

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

Inside Stories



School Supplies for SHL, p.7



Alonzo Washington, p.4

VOL. 86, No. 9

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

JANUARY 19, 2023

MLK Day of Service

Volunteers Cage Big Trees Along Greenbelt Lake Trail

by Deb Daniel

On Monday, January 16, tree protection in Buddy Attick Park was the main focus of Greenbelt's Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. National Day of Service. The Co-existing With Beavers volunteer workday saw 40 volunteers cage big trees along the trail around Greenbelt Lake in an attempt to protect the trees from hungry beavers. The MLK program is part of the Department of Public Works (DPW) Conservation Stewardship program which includes Weed Warrior and other events throughout the year to involve the community in caring for Greenbelt's public lands.

Beavers

Beavers chew on tree trunks

for food and to collect wood material for their dams and lodges. Tree caging, wrapping a 3- to 4-foot-high wire fence around a tree trunk, is a great method to discourage beavers from felling native trees in areas frequented by the public. On MLK Day of Service this year, large trees close to the trail were targeted for caging, while smaller trees were left uncaged. This prevents beavers from felling large trees, which can pose a public safety threat, while leaving the smaller trees for the beavers, enabling people to safely co-exist with the beavers at Buddy Attick Park.

See **VOLUNTEERS**, page 12



PHOTO BY CHONDRIA ANDREWS

Volunteers at the Martin Luther King Jr. service day receive their instructions from Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at the Lake.

Three Roosevelt Seniors Are Selected as Posse Scholars

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Three Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) seniors are celebrating brighter opportunities for their college careers after being named Posse Scholars this month. The Posse Scholarships will provide them with full college tuition for four years. A total of 12 students from Prince George's County, including the three from Roosevelt, were selected this year. Students participating in the Posse program have a 90-percent college graduation rate, according to the Posse Foundation. Speaking at the Board of Education meeting on January 12, Prince George's County Public Schools' CEO Dr. Monica Goldson estimated that each scholarship was worth approximately \$140,000.

"I am so proud of this year's scholarship class who represent the spectrum of excellence across the PGCPs community, specialty, charter and international high schools," said Goldson. "We wish

them continued success as they begin the next chapter of their academic careers and embark on this tremendous opportunity."

This year's recipients from ERHS are Marco Assam and Ruth Olawumi, who will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Dianara Sagastizado, who will attend Lewis & Clark College.

According to their website, the Posse Foundation believes "diversity is the key to solving our country's biggest problems," and "a small, diverse group of talented students – a Posse – carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development." The foundation seeks to diversify the pool of candidates from which top universities and colleges can draw, to help build

See **SCHOLARS**, page 4

Working Parents Struggle With Virtual Learning Days

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Six-year-old Emmeline looks at the PGCPs dashboard on her school-issued Chromebook.

After the approval of up to eight Virtual Learning Days by the Maryland State Department of Education, Prince George's County Public Schools announced three scheduled asynchronous virtual learning half days to facilitate teachers' end-of-quarter grading and planning. The first day, November 7, was just over three weeks after their announcement and left many families scrambling

to change appointments and plans to accommodate children at home that day. The second scheduled virtual half day is Wednesday, January 25.

Working Parents

John Zale works from home for the federal government and is the parent of a kindergartener. He echoed the concerns of other working parents. "It's a problem for families," he said. "Most

parents' situations necessitate two working adults to maintain a household. Unless there's some other framework for engaging kids during the day, it's just another stress and a major imposition on working families."

Brooke Kenny is on the board of Greenbelt Elementary School's PTA. She's also the operations

See **VIRTUAL**, page 6

Bring Valentine Love Notes To the Greenbelt Co-op Store

by Cathie Meetre

The opportunity to do a little something for world love and peace arises again this year as the News Review launches Valentine Love Notes 2023 to burst forth in the issue of February 9. Take a look at last year's outpouring of love and humor at greenbeltnewsreview.com/issues/GNR20220210.pdf.

We Love You, Co-op

New this year, a big "we love you" goes to the Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy which is collaborating with the News Review to make it easy to submit and pay for Super Sweetie Valentine Love Notes. You write the sentiment – we provide the hearts, flowers, teddy bears, pup-

pies, kittens, bows and other tasteful adornments.

Love Notes (including those emailed) must be paid for at the Co-op; there are forms and envelopes handy just inside the store's parking lot entrance. Completed and paid Love Notes can

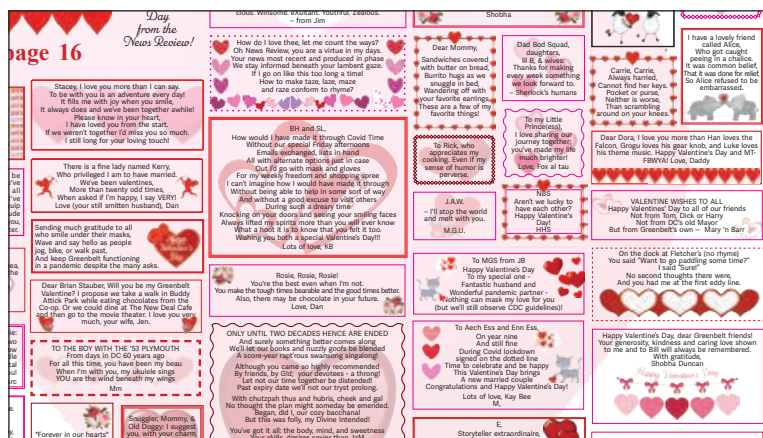
See **VALENTINE**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, January 23
7:30 p.m., City Council meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, January 25
7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Recreation/Museum merger, Municipal Building

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



Some of the News Review Love Notes from 2022

Washington Seeks Senate Seat SCHOLARS continued from page 1

Maryland State Delegate Alonzo Washington (D) has announced he will seek the open Senate seat for District 22 vacated by Paul Pinsky. Pinsky has been nominated to direct the Maryland Energy Administration under Maryland Governor Wes Moore.

Washington has served in the Maryland House representing District 22 for just over a decade. During that time, he has served as vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee, chair of the Education Subcommittee, chair of the Election Law Subcommittee and lead sponsor of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. He also served as co-chair of the Prince George's County Police Reform Work Group at the local level.

In a press release, Washington highlighted his achievements for working families and education: "Over the last decade, I have worked hard to bring in tens of

millions in funding for community projects, provide tuition-free community college for county residents, create new affordable housing, sponsor new tax cuts for seniors and working families and build three brand new schools in District 22," he said.

When there is a vacancy in the Maryland General Assembly the governor is responsible for appointing a replacement from the political party holding that seat, usually from a list of recommended candidates submitted by the party committee. Moore will assume office this week and the party committee will have 30 days to submit their nominations.



Alonzo Washington

PHOTO COURTESY ALONZO WASHINGTON

Information for this article was drawn from a press release issued by the office of Delegate Washington.




♥♥♥♥♥♥

This Ad Could be Yours and be praising your Sweetie

He oughta be flattered to know that he mattered
Praise him to the skies
Look deep in his eyes
At twelve bucks a shot!
He's worth it, why not?

Mega Sweetie Size \$12



See page 8 to get yours!

Crisis Hotline's New Number is 988

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.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors


Find us on  [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



The Bible Says...

For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
I will give thanks to You,
For I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.
Psalms 139:13-14



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

MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an Open and Affirming Church



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

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

ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

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

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

campus environments more welcoming to students of diverse backgrounds and to ensure the Posse Scholars can graduate and join the workforce as leaders. The program seeks to identify students "with extraordinary leadership potential." Each year, the foundation sends a "posse" of 10 students to each of the 64 participating colleges and universities so that the members

of the group can support one another along their educational journeys. The Posse Foundation was founded in 1989 by Deborah Bial, who received a MacArthur Genius Grant for her work. It was one of 10 organizations selected by President Obama to receive a portion of the \$1.4 million he received from his Nobel Peace Prize award.



Witch hazel Wisley Supreme variety

PHOTO BY CAMILLA LUCHSINGER

"Let them at all times concern themselves with doing a kindly thing for one of their fellows, offering to someone love, consideration, thoughtful help." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'i Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

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
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

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

January 22 3 p.m.
A Responsible Search

Kirk Freeman with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

The freedoms of belief, exploration, and expression have been essential characteristics of Unitarian Universalism and the traditions we claim. In our fourth principle, we covenant to affirm and promote not just a free, but a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. What happens when freedom and responsibility are connected this way? To what and to whom are we responsible?

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at: University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



RESTORATION CENTER

A CHURCH WHERE HOPE IS RESTORED

301-345-9007
info@rccgreenbelt.org

FELLOWSHIP WITH US ON:

MORNING DEW (SUNDAY SCHOOL) @ 9am
FOOD BANK WEDNESDAY @ 11am-1pm
Sunday | 2nd and 4th @ 12pm
SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE @ 10am
THRESHING FLOOR @ 9pm on 2nd Fridays

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY ON Tuesday @ 7:30pm
Zoom ID: 874-0017-0242
Password: 828469


We Care
LOVING GOD...LEARNING FOR ONE ANOTHER

CAN WE PRAY WITH YOU?

prayer@rccgreenbelt.org 240-467-1788

119 CENTERWAY GREENBELT MD 20770

   @restorationcentergreenbelt



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

MASS

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered
Biblical
& Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am
Sunday School 9:15am

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

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



School News

County Board of Education Votes in New Leadership

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On January 12 at the Board of Education meeting, Judy Mickens-Murray was elected as the new board chair of Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS). She nominated herself at the December meeting and beat out the other contender, Shayla Adams-Stafford, who was nominated at the same meeting by Jonathan Briggs, Greenbelt's representative. That meeting ended without either candidate securing the chair, but last week Mickens-Murray was elected via secret ballot with eight votes to Adams-Stafford's five. One of the 14 board members did not vote.

Mickens-Murray is an at-large board member, appointed to a four-year term on the board by County Executive Angela Also-brooks. She is one of four appointed members on the board. She was also previously appointed as a board member by then-county executive Wayne Curry and then-governor Parris Glendening in 2002, the year that the elected school board was replaced by an appointed one after continual fighting among board members. Elected positions returned in 2006 after a scandal that would ultimately send former PGCPS CEO Andre Hornsby to



Judy Mickens-Murray

PHOTO COURTESY PGCPS

federal prison. Mickens-Murray takes over from former chair Juanita Miller, who is the subject of administrative hearings over misconduct in office, willful neglect of duty and incompetence. Mickens-Murray thanked her colleagues for the confidence placed in her. "I promise you moving

forward we will become a board of distinction with your help," she said.

As reported in the News Review's December 22 issue, Lolita E. Walker was elected vice-chair in December. She is a newly-elected board member representing District 9.

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 fellow Greenbelters in helping make Greenbelt sparkle.

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

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.



School Supply Distribution At Springhill Lake Elementary

Greenbelt CARES staff Joyce Kolenky and Brendy Garcia distributed over 70 bags of school supplies at Springhill Lake (SHL) Recreation Center on the cold, damp afternoon of January 17.

Each family received one bag per student, providing over 70 students with folders, notebooks, notebook paper, pencils and pencil cases, erasers and glue, markers and highlighters, scissors and rulers, crayons, wipes, and hand gel.

The supplies were donated by IHG Hotels and Resorts, whose Greenbelt properties include the

Crowne Plaza and the Holiday Inn.

The idea for the event came from CARES' August 2022 Back-to-School Mini Family Health Fair held at the SHL Recreation Center, at which attendee survey responses indicated school supplies as an ongoing need. The January 17 event provided a school supplies boost midway through the school year.

Remaining supplies were stored at the Recreation Center for future distribution.



Brendy Garcia, left, talks to parents at the event.



Supplies ready to be distributed



Some of the supplies donated

- Photos by Erica Johns

Eat the Rainbow!

Colorful fruits and veggies are packed with vitamins and antioxidants.

Something for Everyone!

www.greenbelt.coop

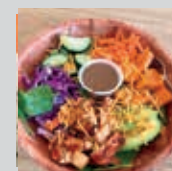
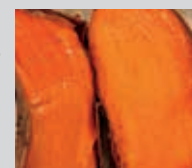


Co-op offers plant-based favorites at New Deal Café



Smoothies

Sweet Potatoes & Fries



Build Your Own Salad

AUTO AUCTION
 1/9/23 - 1/16/23
 10-11:30 a.m.
 4E JP MORGAN CT
 WALDORF MD
 20601

2009 CHRYSLER SEBRING
 1C3LC55D69N501542

1986 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL
 ILNBP96FXGY735404

At the Library

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.; and 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.

The Library offers sidewalk service seven days a week until 4:30 p.m. for customers who prefer to pick up requested items from the table outside the upper-level entrance. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7561562.

Storytimes

Thursday, January 19, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7554792.

Wednesday, January 25, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/7554826.

Reading Challenge

In conjunction with the Washington Wizards basketball team, the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System once again offers its Winter Reading Challenge, through March 31. Activities include reading, watching Wizards games, attending virtual library programs and staying active and engaged with the Library and the Wizards. Books to read for children in various age groups (K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8) will be featured.

The free challenge can be joined online through Beanstack, a software platform and mobile app that allows readers to easily record their reading minutes, track their progress and stay motivated to complete the challenge. For each activity completed, participants can earn points toward challenge badges. Those who complete the challenge will be eligible for a variety of prizes, including a raffle entry for tickets to the Wizards’ April 9 home game versus the Houston Rockets. Visit pgcmls.info for more information and to register.

News Suite

The PGCMLS News Suite (pgcmls.info/news-suite) offers quick and easy access to many national and international newspapers and magazines, including digital editions of The Washington Post and The New York Times.

Chromebooks

Online 2Go Chromebooks featuring Kajeet LTE/Wi-Fi access may be borrowed from the library by those age 18 and older with library cards in good standing; one device per customer. No LINK or student accounts are allowed.

The Chromebooks have a six-week loan period which may be renewed once for another six weeks if there are no hold requests from other customers. Further information about the Chromebooks and other technology is available at pgcmls.info/borrow-technology.

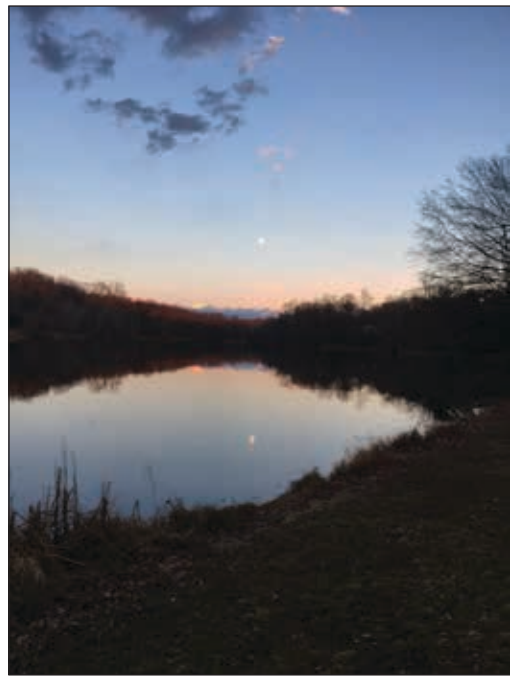
Donate Sneakers For People in Need

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.



Starting young with the News Review! Jason Luly gets 10-month-old Dalia Glaser-Luly started. PHOTO BY ANIVA GLASER



The nearly full moon and reflection at Greenbelt Lake on January 5. PHOTO BY KEVIN W. PARKER




Monday Meet-Ups For Homeschoolers

Monday meet-ups for homeschoolers at the Greenbelt Youth Center are back. There is play for the kids and support for the parents. All ages invited. Meetings are on Mondays, January 23 through May 22 (no meetings on federal holidays) from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet in the Multipurpose Room for play, socialization and age-appropriate activities/games; bring 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.

See Facebook: Greenbelt Homeschoolers or gbhs20770. wixsite.com/gbhomeschoolers. For questions or to sign up contact Li'l Dan, parent volunteer/city liaison: dceldran@hotmail.com, 240-643-3768.



ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA, INC.

Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George's County!

Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrials.org

VALENTINE continued from page 1

be handed in a sealed envelope to a cashier who will accept the envelope with the payment inside – they don’t ring it up or give a receipt. Store hours are Mondays to Saturdays 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Emailed Love Notes also are paid for at the Co-op – be sure to include email information to allow the matchup of payment to Love Note. Emailed Love Notes go to GNRV Valentines2023@gmail.com.

Valentine Love Needed Now

If there was ever a year that needed Valentine’s Day, this is it. The world’s going to the dogs as usual and naked aggression and greed fill the news. The Greenbelt News Review promotes neighborliness and good feeling and its Valentine’s issue will be

Thursday, February 9 – a little ahead, because of its publication schedule.

Widen Sweetie Horizons

It’s clear that Valentines should go to lovers, family and friends. But is there someone else to laud – a checker at the Co-op who always takes an extra moment? The crossing guard at the elementary school or a teacher perhaps. Someone new to the neighborhood or perhaps lonely after losing someone special? Maybe a News Review carrier? A friendly neighborhood puppy?

And all the very best of cheer and friendship to all Greenbelt from your friends and neighbors who staff the News Review. We love you too.



Pay and Drop at Co-op

Even if you email your Valentine, payment still goes to the Co-op Supermarket.

1. Use the form at the store or in this newspaper. Include the email address if you emailed your love note and write in your text or print a copy of your email and include it.
2. Count the words in your love note and include payment as cash or check (checks to Greenbelt News Review). Rates: \$6 for up to 20 words, \$9 for 21 to 30, \$12 for 31 to 40 and \$3 per 10 words (or part thereof) over 40 words. Close is good enough.
3. Put everything in the envelope provided at the Co-op: form, Love Note (if printed out) and payment, then seal it.
4. Hand the sealed envelope to a Co-op checker.

DECLARE YOUR LOVE FOR ALL TO SEE.

In a Greenbelt News Review
Valentine’s Love Note

Partners, Friends, Lovers. Teachers, Pastors, Muvvers!
Your Boss, Your Dawg. Kitty, Goldfish, Porcupine?

Nobody can resist a Love Note

Fill out form below. Take to Co-op with cash or check **(made out to Greenbelt News Review)**, put in provided envelope, seal, give to Coop Checker by 6 p.m. Monday, February 6, 2023.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
In case of bad penmanship

Email address (if will send or have sent by email): _____

Message (if not emailed): _____

Emailed Valentines should be sent to GNRV Valentines2023@gmail.com

Count your words:

20 words or fewer: **Sweetie \$6**
21 to 30 words: **Super Sweetie \$9**
31 to 40 words: **Mega Super Sweetie \$12**
Additional words \$3 for 10 or part thereof.

Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 9 to 15. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Theft

On January 15 at 5:30 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, someone was knocking, and the resident opened the door. A man in his late 20s, 6'1", 160 pounds, barged into the room and demanded money. The resident gave the man his money, and the man left.

Package theft occurred January 9 near 5400 Stream Bank Lane and January 12 near 8000 Mandan Road. Personal luggage was stolen from outside of a business on January 11 at 3:38 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road. Identity theft occurred January 11 near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, and January 13 near 6700 Lake Park Drive. Shoplifting occurred January 10 at 9:13 p.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, and January 15 at 12:04 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road.

Break-in

On January 11 at 7:06 p.m. near 8000 Lakecrest Drive, a man saw two men wearing ski masks in his home via security camera. By the time officers arrived, the men were gone and nothing was taken.

Suspicious Person

On January 11 at 2:52 p.m. near Candlewood Place and Greenbrook Drive, neighbors observed an unknown young man attempt to gain entry to a residence with no success.

Accident

On January 9 at 12:11 a.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, two recently stolen vehicles were involved in a crash, and no drivers stayed at the scene.

Assault

On January 13 at 9:31 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a victim was injured by someone they knew and was advised how to press charges.

Trespassing

On January 10 at 12:13 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man who was trespassing in the laundry room was banned from the property.

Disorderly

On January 9 at 8:20 p.m. near 100 Centerway, a customer spit on an employee and was banned from the property.

DUI Arrest

On January 12 at 6:56 p.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Of this week's six stolen vehicles, four were Hyundais: On January 9 near 7800 Mandan Road, a black Hyundai (Md. plate 6ET1120); January 10 near Ridge Road, a dark gray 2018 Elantra (Md. plate 6ER7874); January 12 a 2022 Kawasaki Ninja ZX6R motorcycle, black with gray and red stripes, near 100 Westway;

and near 7800 Mandan Road a 2008 white Ford Crown Victoria (Md. plate 1EH7755); January 13 near 7500 Mandan Road, a silver 2012 Elantra (Md. Plate 8FB6403); near 7500 Mandan Road, a blue 2017 Accent (Md. plate 3EA0450).

Theft from Auto

On January 9 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, property was stolen from a car with no signs of forced entry. Hyundai ignitions were damaged January 9 on a 2017 model near 9100 Edmonston Court, and a 2013 Elantra near 7500 Mandan Road. On January 10 at 4:50 p.m. near Ridge Road, the ignition was damaged on a Kia Soul while the car engine was left running. Steering wheel airbags were stolen January 10, from a 2012 Honda Civic near 6000 Springhill Drive, and a 2019 Acura SUV near 9100 Springhill Lane. On January 10 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a car window was broken and the car was rummaged through, and another car window was broken but nothing was taken. On January 10 near 9100 Springhill Court, a disability placard was stolen. On January 13 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, the catalytic converter was stolen from a 2020 Nissan van.



Unlicensed Fishers Get Warning

Officers from Maryland Natural Resources patrolled and checked fishing licenses at Greenbelt Lake on Thursday, January 12. Licenses are required for people over the age of 16 and if fishing for trout they must have

a trout stamp. Free fishing days in Maryland this year are the first two Saturdays in June and July 4. For more information on licenses, visit: dnr.maryland.gov/pages/service_fishing_license.aspx.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

A DNR patrol truck is parked at Buddy Attick Park while an officer is out checking for fishing licenses.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

AFFIDAVIT OF LIFE

I, Orin Wayne of the family of Solomon, Affiant, being over the age of eighteen {18} years, competent to witness does state for the public record the following:

That the public record on file with the Office of the Registrar of the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA located at 899 North Capitol St NE, Washington, DC 20002 shows that the entity known as Orin Wayne Solomon took the first breath of life on the twenty-seventh day of the month of April in the year one- thousand nine-hundred and seventy (27 April 1970), and

That as of the date of this Affidavit of Life the entity known as Orin Wayne Solomon is still alive and breathing, and Since the twenty-seventh day of the month of April in the year one- thousand nine hundred and seventy (27 April 1970) has not surrendered nor abandoned any claims of life nor of any and all claims of estate to include but not limited to ORIN WAYNE SOLOMON, and

That the attachments (Exhibit A and Exhibit B) to this affidavit are considered as Points and Authorities of Law, and Further Affiant saith naught.

I, Orin Wayne of the family of Solomon, do affirm that I have read the above affidavit and do know the contents to be true, correct, complete, and not misleading, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Date

WITNESSES

We, the undersigned witnesses, attest that we individually and collectively know the entity known as Orin Wayne Solomon to be alive and breathing and that he is not lost beyond the sea, but walks among us upon the land, and that we did witness him affix his autograph to the above AFFIDAVIT OF LIFE and also to place his right thumb print in his own blood upon this document.

Willie Lamont Hicks

C/O Notary Officer: Fedelia Feldhaus

325 Ellington Blvd., Suite 218

Gaithersburg, Maryland [20878-9998]

C/O William Oscar Scott

215 Harrv S. Truman Drive Apartment 34

Largo, Maryland [20774-9998]

M-NCPPC Offers ParkFinder Tool

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, offers ParkFinder, a resource tool to assist residents in locating parks and other recreational amenities.

ParkFinder is an interactive map tool developed to help users find local parks, community centers, museums, art centers, pools and more. Users can search facilities based on name, amenity types and ADA-compliant features. This tool will be continuously evaluated and enhanced with new search features. User feedback is welcome at pgwebmaster@pgparks.com.

For more on the Department of Parks and Recreation, visit pgparks.com and stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, PhotoShelter and Instagram. The Department of Parks and Recreation encourages and supports the participation of individuals with disabilities in all programs and services. Register a minimum of two weeks in advance of the program start date to request and receive a disability accommodation.



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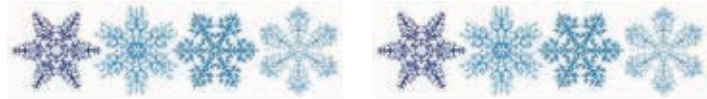
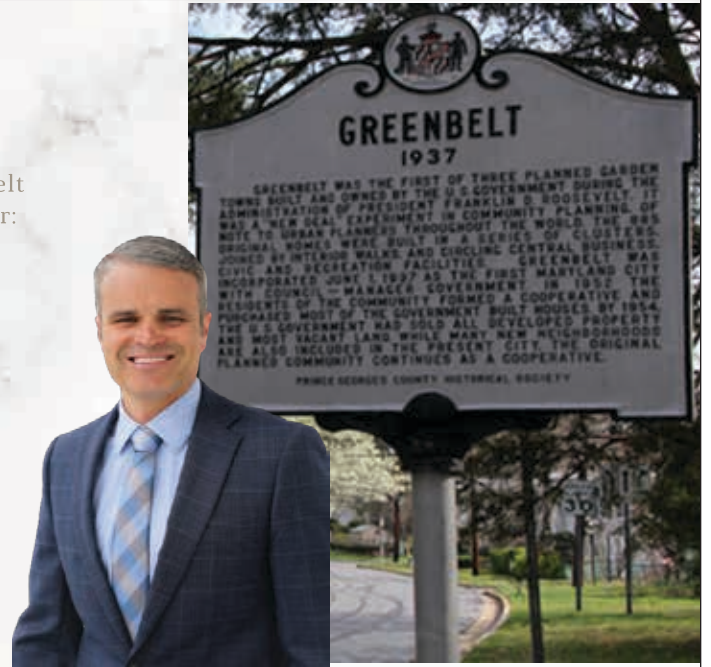


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City Council Considers Charter, Bond Bills, Winter Assistance

by Deb Daniel

On January 9, the Greenbelt City Council met and discussed amending the city charter, various projects for bond bills and actions the city could take to shelter people who are without heat or power.

Charter Amendment

In 2009, the city implemented several election reforms with the goal of increasing diversity: increasing the city council from five to seven members, adding an additional precinct in Greenbelt East to shorten voter lines and amending the city charter to allow early voting. Since that time, the city charter has not been amended and Mayor Emmett Jordan felt its language to be antiquated. Jordan thought the charter restriction that the city manager live in Greenbelt would make the city manager search difficult. Finally, the Board of Elections is considering changes that might need an amendment to the charter.

Amendment Process

City Solicitor Jason DeLoach noted that state law defines the amendment process. He described the process of legislative amendment resolution introduction as 1) having a public hearing with 21 days prior notice and 2) before the 50-day amendment period comes into effect, there is a 40-day referendum period. During those 40 days, citizens can file a petition to halt the process and put the amendment to referendum. 3) If the referendum does not take place, then 50 days later the amendment will become final. Or citizens can introduce the amendment by petition of 20

percent of the qualified voters of Greenbelt.

Jordan asked whether a simple majority would be sufficient to introduce the amendment resolution and DeLoach affirmed a simple majority. Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted that council as the legislative body could just have a referendum at election time. DeLoach agreed that if council wanted to wait until the election, that process would be viable but if council wanted to proceed immediately, the amendment would have to be a resolution. DeLoach also noted that code changes or ordinances which are not charter changes do not go through this amendment process.

Residency Requirement

Councilmember Kristen Weaver asked DeLoach if any other municipalities had a clause restricting where the city manager could live and DeLoach replied that he had not seen that anywhere else. Councilmember Judith Davis mentioned that the Maryland Municipal League (with 157 municipalities) might have that information.

Cold Snap

Councilmember Ric Gordon inquired of Interim City Manager Timothy George the resources that might be available to homeless people or people without power, especially in the cold weather Greenbelt had recently. Jordan asked that the city post to social media instructions and resources in the event of an emergency. George responded that in a cold snap, the police department lobby is open. In the event of a power outage or other emergency,

George works with staff to open other facilities such as the Community Center. The city then posts resource locations on social media. Councilmember Silke Pope said she thought the police department put out an alert for those citizens who have signed up for alerts.

Bond Bill

Jordan mentioned that Greenbelt's Delegate Nicole Williams had asked if council was considering a state bond bill. "Bond bills do not get a vote in the House or Senate. Rather, they are included in the capital budget; the projects are funded through a pot of money set aside. The pot of money doesn't change, no matter how many projects are submitted" according to a state webpage, marylandlegislativewatch.com/bond-bills-2. Jordan recommended a bill for bicycle and pedestrian passageways while Weaver recommended fixing the Community Center roof.

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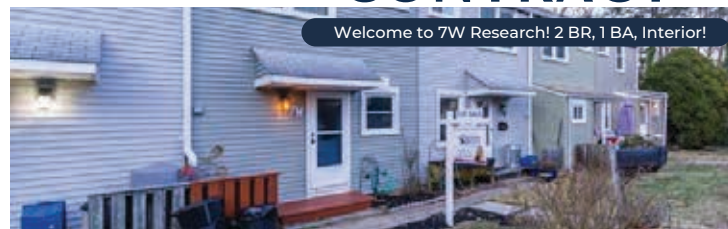
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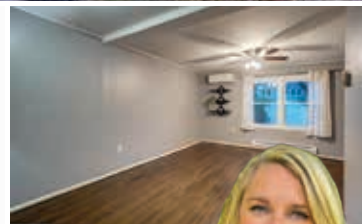
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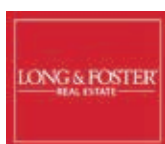
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VOLUNTEERS continued from page 1

Working with Nature

Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll explained how to put the cages around the trees and remove the vines so the DPW trucks could haul away the debris. He talked about the priority of DPW to work with nature and the wildlife in our environment. Our world is an ecosystem where all life has a part to play. Beavers are ecosystem engineers, meaning they directly change their environment. They build dams, which create wetlands by blocking waterways. Wetlands are critical habitat for many different species of plants

and animals. Humans can fish in the lake fed by the wetlands.

Volunteers

Among the volunteers were students from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (including the basketball team) and students from Dora Kennedy French Immersion School. Councilmembers Ric Gordon, Kristen Weaver and Silke Pope together with Mayor Emmett Jordan also worked. Students receiving service credits brought papers to be signed by Carpenter-Driscoll. Family members also pitched in to help. In all, a festive day.



Eleanor Roosevelt High School Men's Basketball Team came ready to work on the day of service.



Volunteers cage trees along the Lake to protect them from beavers.



Happy volunteers



A good turnout of volunteers on a bright winter day

- Photos by Chondria Andrews

City Park Ranger Talks to Golden Age Club

by Mary Moien

At the January 11 meeting of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club, Greenbelt Park Ranger Patrick Mullen spoke to a standing-room only audience. One of four city park rangers, Mullen described his background with the National Park Service prior to joining the city staff. He asked what the group wanted to learn, and questions flew. Mullen touched briefly on the history of the city, from its founding by the federal government, including issues related to segregation and quotas. Audience members chimed in with added information.

Mullen described the rangers' day-to-day activities, including the many parks and other areas that the rangers must cover, mainly during daylight hours. He commented that rangers used to have some police powers if



PHOTO BY ROBIN OLSON

Greenbelt Park Ranger Patrick Mullen entertains and educates Golden Age Club members.

they uncovered a problem, but that power is no longer in effect. He described some unusual incidents, such as a man stuck in the mud during a time when the lake was being drained. During that time some residents were using the area as a beach and wading, which is not permitted. The water is not clean enough for swimming, Mullen said, mentioning

the number of ducks, frogs, etc. who live and poop in the lake.

There was a question about the kinds of animals found in the city. One of the more unusual to be seen is the fox. He said that there are no bears in Greenbelt, but that coyotes have been found in Greenbelt Park, but so far not in Greenbelt proper.

VIRTUAL continued from page 6

that which takes place in real time, for example when a teacher holds class via Zoom. Virtual Learning is an umbrella term that encompasses them both. This year the school system changed their ELMS from Blackboard to Canvas, so students and teachers are navigating a new platform and interface.

In Practice

For many students who had to do virtual learning from the spring of 2020 until the spring or fall of 2021, the process of getting to virtual synchronous classes at the right time, finding the links from different teachers and trying to get them to work in real time was particularly stressful and, for those that struggled, it brings back difficult memories of the pandemic.

"My child (and me, for that matter) will forever be scarred by virtual learning," said Kenny. "I realize it was necessary at the time, but why keep pushing it now?" she asked. "The school system has not adequately invested in a system that would make virtual learning smoother and more effective," she said. "Until they do, I feel it's best to just have regular school or no school at all."

For some parents, synchronous virtual learning means that they need to keep track of their children's meetings during the day as well as their own and be at hand to assist getting them into their virtual locations at the right times. At least with asynchronous learning parents could assist and plan to help with work at a time that worked best for them. The vast majority of parents and students who shared their experience with the News Review were relieved that so far the virtual learning this year is all asynchronous.

"I do prefer asynchronous learning to online learning," shared Demos Larsen, "but I think that's mostly because of Zoom fatigue from the pandemic. I think an online platform that works well could be useful occasionally. I'm all about adding variety to the way classes meet to learn."

Brittany La Couture, a lawyer who works from her home in Greenbelt, also preferred asynchronous virtual learning. "I'm sure asynchronous is better than [synchronous] virtual, especially for the littles," she told the News Review. "But what's the point? The teachers still have to put the lessons together plus worry about dealing with all the parents with tech issues." La Couture pointed out that the necessity to assist children with their schoolwork hindered parents from arranging joint care. "Parents not only have to take a day off work to provide the lessons, but we can't even necessarily work together to pool for childcare because every kid will have different lessons," she pointed out. "If the kids aren't in school they should just have the day off. Full stop."

"The asynchronous work was better than actual Zoom school," agreed Yashinski, "Both my kids finished their work by 9:45 in the morning and we had the rest of the day to do whatever. Their teachers also provided the assignments on Friday so we could have done them early if we chose to."

Lei Zong, a computer engineer who works from home some days and from her office in Baltimore others, was an outlier in her preference for synchronous virtual days over asynchronous. "My kids did well in virtual learning and their teachers seemed to be somewhat effective," said Zong. "I know there are always kids that don't do well in virtual, but it worked out for us and I'd prefer [synchronous] virtual than pure asynchronous as I feel that my kids would get more out of having a little face time with the teachers." On the last virtual day she was able to enlist help from grandparents. "Having grandparents nearby is another luxury that many don't have," she acknowledged. On January 25 either she or her husband will arrange to work from home.

Learning Loss

Just as Zong believes her children would get more out of synchronous classes than asynchronous work, numerous parents felt

their children would be learning little during the asynchronous virtual half days. Some completed the assigned work in 30 minutes. The same criticism has been made of in-person half days, too.

"Early dismissal days always seem like a waste and this way the kids and parents don't have to make the effort to get to school for a day of classes that are shortened so much that they're pretty useless for learning (at least in middle and high school)," said Demos Larsen.

"Surely it is not done because of educational benefits," Aquila said of the virtual days.

"If the school needs a day off to do whatever, just say so," urged Kenny, "I don't need my child hooked up to yet another app to 'learn.' It's hard enough to get kids away from screens without school pushing them toward it every chance they can dump them in front of one. Thanks to 'asynchronous learning days' throughout the pandemic, children effectively went to school four days a week. For years. And now there's an enormous learning deficit. What a mystery

I'd rather the year get extended and they are actually learning rather than just checking the box of having had a 'school day.'"

Since the last virtual day, more schools have been able to get before and aftercare operational, which is a help for working families, who, for a fee, can send their children during the virtual days. "At least my child gets social interaction on these days, but my expectation is that the actual learning achieved will be little to none," Kenny told the News Review.

So far the public schools have only scheduled asynchronous days. The State has specified only up to three of the virtual days may be asynchronous, which means that unscheduled virtual days, for snow for example, may have to be synchronous if they bring the district over that total.