George's County's largest Deodar cedar and funny little spiky acorn hats.

Following the meditative walk, the group gathered in the indoor pavilion to enjoy a potluck meal, which featured vegetables, fruits, beans and rice, as well as delicious sorghum bites contributed by Frank Gervasi, made from sorghum grown by some of the group's members at their farm in Pennsylvania.

After everyone had eaten, Greenbelt folksinger Melissa Sites led them in songs of peace and justice, and several group members shared poems. Coordinators of the Three Sisters Gardens were all present and acknowledged at the celebration: Carolyn Lambright-Davis, who coordinates the garden at Springhill Lake Recreation Center; Joe Robbins, who coordinates the Community Center garden; and Effie Levner, who leads the Schrom Hills garden, as well as organizing regular poetry readings at Schrom Hills.

The evening closed around the fireplace in the outdoor pavilion, where folks fed the fire with items symbolizing what they hoped to let go of and what they wished to foster in the coming year. Many expressed gratitude for the good will and good efforts of friends in Greenbelt.



PHOTO BY IAN BLACKWELL ROGERS

Revelers gather around the CHEARS Solstice fire.



PHOTO BY JOE ROBBINS

Melissa Sites leads the singing at the Solstice gathering.



PHOTO BY JOE ROBBINS

The sun sets on December 17.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!

Thank you for all your support this past year. I look forward to continuing to serve Greenbelt in 2023.

-Silke Pope-
City Council Member

To All My Greenbelt Friends and Neighbors

Through every moment of the Holidays, Every day of the New Year. . .

May Peace and Happiness be yours!

- Judith "J" Davis

PGCPS' Beleaguered Board Is Gridlocked Without Chair

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

At a special meeting on Thursday, December 15, the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education sought to elect a new chair and vice chair. The leadership of the board has been fraught and the election did not go smoothly.

Outgoing chair of the board, Juanita Miller, is currently in the midst of a legal battle and ongoing administrative hearing, in which she is accused of misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty and incompetence. She also faces scrutiny over \$32,000 in legal fees to fight her removal, which were charged to the Board of Education without approval of the board. County Executive Angela Alsobrooks asked Miller to step down early in the summer, but Miller refused. Miller is one of the board members appointed by Alsobrooks. Reaching the end of her term as chair, she did not seek renomination. Whether or not she will remain a board member is yet to be determined and is the subject of current hearings before a Maryland administrative judge.

Last year the Board of Education's ethics panel recommended the removal of six board members, who frequently voted as a block – Edward Burroughs, David Murray, Raaheela Ahmed, Joshua Thomas (who represented Greenbelt and District 2), Kenneth Harris and Shayla Adams-Stafford, as well as sanctions for Belinda Queen. A subsequent state investigation cleared the board members of wrongdoing and the ethics panel resigned en masse in April.

Given the turmoil and fighting of the last year, many are hoping that the Board of Education will be able to refocus on educational initiatives and put their energies into leadership rather than legal battles in the coming year. Former Board member Edward

Burroughs has said the board has been "completely dysfunctional" under Miller's leadership (as reported by Maryland Matters on May 27).

Two Nominations for Chair

At last week's meeting, Judy Mickens-Murray, one of four appointed members on the board, nominated herself. Jonathan Briggs, the new board member for District 2, which includes Greenbelt, nominated Shayla Adams-Stafford. Briggs, who was elected last month, was supported by Adams-Stafford's husband, Larry Stafford, who campaigned at polls for Briggs. Stafford is also CEO of Progressive Maryland, which donated \$6,000 to Briggs' campaign, the maximum donation allowed, and spent a further \$21,000 on mailings supporting Briggs.

A New Vice Chair

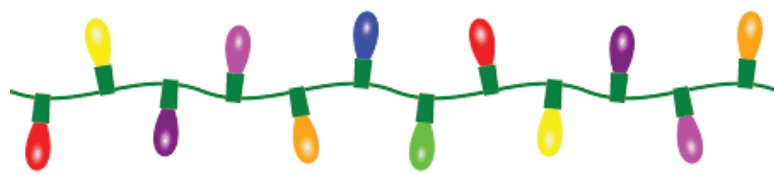
Nominations for vice chair

were Kenneth F. Harris II and Lolita E. Walker. Harris is an alumnus of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and University of Maryland Baltimore County. He represents District 7. Walker, also a graduate of PGCPS, is a newly elected board member representing District 9.

Voting for both positions took place via secret ballot. Walker was swiftly elected vice chair of the board.

No New Leader

At the meeting, which lasted over an hour and a half despite multiple rounds of voting, no consensus could be reached on a new board chair. In the end, the board postponed the election for chair until January 12, when the board will vote again on the same two candidates. Walker, in her capacity as newly elected vice chair, will chair the next assembly.



CARRIERS continued from page 2

splitting a route between two children or even taking on more than one route. At the moment we have two families who've chosen this. It is notable that in the historic generations of carriers, adults who were carriers as children seem to be more than usually successful in later life – learning good work habits early pays dividends.

And then there's the stay-at-home parent who takes the baby or toddler out in a stroller. Babies need air and the pusher can simply load the papers on

the back of the stroller. Imagine the benefit – oxygen for the baby and \$10 for the pusher. Win-win all the way.

So, consider your circumstances and your commitment to community and don't fall for the stereotype. Apply to circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com and extend your horizons, improve your health, walk the baby and teach your kids how to be productive. Sounds so good that maybe our carriers should pay the newspaper for the privilege.

Council Adds Planning Position, New Hires; Purchases Vehicles

by Deb Daniel

On Monday, December 12, the Greenbelt City Council agreed to a new planning position, announced new hires and reported on trash issues on Parkway. The Reparations Commission was formed with 21 members and two alternate members. (See separate story on page 1.)

Interim City Manager Timothy George and Director of Planning & Community Development Terri Hruby explained that, for the Planning Department to remain competitive, a new staff position should be funded. Planning currently has an assistant director position but it is unfunded. George estimates that the budget impact for fiscal year 2024 would be approximately \$10,000 to \$15,000 without the compensation study numbers. Council unanimously approved the department's proposal.

George reported that the city

now has hired an equity and inclusion coordinator, Tyra Smith, who will start the third week of January. One big city project now is a revamp of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) website to highlight works in progress (the city is actively working on 38 of the 58 ARPA priorities).

Jane Apartments

Mayor Emmett Jordan discussed overflowing trash bins at the apartments on Parkway managed by Jane Realty. George said that the city goes by frequently to issue citations. Hruby said that the city continues to fine Jane Realty every other day. Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted that this management was new and should be required to use the trash rooms in the basements. Since the city does not have an

See COUNCIL, page 12

UMCP Fills Funding Gaps For In-state Undergraduates

by Erica Johns

The University of Maryland announced on October 24 that it will launch a new need-based financial aid program for in-state, full-time undergraduates at the College Park campus, beginning in January 2023. The campus plans for the Terrapin Commitment program to provide up to \$20 million to cover tuition and fees for in-state full-time students eligible for Pell Grants (federal grants for undergraduate study).

Program materials say, "If an eligible UMD student's funding sources – including scholarships, grants and the expected family contribution – fall below UMD tuition and fees, the Terrapin Commitment will pay the difference." Related materials also indicate some coverage of expenses beyond tuition and fees: "After covering tuition and fees, we will

cover 50 percent of remaining unmet need, before loans, up to the cost of room and board."

The program is for students already enrolled and for those yet to enroll. Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management Barbara Gill said, "This investment in need-based financial aid is extraordinary, and it will change the way we can support our low-income students and will help us continue to recruit and provide new pathways for the best and brightest students in the state, improve graduation rates and reduce student debt."

For Greenbelt residents, this program will enable more local students to attend this nearby world-class educational institution. Learn more at financialaid.umd.edu/terrapin-commitment.

THERE'S NO AUDIENCE COMMUNITY FUTURE WITHOUT YOU



Reel Magic of the Holidays



Did you know? OGT is now open

7 DAYS A WEEK!

OGT has survived, but we need your support to thrive!

<p>I'd like to donate:</p> <p>a one-time gift of \$ _____</p> <p>name: _____</p> <p>email: _____</p> <p>phone: _____</p>	<p>I'd like to make a one-time or recurring gift online:</p> <p>visit bit.ly/OGTdonate</p>
--	---

129 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD

Stranger in a Strange Land Finds Solace in Greenbelt

by Melanie Iversen

Being a stranger in a strange place is not something I am accustomed to after living 52 years in the same North Carolina city, so moving here not long ago has presented some real challenges.

I was initially concerned that every mile of this area was surrounded by a vicious family of highways named the X95s. Only the love of family could lure someone into this tangle. There did not seem to be a quiet time on any road. People drove like they had either won the lottery and were rushing to collect, or they had lost and were mad about it.

Eventually, I began venturing out and that is when I came across a road called Crescent. The minute I turned in, my car and I exhaled. The road was winding and I followed it to a small shopping area that had, of

all things, a Co-op. How delightful! I entered and perused the comfortably intimate grocery. I noticed people chatting with each other, waving and smiling. The experience made me want to explore more. That's when I saw the local paper.

I, like many folks, enjoy reading this weekly rag. I find it warm, informative and educational, especially for someone, like me, who is relatively new to the area. When I open the paper, I feel it speaks to those who are familiar with the who, what, when, where and therenesses. What about those who are not familiar? I am working on that, but still find myself feeling foreign much of the time. I write to share the perspective of an outsider who is coming into this lovely place called Greenbelt.



Crescent Road, just after leaving Kenilworth Avenue

PHOTO BY MELANIE IVERSON

GRIEF continued from page 2

or cup of tea shared with a friend can lift the mood. Having someone tackle the to-do list will make one feel supported – be specific in a request so others don't overstep.

Remember to honor the process. This is your unique grief experience and response and you are simply attempting to cope. Feel what you feel. If you are sad, acknowledge it, sit with it, cry if needed, breathe and allow the emotion the space and time to pass – it will.

Traditional or Something New?

Whether to acknowledge loved ones during this season depends on how difficult it is for you. Placing an empty chair, displaying a favorite ornament or creating a new one and making a loved one's favorite dish are all ways to honor them. These activities can warm and comfort or prove too emotionally hot to handle right now – you decide. Keep up a favorite tradition or create a new one.

Creating a memory box, writing a letter and journaling thoughts and feelings are ways to channel and process emotions and help with the healing process.

Grief ebbs and flows and looks different from day to day. Some days are easier than others. Being flexible is being kind to yourself. Have a Plan A and a Plan B. Imagine you've received an invitation to an event and, on the day of, decide it is too overwhelming; consider having a friend on standby ready to come over to watch a movie as your Plan B.

Take it one moment and emotion at a time this holiday season.

Glenda Willis, a counselor with Greenbelt CARES, who works with seniors, says, "Grieving is a process – it does not only occur in our lives when someone transitions but can occur when we experience change as we try to find peace in a new normal."

May you feel moments of peace this holiday season.

Gloria Walters-Flowers is a staff writer for the Greenbelt News Review. She is a certified health coach, a birth doula and a bereavement doula and is passionate about helping people develop coping skills when facing difficult moments and transitions.

Pedestrians and Bikes Are Focus Of City Planning Worksession

by Cathie Meetre

In a November 30 exploration of the recently updated Master Plan relating to pedestrian and bicycle access in the city, Mayor Emmett Jordan praised the work of the Advisory Planning Board, represented in person by Ben Friedman, Director of Planning and Development Terri Hruby and their teams.

Hruby pointed out during the meeting that getting money was one challenge, but having the technical bandwidth to manage the project implementation was almost as limiting a factor. In response to a question by Councilmember Ric Gordon, she noted that the addition of

a grants coordinator to the staff was already paying dividends both in identifying which grants were good future targets and in the organized spending of current grant funds.

The city currently has unspent American Rescue Plan Act

(ARPA) money and there are also state and federal grant monies available. But writing grant proposals and then overseeing the spending of the money require time and effort that have to be

See **WORKSESSION**, page 10

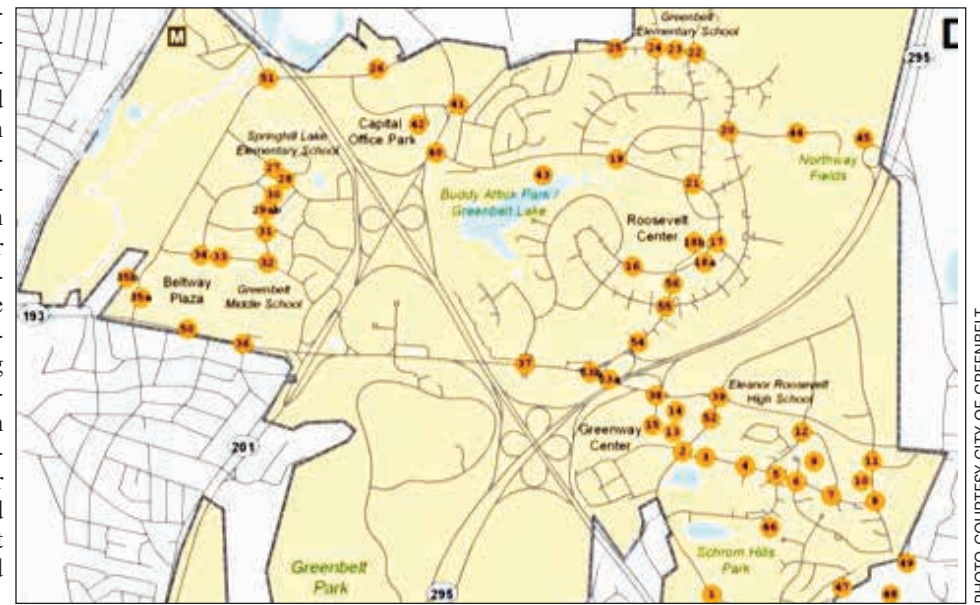


PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

Map of Greenbelt showing locations where initiatives are planned

Year Review of Environmental Restoration

Beaver Dam Road Landfill

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Beltsville, MD 20705

The Beltsville (MD) Agricultural Research Center (BARC), a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, is beginning a five-year review of its environmental restoration of the Beaver Dam Road Land Fill (BDRLF). This location is about a 14-acre area of concern that is part of BARC's National Priorities Listing (Superfund) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

From the early 1940s through the 1980s, the BDRLF was used for disposal of nonhazardous materials such as rubble from masonry construction debris, tree clippings, wood, and broken asphalt from BARC operations. A Remedial Investigation also identified a plume of groundwater contaminated with trichloroethylene (TCE) up to a maximum concentration of 1,100 parts per billion (ppb). The plume impacts an area of about two-thirds of an acre to the southeast of the BDRLF. The Safe Drinking Water Act calls for a maximum contaminant level for TCE of 5 ppb, which is the cleanup goal for the site, although there are no drinking water wells in the area. To meet this goal, a remedy that included installation of a passive groundwater treatment system with a permeable reactive barrier (PRB) or "biowall" that captures and remediates TCE was selected and implemented. The biowall is currently in place and is undergoing performance monitoring.

The first five-year review was conducted in 2018. The site remedy was expanded in 2020 to include the installation of upgradient trench pits and microbial injections. The second five-year review will include an examination of the BDRLF's Record of Decision, a review of site conditions, the implementation of remedy enhancements to improve system performance and a review of the effectiveness of the biowall. It is being conducted between January 1, 2023, and January 31, 2023.

All published data on the BDRLF and other BARC NPL/Superfund areas of concern are available for inspection at:

Information Repository

Building 003, Room 313

10300 Baltimore Avenue

Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

Beltsville, MD 20705

Open: Monday through Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

Available online at <https://cercla.ba.ars.usda.gov>

Facility Contacts:

John Houston, Environmental Engineer

Phone: (240) 204-3331, john.houston@usda.gov

Stephen Tushek - Environmental Management Unit Manager

Phone: ((202) 768-6595, stephen.tushek@usda.gov

LAKE continued from page 1

algae's green surface foam was visible until early November, though less so with recent cooler temperatures. Aquatic ecologists say that increased plant growth in freshwater lakes varies with nutrient levels and water temperatures.

Source of Plants?

Animals, especially waterfowl, bring plant life to the lake, as do water flow, wind and rain. The lake is rich in phosphorous and nitrogen that encourage plant growth. Draining the lake for the 2020 dam repair probably allowed more plants to take root in the exposed floor. As plants die, they collect on the floor and reduce its depth (20 feet at its deepest), which warms the water and encourages growth. This is particularly true in the shallower coves, where marsh succession would begin. Phosphorous and nitrogen vary throughout the year, encouraging more and less growth.

Man-made and Natural

Although the lake is man-made, it has the natural life cycle of any freshwater lake. Algae is a base of the food chain. It produces oxygen for fish and is eaten by tadpoles, fish and aquatic insects. The plants serve as food for turtles, beavers and waterfowl, as well as providing cover for fish and other animals to develop and hide from predators. Birds use them for nesting materials.

As a result, the lake has a large and diverse animal population including turtles: yellow-eared sliders, red-eared sliders, painted and eastern snapping; American bullfrogs; beavers; brown and rainbow trout stocked by Maryland's Department of Natural Resources; and birds including cormorants, kingfishers, egrets, herons, geese, mallards, grebes, green-winged teals, mergansers and other waterfowl. The Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS) reported that the 2020 lake draining exposed hundreds of native eastern floater mussels larger than those in the tidal Anacostia River, indicating good nutrition.

Greenbelt's environmental coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll said the city cares for the lake by supporting the natural ecosystem without unduly disturbing it. Examples include removing invasive plants (water chestnut) and adding native plants (arrow arum, lizardtail). Greenbelt worked with the Prince George's County Department of Environment and the Clean Water Partnership to dredge sediment from the two forebays (near Braden Field and Lakecrest Drive), but does not dredge the lake, which would disturb plants and animals and any natural succession toward marshland. Carpenter-Driscoll said the city accepts gradual encroachment of marsh conditions over coming generations,

because the alternative is losing the wildlife. He said, "The lake wants to become what it wants to become."

What Should Be Done?

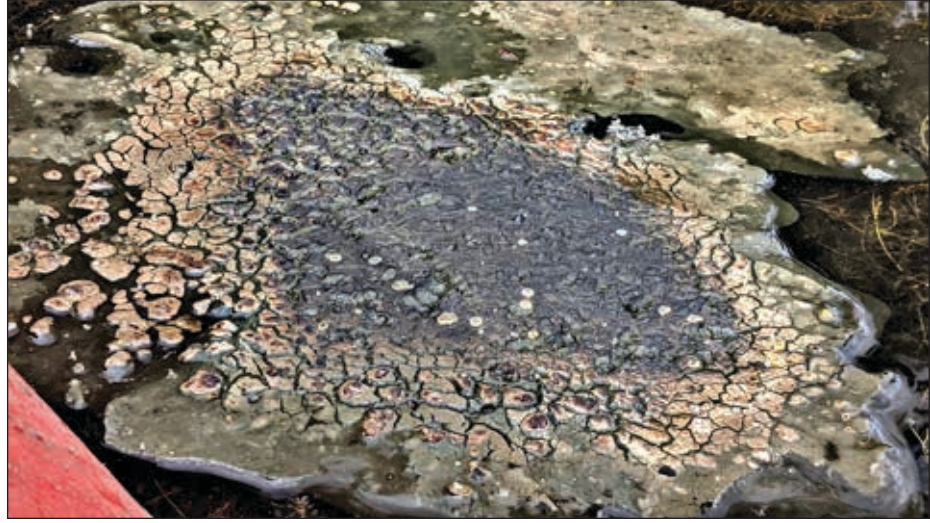
Carpenter-Driscoll and AWS said that nutrients and plants are neither good nor bad and no mitigations are currently indicated. He said too many nutrients would be concerning because excess phosphorous and nitrogen from yard waste, pet waste and fertilizer can deplete oxygen for fish, encourage overgrowth and kill aquatic animals. But the forebays filter sediment and excess nutrients from stormwater, so cleaner water enters the lake. He doubts excess nutrient sources like sewage or heavy fertilization exist in Greenbelt, adding that Public Works doesn't fertilize public property, instead believing that soil erosion and sediment have more impact, which the forebays mitigate.

Carpenter-Driscoll is considering water quality tests for 2023, to confirm acceptable water quality or any unexpected findings bearing investigation. Also, Greenbelt Recreation Director Greg Varda said a forthcoming Buddy Attick Park Master Plan will address water quality through minimizing impervious surfaces and landscaping and management practices sensitive to the natural environment, as well as erosion and sediment. Residents can manage yard and pet waste responsibly, minimize fertilizer and learn from recent tips published in the News Review (see Merits of an Untidy Fall Yard, November 17, page 12; Make Like a Tree and Leave, November 24, page 2).

Keep Calm and Carry On

The plants will vary over time and contribute to a diverse ecosystem, because nature organizes itself based on available species and environmental conditions, according to Greenbelter Peter May, assistant research professor in the University of Maryland's Environmental Science and Technology Department. AWS natural resource specialist Jorge Montero concurred: "While people are annoyed by aquatic plants because of boating, they are great ecologically."

Greenbelt Lake may become a marsh, like Jug Bay and Kenilworth Park. Impervious surfaces, climate-increased stormwater and lake temperature, soil erosion, pet waste and fertilizer may affect the lake, and woodlands, wetlands, rain gardens and forebays will filter sediment and excess nutrients. Greenbelters can let the lake continue to independently manage itself and take individual and community actions to support it, its plant and animal treasures, helping the Anacostia and Chesapeake Bay watersheds to remain productive and beautiful for wildlife and humans.



- Photos by Marc Siegel

Thick free-floating growths with strong odor were popping up everywhere in September. Marc Siegel, who grew up beside Greenbelt Lake, said there was more growth than he'd seen in 50 years.



This photo, taken in September, shows the growth that appeared over the space of 45 days, said Marc Siegel, who snapped the shot from his kayak.

WISP Program

Travis Nwadike, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, tests the stream water leading into Greenbelt Lake on Monday, December 19.

Nwadike is part of the Watershed Integrated Study Program (WISP), which is an ongoing study of small waterways and one of the options for students in the Science and Tech program at ERHS.

Every two weeks, students test waterways for such things as turbidity (how cloudy the water is), temperature and dissolved oxygen. The program has been going on since 1999.



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN



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AAUrology
7855 Walker Drive
Suite 100
Greenbelt, MD 20770

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aurology.com



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- ✓ Pelvic organ prolapse
- ✓ Pelvic floor disorders
- ✓ Gynecologic disorders
- ✓ Mesh complications
- ✓ Women's sexual and intimate health
- ✓ Urinary incontinence
- ✓ Overactive bladder
- ✓ Urge incontinence
- ✓ Urinary tract infections

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Wreaths Across America Stops at Branchville VFC

by Cooper Fojas

The annual Wreaths Across America convoy made one of its last stops Friday at the Branchville Volunteer Fire Company on Greenbelt Road en route to Arlington National Cemetery.

Each of the dozen tractor-trailers was treated to a washing by the company's volunteers, who also provided lunch to the drivers. The trucks are thus shiny and bright as they enter the Cemetery.

Steve Wiseman, a member of Branchville since 1973, says he still looks forward to welcoming the convoy after doing so for 15 years in a row. "How happy it makes them and just seeing their smiles," remarked Wiseman. "It's a great tradition."

Every year, the convoy starts in Maine and stops four to five times a day for a week as it makes its way down the east coast. It ends on National Wreaths Across America Day, the third Saturday in December, when the convoy arrives in Arlington and a wreath is laid on every grave.

"This is actually my first year, but I tell you what, I'll be on it for the years to come," said driver Patrice Cook. "Long days, but it's been so much fun for us."

Each trailer represents one of the following sponsoring companies: Schneider National, Gully Transportation, Witte Bros. Exchange, Hartt Transportation, Delhaize America Transportation, Workforce Heroes, Pottle's Transportation, Cargo Transporters, Boyd Grain Inc, Hampton Roads Moving & Storage, Prime Inc. and Tyson Foods.

Derrick Whittle says his 11th year driving for Cargo Transporters has been just as rewarding as the first 10. "When I see the children and when their faces light up, that's a living Christmas gift," Whittle said. "That's really heart-warming to me."

The convoy had stayed on Kent Island the night before, where they arrived from Goldsboro in Caroline County. From College Park, it headed to Washington, D.C. for ceremonies at the National Mall and the Pentagon.

Among the volunteers meeting the trucks at Arlington Cemetery were Anne and Tim Corcoran of Greenbelt. The Corcorans have been helping to lay the wreaths since 2015. Anne recalled laying wreaths in the pouring rain in 2018 and during an ice storm another year. Many years, temperatures are frigid for the December event, but on Saturday the weather was beautiful as they and a crowd of volunteers worked through the cemetery, moving around from truck to truck until they were empty and all the wreaths were laid.

Cooper Fojas is a journalism student at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.



Wreaths are laid on graves of U.S. veterans in Arlington National Cemetery. Anne and Tim Corcoran of Greenbelt were among the volunteers laying the wreaths on Saturday.

PHOTO BY ANNE DUNCAN CORCORAN



Two Branchville firefighters wash a Gully Transportation trailer which is part of the Wreaths Across America convoy.

PHOTO BY COOPER FOJAS



The convoy arrives at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday.

PHOTO BY ANNE DUNCAN CORCORAN



Wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery

PHOTO BY ANNE DUNCAN CORCORAN

WORKSESSION continued from page 8

metered so that the city can manage the money effectively.

Hruby also added that the Master Plan was the long-term view and didn't always include necessities that had to be accommodated during the year – more gets done than the Master Plan predicts.

Inner Walkways

Old Greenbelt's historic inner walkway system came into sharp focus during the meeting. Initially designed as part of the original New Deal federal project that built Greenbelt in 1937, the inner walkway system conceived a separation between vehicular and pedestrian traffic that had vehicles flow around the outside of the superblocks that comprise the planned community, and paths through the interior of the superblocks to route people.

Both Hruby and the report noted that these walkways, mostly but not exclusively the property of GHI, are relatively narrow and that traditionally the city has not made curb cuts where they meet a road to accommodate residents with disabilities. City policy has more recently begun to create curb cuts and there is ongoing discussion about adapting the walkways to remove barriers and providing lighting to make the sidewalks more Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts, on behalf of Planet Earth, opposed any widening of the inner walkways that would use more concrete, but Hruby stated that widening wasn't anticipated.

Sidewalk Strategy

The question of sidewalks in general came up in multiple contexts: Ridge Road where the sidewalk isn't contiguous and where some bus stops are not on a sidewalk and the route from Kenilworth Avenue to Old Greenbelt, Ivy Lane and Hanover Parkway. Intrinsic to this discussion were crosswalks and safe crossing of streets.

A similar sidewalk situation was noted by Councilmember Judith Davis, who cited Lakeside Drive – which is also heavily parked and narrow and has no sidewalks at all. As a result, residents walking along the street walk down the middle of the traffic lanes.

Crosswalk Talk

Hruby remarked that the city was moving to new ways of marking crosswalks – saying that statistical evidence indicated that

flashing lights and wide white-painted crosswalks were more effective than pedestrian-controlled lights at changing driver behavior. She referenced the new crosswalk at Buddy Attick Park and the crosswalk at St. Hugh's and Northway on Crescent, respectively, as examples.

The Master Plan specifies a number of improvements to crosswalks throughout the city. Hruby noted that the traffic calming efforts on Breezewood Drive had successfully limited traffic speed and, by extension, made crossing the road easier. She pointed out that the city also has traffic calming strategies in place, use of a chicane (an artificial narrowing), circles and speed bumps throughout the city.

Also related to traffic calming are plans to effectively narrow traffic lanes with medians that also provide safe refuge for pedestrians to cross wide streets.

With the anticipated redesign of Beltway Plaza and the development of a nursing home on Greenbelt Road, it made sense to the participants in the meeting that action on sidewalks on Greenbelt Road would best wait until the exact specifications emerged.

City Cycling

The bike path that crosses Kenilworth Avenue and runs alongside the State Highway Administration campus and through to Ivy Lane is in the planning stages for improvements, as it is heavily used by cyclists heading to Metro or the University of Maryland in College Park. Although the city doesn't own the route, there's an easement that means the city can upgrade the path.

Vision Zero

There is money available for the Vision Zero initiative (a goal of zero traffic fatalities or serious accidents first adopted in Sweden in the 1990s and now spreading in the U.S.) – including planning assistance. Jordan asked Hruby whether the county Vision Zero plan could serve as an overlay – perhaps a framework for the city's response. Hruby said they could probably use the applicable parts of the framework.

Copies of the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan are available on the city website. Go to greenbeltmd.gov/government/city-council/minutes-and-agendas and click on the agenda packet for the link. In the package are also links to maps and updates.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred December 12 through December 18. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbelmd.gov. Note that times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Community Alert

Throughout the month of December, Greenbelt Police Officers will be conducting a crime suppression operation in Franklin Park. During this time, two officers will be solely dedicated to patrolling Franklin Park apartments and investigating suspicious activity in addition to the regular beat officer in the area every shift.

Gunfire

On December 17 at 4:31 a.m., near 6100 block of Springhill Terrace, a bullet struck a residence and officers confirmed no one was injured. The investigation is ongoing.

Firearms Arrest

On December 16 at 12:39 a.m. near Breezewood Drive and Springhill Lane, officers pulled a car over for illegal tint and, during a probable cause search, found a black Polymer80 semi-automatic handgun, commonly called a ghost gun. A 20-year-old woman was arrested on firearms charges. Another passenger, a 23-year-old man, was arrested on open warrants.

Arrest for Theft

On December 17 at 7:49 a.m., a 43-year-old woman was arrested for theft from auto after stolen merchandise was located at a secondhand store.

Assaults

On December 16 at 2:30 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a victim was assaulted by known individuals. On December 16 at 8:17 p.m. near Springhill Lane and Market Lane, an intoxicated passenger repeatedly touched an Uber driver's shoulder; the driver declined to press charges.

Break-ins

On December 16, at 3:55 a.m. near 100 Centerway, commercial burglary. On December 17 at 8:27 p.m. near 100 Westway, property was taken from a residence with no signs of forced entry.

Commercial Theft

On December 12, 11:59 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road; on December 14, 11:53 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road; on December 17, 10:12 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road.

On December 13, at 9:47 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man reached over the counter and grabbed money from an open register.

Commercial thefts took place on December 14 at 10:45 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, December 15 at 8:39 a.m. near 6200 Greenbelt Road, and December

15 at 1:11 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road.

DUI Arrest

On December 17, 1:23 a.m. near Cherrywood Terrace and Breezewood Court.

Fraud

On December 12 near 7800 Chartwell Place, credit card fraud.

Possession

On December 17, at 2:52 p.m. near Kenilworth Avenue, a 21-year-old woman was arrested for possession of illegal substances after a traffic stop.

Suspicious Person

On December 17, at 8:36 p.m. near Breezewood Drive and Cherrywood Terrace, an intoxicated man was arrested after interfering with the investigation of a traffic stop.

Vandalism

On December 12 at 8:50 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 10-year-old boy and a 13-year-old boy damaged property. On December 14 at 11:39 a.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a rear residence window was broken. On December 16 at 1:15 p.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, a residence window was broken.

Vehicle Crimes Theft from Auto

Car windows were broken and property stolen on December 15 near 6200 Springhill Court; December 17 near 6200 Springhill Court and near 6000 Springhill Drive; and from three cars on December 18 near 9100 Springhill Lane. Windows were broken but nothing of value stolen December 12 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace; from two cars on December 14 near 6200 Springhill Court; on December 17 near 9100 Edmonston Court, and car rummaged through; on December 12 near 6100 Breezewood Court, and December 15 near 6100 Breezewood Drive and near 6200 Breezewood Drive.

Disability placards were stolen December 13 near 6000 Springhill Drive, and December 14 near 7500 Greenbelt Road.

On December 13 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, the catalytic converter was stolen from a 2011 Toyota Prius. On December 14 near 6100 Breezewood Drive, all four tires of a vehicle were slashed.

On December 14 there were four steering wheel airbag thefts: at 9:53 a.m., near 9300 Edmonston Road from a 2016 Honda Accord; at 12:13 p.m., from an Accord; at 12:17 p.m. at 6100 Springhill Drive, from a 2014 Honda Accord. One vehicle had

its front driver-side window broken and the second vehicle, a 2015 Accord, had front driver-side window broken and airbag stolen.

Stolen Vehicles

On December 12 near 7600 Mandan Road, a red 2015 Hyundai Sonata (MD plate: T1114157) was stolen. On December 12 near 400 Ridge Road, a 2018 Hyundai Elantra (MD plate: 1DM5601) was stolen. On December 12 near 7800 Mandan Road, a white 2004 Acura RL (VA plate: TVL8841) was stolen.

On December 15 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a 1999 Ford Econoline E150 van (MD plate: 7DN6928) was stolen. On December 16 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a 2015 brown Hyundai Sonata (DC plate: FK-3694) was stolen. On December 16 near Crescent Road, a silver Hyundai Elantra (MD plate: 7DR8414) was stolen. On December 18 near 8000 Lakecrest Drive, a 2016 blue Nissan Altima (MD plate: 3EY7348) was stolen.



Shop with a Cop

This year, 16 students from Springhill Lake Elementary School participated in Shop with a Cop, each getting to shop for holiday presents for family members and themselves. The outing included shopping for gifts at Target, visits with Santa and wrapping of the gifts. - Photos courtesy Greenbelt Police Department



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REPARATIONS continued from page 1

A Diverse Group

Residents across Greenbelt, as well as business and religious leaders, submitted applications to join the commission in July and August 2022. Candidates submitted a five-page document, as well as signing the standard Code of Conduct pledge required of Greenbelt advisory board and other committee members.

To create a balanced and diverse body, the application elicited demographic information (race, gender, age, primary language, neighborhood, length of time residing in Greenbelt), as well as relevant personal background, skills and experiences. Two questions asked of all applicants were: Why are you interested in serving on the Greenbelt Reparations Commission? What do you hope to achieve by serving?

Individual in-person interviews were held with each of the 31 "uniquely qualified" applicants by the full city council in October and November. In congratulating the new commission members, Mayor Emmett Jordan stressed the challenge of the selection process, the dynamism of the new body and council's excitement to "move ahead with this important initiative."

Jordan recommended convening the commission in a Meet and Greet event in January. He also emphasized that the public would continue to be involved in various ways. Councilmember Byrd noted that there is a state with 39 million people that has a Reparations Task Force of only nine members. Byrd is thankful that Greenbelt has a diverse and inclusive commission to aid its deliberations.

What Are Reparations?

Reparations are processes of healing and repairing. They first affirm that a wrong has happened. This acknowledgement is an essential element that can be followed by formal apologies, efforts to make a tangible change and a pledge that it will not happen again.

The 1988 Civil Liberties Act offered a formal apology and financial compensation to over 100,000 surviving persons of Japanese descent who were incarcerated in internment camps in the United States during World War II. Another well-known example of a reparations process is the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was established to heal society-wide harms under apartheid.

Many communities in the Western Hemisphere are currently engaged in healing through reparations, such as the State of California; Evanston, Illinois; Providence, Rhode Island; and the Caribbean Reparations Commission.



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Reparations Glossary:

Defining the Terms, Part 1

As our community convenes the Reparations Commission, the News Review offers readers terms and concepts to illuminate the process. This is the first article in a series to support neighborly conversation.

Equality or Equity?

Imagine three people of very different heights (a small child, a person five feet tall and a professional basketball player) standing on level ground next to a six-foot-tall wooden fence trying to look over it to watch a ball game. If the fence is the same height all the way across, even if the people are not, this is an example of equality.

Equity is different. Equity would be pictured with steps of differing heights placed next to the fence so that each person is raised to see over.

Institutional Oppression

It is easy to understand how bigoted actions of individuals against other individuals are harmful. However, contemporary reparations processes strive to right the wrongs of systemic, government-sanctioned or institutional oppression. Long-held and societally enforced power imbalances in the lives of groups of residents and communities emerged not from individual biases, but from the impacts of national and local laws. Genocide and chattel slavery, both crimes against humanity, established the financial and cultural systems of the United States. In the 20th and 21st centuries, local and national statutes institutionalized discrimination in terms of voting, marriage, education, housing and other aspects of daily life.

RENT continued from page 1

rent increases lead to different outcomes for renters. Because the housing systems have many imperfections, according to Hoang, no one policy can solve all the problems, but rent stabilization can slow the growth of corporate ownership of homes and prevent displacement and homelessness. In Prince George's County, housing stability (meaning renters are not cost-burdened) would free up over \$440 million, which could fund other parts of the economy. Across the United States, over 180 cities have some form of rent stabilization. This year alone, five cities passed rent stabilization legislation.

Greenbelt Rentals

Lierman, a Greenbelt resident and Maryland organizing director for CASA, said that rent is escalating everywhere. In fact, the owner of Parkway Apartments and Greenbelt Park Apartments is the same owner that doubled the

rents of aged tenants in Laurel. He has not increased the rent in Greenbelt but, without rent stabilization, he could. Franklin Park Apartments has an additional \$300 month-to-month fee that kicks in if tenants cannot pay their rent.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts recounted a situation a few years back where a landlord was going to raise rent exorbitantly and the city threatened to introduce rent control. The landlord backed down. Roberts stressed that the biggest problem is that housing is seen as a commodity to be bought and sold. With that mindset, Roberts said, there will never be affordable housing. Councilmember Judith Davis asked where the Laurel City Council was with their bill and Mitchell replied that he was trying to move it forward without a consensus from the council.

Examples

Lierman noted that Takoma Park has had rent stabilization since 1981, Mt. Rainier introduced a bill last week and Hyattsville has a bill to be introduced. Lierman also noted that Montgomery County will also be introducing rent stabilization. Hoang felt more cities would pass rent stabilization if not for city charters and state preemptions that often get in the way. Trent and Mitchell thanked Gordon for inviting them to talk with council.

Readers may find all the source documents for this article by going to the city website at greenbeltmd.gov and clicking on the button for Municipal Access TV, which links to the page for council meetings. Find the Agenda Packet for the meeting dated December 12, 2022, and open it for links to the agenda documents.

COUNCIL continued from page 7

ordinance stating trash cannot be stored outside, Roberts suggested such an ordinance. Hruby will consult with the city.

Vehicle Purchase

Public Works needs three vehicles (one hybrid Toyota RAV4 and two Ford F-550 dump trucks) for a total price of \$243,552. Councilmember Kristen Weaver asked if the funds for the vehicles would be coming from ARPA funds and Public Works Director Willis Shafer confirmed that they would. To Roberts' question if the dump trucks were diesel and if Public Works had the capacity to maintain them, Shafer replied that the F-550 dump trucks are diesel. Shafer said that eventually Public Works will move to electric vehicles but large electric vehicles are not available now. Council approved the vehicle purchase with 6 ayes and 1 nay (Roberts).

Readers may find the source

documents for this article by going to the city website at greenbeltmd.gov and clicking on the button for Municipal Access TV, which links to the page

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A cardinal poses on a branch.

PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD



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Golden Age Club Holds Annual Holiday Party

by Mary Moien

On Wednesday, December 14, the Greenbelt Golden Age Club held its holiday party – and everyone was ready to party. They had not had an in-person holiday party since 2019. Members celebrated with two full tables of goodies; one for the main dishes and one even bigger for the desserts. Due to Covid concerns, dishes were restricted to finger foods. There were cucumber sandwiches, tuna sandwiches, cheese sandwiches and cut veggies and cheeses with toothpicks. Pumpkin pie, fancy cookies, nuts and fruit filled the dessert table. December birthdays were also celebrated and Robin Olson celebrated her significant birthday by bringing a large platter of deli wraps prepared by the Co-op. There was lots of socializing as some members had not been to a meeting in several months – it was great to be together for a fun party.



Sitting down to have a holiday meal together, from left, Betty Price, Jerriann King, Joan Baker, Doug Igelsrud, April Ashpes, Suzanne Sligh, Elizabeth Passante, Nancy McAllister, Esther Robinson, Barbara Wright, Sandy Lee, Cathie Brannan and Judy Dixon are all smiles. Eva and Jordan Choper are at the dessert table.



Members are excited to go down the buffet line, with Lynn Doyle, left, leading the way and Donna Peterson, third from left, cheering everyone on.



From left, Tissa Rogers, Rosalie Thomas, Joyce Bailey, Suze Marley, Jim Marley, Don Rich, Judy Parker, John Henry Jones, Ken Mahen and Rita Sayer are in the holiday spirit.



December birthday honorees, from left, Robin Olson, Mary Moien, Judy Parker and Jim Marley

- Photos by Robin Olson

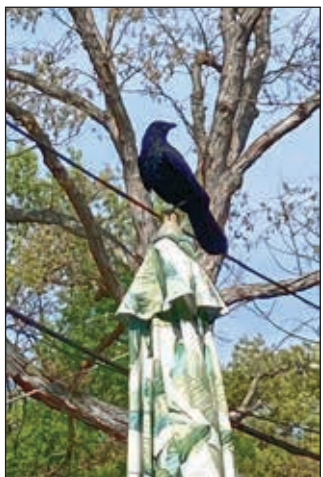


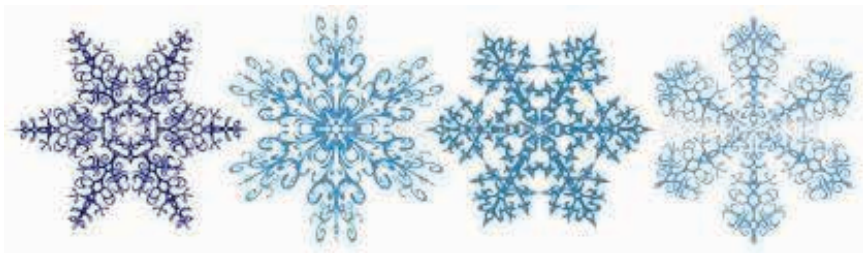
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Handsome crow



PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

A black squirrel eats an acorn in Schrom Hills Park.



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The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code has changed, effective July 16. The new three-digit dialing code is 988 and it's available for phone calls and text messages.

The former Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will continue to be accessible.

Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

"No matter what problems you're dealing with, whether or not you're thinking about suicide, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the Lifeline," the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline says on its website at samhsa.gov/find-help/988.

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ERHS Robotics Team Wins Capital Beltway Challenge

by Owen Kelley

On Saturday, December 17, 12 schools in Maryland, Virginia, Delaware and D.C. sent 28 robots to compete at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). This all-day event, called the Capital Beltway Challenge, is the only high school robotics competition in Prince George's County this academic year. The winners of this event and of 13 other competitions in Maryland qualify to attend the state championship in March 2023.

The two-robot alliance that won the final round of Saturday's competition was made up of two of the five robots entered by the home team, Eleanor Roosevelt's Team 53, also known as the Alien Raiders. The robots that won on Saturday are affectionately called 53B and 53C.

Each robot fits within an 18-inch cube, and there are several ways for a robot to score points. It could pick up yellow frisbee-like disks and launch them into a basket. It could rotate rollers along the four sides of the playing field. During the last 10 seconds of each round, a robot may eject string to cover as much of the field as possible. Strategies on

display Saturday included cooperating with another robot, playing defense and pushing another robot to prevent it from scoring.

During the first 15 seconds of each 2-minute round, the robots must perform on their own; for the rest of the round, the robots are wirelessly controlled by students. During the school year, students build their own robot and write programs to control its onboard computer.

Donations helped fund Saturday's competition and the equipment purchases to build Roosevelt's robots. Contributors include the Maryland Space Business Roundtable, Banish Pest, Chesapeake Mission Critical, Pro-Spex, Roosevelt Parent Teacher Student Association, Corigan Sports Enterprises and the parents and grandparents of team members.

At Saturday's competition, Eleanor Roosevelt's principal, Dr. Portia Barnes, addressed the crowd and encouraged everyone to play their best. Over 200 people attended this volunteer-run event that was open and free to the public.



PHOTO BY MILLIE TANSILL

ERHS robot 53E successfully launches three foam disks from its catapult into the goal during Saturday's competition at the high school.



PHOTO BY GLENFORD BLANC

The Eleanor Roosevelt robotics team, from left to right: Teresa Thoundayil (alumna), Gabe Cruz, David Hsu, Juan Salazar, Miles Campbell (alumnus), Ben Ruby, Brendan Hille, Jin Hao Cao, Alan Morales, Will Tansill, Veena Raj, Michael Thoundayil, Jonathan Hille, Felix Hass, Ajibola Ajani, John Kelley, Isaiah Blanc, Von Scaggs, Emma Cantwell, Jack Zheng, David Blaufuss, Max Nelkin, Evan McClelland, engineering teacher Karen Bogoski (faculty advisor), Sameer Kumar, Karl Hille (coach) and Kevin Yen (assistant coach). Assistant coach Julie Joseph is not pictured. The screen behind them displays the score of the final round in Saturday's competition, which was won by robots 53B and 53C from Eleanor Roosevelt.

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College Swimming

Shattuck was first inspired to begin competing as a swimmer at Frostburg State University. "I actually didn't start swimming until I was 18 and I got to college, but it was the opportunity to compete with other athletes who had physical disabilities like myself," he explained. He has a rare form of dwarfism but competed alongside athletes that had a variety of different physical disabilities.

International Competition

Shattuck continued swimming after college and is now a member of the U.S. Paralympic Swimming National Team. He competed in Tokyo in 2020 in

the Paralympic Games. His favorite events to compete in are the 100-meter breaststroke and the 200-meter individual medley.

"It was an unbelievable experience. I've gotten to compete with some of the best athletes in the world, I've gotten to train and travel around the world for different events and competitions," he shared. He then said that his biggest takeaway from traveling for swimming was that "You never really know someone else's story."

Rebecca Redeker is a journalism student at the University of Maryland writing for the News Review.

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