

## Co-op Supermarket Asks Members To Fully Vest; Gillotte Explains

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy is asking members to invest \$100 in the co-operative. It's a return to the original intention of members investing at this level, says General Manager Dan Gillotte. There are now signs in the Co-op and cashiers have begun to ask customers if they would like to add \$10 to their account if they are not yet fully vested. This follows discussion at the grocery store's last annual meeting, as reported in the November 9, 2023, issue of the News Review.



Signs on the Co-op's door advertise the changes to vested memberships as well as the new bag policy.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

### Vested Membership

The bylaws of the Co-op outline two stages of membership, fully vested and subscribing, the intention of the latter being in the process of becoming fully vested, says Gillotte. Yet at some point the original \$10 investment to become a member became the "operational shorthand," and for many members it ended there, he says. "Subscribing members

should be actively working towards becoming vested members not a second kind of static, quasi-membership," stresses Gillotte. All along, the Co-op should have been expressing the "real need for it to be funded by its members to a reasonable amount," he told the News Review. Gillotte

See CO-OP, page 6

## Charlestowne North Tenants Call for Attorney General Action

by Erica Johns

The News Review first reported on security, health and safety issues at the Charlestowne North apartment complex in the September 14, 2023, issue of the

News Review. Since then, the property has incurred multiple city code violations and fines and, finally, lost its rental license due to non-compliance with city code. The property manager and maintenance staff have been unable to obtain funds from the property owner to hire contractors to address the violations, the scale of which is beyond the maintenance staff. On December 28, 2023, the onsite property manager, Ginger Reid, notified residents that they are not obligated to pay rent to the unlicensed



A water-damaged bathroom ceiling in a Charlestowne North apartment

PHOTO COURTESY WANDA DARDEN

## Council Reopens Applications After Prior Refusals to Do So

by Cathie Meetre and Michael Zeliff

During a worksession on Wednesday, January 3, five out of the current six members of the Greenbelt City Council (with Councilmember Rodney Roberts in opposition) came to the consensus not to reopen applications for the vacant council seat (note: no votes can be taken at worksessions). Five days later, council returned to discussing its vacant seat at the January 8 regular meeting and Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Danielle McKinney broke ranks to request that the application period be extended.

McKinney and Weaver called for reopening applications until January 18 for any potential applicants to submit the required

documents, with council then announcing its decision on January 24 in time for a crucial planning retreat scheduled for January 27. Work on the city's budget will then begin in early February, with Weaver pointing out that their proposal will require only two weeks longer and it will make the whole process fairer.

McKinney explained that the meeting held in Franklin Park to discuss the appointment process had occurred only days after council approved the initial plan. It was, consequently, very sparsely attended, whereas the better-attended meeting in Greenbriar occurred later, so residents had more time to prepare and respond.

Roberts observed that this proposal to extend the application process was important to at least three of the councilmembers and that had council approved his motion to hold a new election to fill the vacancy, staff and the Elections Committee would have taken over at that point relieving



Would-be applicant Kevin Lockhart speaks at the recent Greenbelt East listening session. Behind him is Mayor Emmett Jordan.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

council of the decisions.

Councilmember Jenni Pompei stated that while she supported reopening the application process, she also wanted to know what council will do differently to make sure more citizens in Greenbelt apply.

### Pope Disagrees

Councilmember Silke Pope, participating online due to illness, held a different opinion entirely. She emphasized that council's

See COUNCIL, page 7

### New Deadline for Applicants

The council vacancy application deadline has been extended to Thursday, January 18 by 5 p.m.

For more information, visit [greenbeltd.gov/councilvacancy](http://greenbeltd.gov/councilvacancy). For questions, contact the City Clerk at [elections@greenbeltd.gov](mailto:elections@greenbeltd.gov) or 301-474-8000.

landlord.

Tenants of the 178-unit apartment building are worried about unsafe conditions, new bills from the owners and the possibility of being displaced amid the uncertain future of the complex. "We want the Maryland Attorney General's office to take our dire situation seriously and extend any assistance they can to locate the owners and hold them accountable for their neglect, for making us suffer unsafe and un-

See TENANTS, page 8

### What Goes On

**Monday, January 15**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day; City Offices Closed, No City Council Meeting  
**Wednesday, January 17**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Tribesby Audit Update, Municipal Building

See the meetings calendar on page 5 or visit [greenbeltd.gov](http://greenbeltd.gov) for more information.



The Greenbelt Police Department held a celebration luncheon on Monday, January 8 to recognize three officers who retired at the end of 2023. The three retirees had 80 years of combined service among them on the Greenbelt force. No longer in uniform, the officers enjoyed the gathering with active and retired officers and family. From left are Captain Mark Sagan (33 years of service), Police Chief Rick Bowers, Sergeant Scott Kaiser (30 years of service) and Master Police Officer Robert Defibaugh (17 years of service).

PHOTO BY MARY MOIEN

# Letters to the Editor

## Thank You for Donating To the PORCH Program

We're part of the PORCH program. Every month we come to peoples' houses and collect food donations for the St. Hugh's Food Pantry. We would like to thank everyone in 9, 11, 12 and 13 Courts of Ridge Road for their generous donations to the food pantry over the past year. We are grateful for everything you have donated. We pick up on the fourth Sunday of every month after 4 p.m. We'd also love to thank Robert Goldberg-Strassler who manages the PORCH program. He has put so much work into this and we really appreciate it.

Lien and Maya Gareri

## Case Against FBI Complex

I was very glad to see Cathie Meetre's article on the proposed FBI complex to be located at the Greenbelt Metro site.

I am strongly opposed to its construction.

This area is already quite congested with traffic. For example, the eastbound lanes on the Beltway, from Silver Spring towards Greenbelt after 3 p.m., are normally jammed for several miles past the Kenilworth Avenue exit. Furthermore, Kenilworth Avenue northward from Greenbelt towards Beltsville is usually heavily crowded during rush hours.

A rise in our property values will give us a rise in our property taxes. This increase will only benefit us or our heirs when our house is sold, as Meetre's article stated.

In any event, an FBI complex at the Metro site will only make our lives more difficult, with little or no compensating benefits. We will have heavy truck and car traffic and its attendant noise and pollution.

It seems as though our green oasis is forever being jeopardized by local politicians and civic boosters, with little regard for our welfare. To them, land is "unused" unless it generates a monetary output.

Shalom Fisher



See page 12 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day events in Greenbelt.



Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
www.greenbeltcinema.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:  
JANUARY 12th - 18th

**Ferrari (R) (CC) (DVS) (2023)**  
(130 mins)

**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM  
Sat. 5:00 PM  
Sun. 5:00 PM (OC)  
Mon. 5:00 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sat. 8:15 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM  
Tues. 7:00 PM  
Thurs. 7:45 PM

**The Iron Claw (R) (CC) (DVS)**  
(2023) (132 mins)

**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 8:00 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)  
Tues. 7:15 PM  
Thurs. 5:00 PM

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:15 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 4:30 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM

**Fallen Leaves (NR) (CC)**  
(DVS) (2023) (81 mins)  
Finnish with English subtitles

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sun. 7:30 PM  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Thurs. 5:15 PM

**Storytime on Screen - Free!**  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Mon. 10:30-11:15 AM

**American Graffiti (PG) (CC)**  
(DVS) (1973) (110 mins)  
Cult Classic  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

## 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.



## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### Ferrari

The film is set during the summer of 1957. Behind the spectacle and danger of 1950's Formula 1, ex-racer, Enzo Ferrari (Adam Driver), is in crisis. Bankruptcy stalks the company he and his wife, Laura (Penélope Cruz), built from nothing 10 years earlier. Their tempestuous marriage struggles with mourning for their one son. Ferrari struggles with the acknowledgement of another. His drivers' lust to win pushes them out to the edge. He wagers all in a roll of the dice on one race, the treacherous 1,000-mile race across Italy, the iconic Mille Miglia.

### The Iron Claw

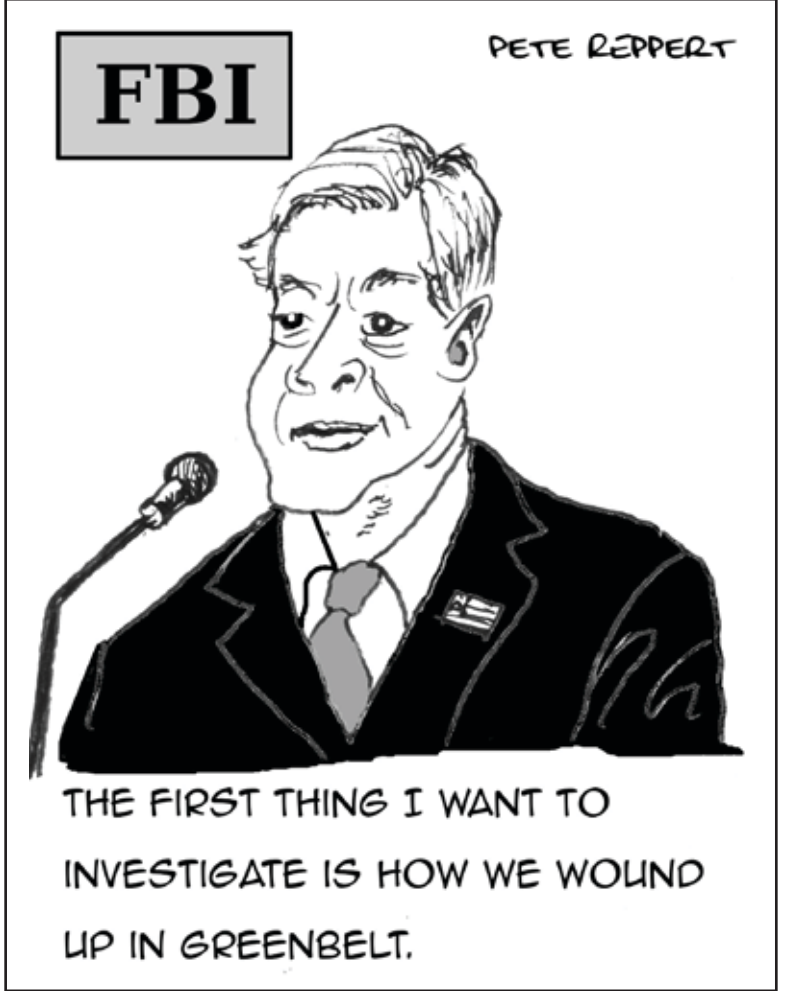
The true story of the inseparable Von Erich brothers (Zac Efron and Jeremy Allen White) who made history in the intensely competitive world of professional wrestling in the early 1980s. Through tragedy and triumph, under the shadow of their domineering father and coach, the brothers seek larger-than-life immortality on the biggest stage in sports.

### Fallen Leaves

In modern-day Helsinki, two lonely souls in search of love meet by chance in a local karaoke bar. However, the pair's path to happiness is beset by numerous obstacles – from lost numbers to mistaken addresses, alcoholism and a charming stray dog. Said critic Odie Henderson of the Boston Globe, "This film is so damn funny, and not in a laugh-out-loud way, though there are some of those moments, too. The humor in a Kaurismäki film is deadpan; it sneaks up on you and always tells you something about the characters."

### American Graffiti

From director George Lucas (Star Wars) and producer Francis Ford Coppola (The Godfather), American Graffiti is a classic coming-of-age story set against the 1960s backdrop of hot rods, drive-ins and rock n' roll. Starring Ron Howard, Richard Dreyfuss, Harrison Ford, Cindy Williams, Mackenzie Phillips and Suzanne Somers in their breakout roles, this nostalgic look back follows a group of teenagers as they cruise the streets on their last summer night before college. Nominated for five Academy Awards, including Best Picture and Best Director, American Graffiti features the howling sounds of Wolfman Jack and an unforgettable soundtrack with songs by Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, The Beach Boys and Bill Haley & His Comets.



## Letters Policy

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

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

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

# Greenbelt News Review

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. 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

## Create Mosaic Stepping Stones

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites artists and aspiring artisans to register for a fun, creative, three-part mosaic workshop this winter. They will learn how to create a beautiful, usable and fully waterproof, 12-by-12-inch, glass mosaic stepping stone perfect for a front stoop or garden with artist Shahin Talishkhan. This workshop is open to everyone ages 16 and older and no experience is required to participate. Materials and sample patterns will be provided.

This three-part workshop will take place Friday, January 26 from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturday, January 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. and Friday, February 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Community Center, Ground Floor East space located at 15 Crescent Road. Learn more and register online at bit.ly/3QWviYe.

Greenbelt's arts programs are supported in part by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts).

## Cookies on the Bridge Seeks Volunteers

It's time for some sweetness for the students. This is a call for volunteers who are looking for something fun and worthwhile to do: consider Cookies on the Bridge. On weekdays from 3:15 to 4 p.m., volunteers meet at the Spellman Overpass to offer cookies (and carrots) to students coming home from Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The goal is to ensure the safety of the students as they make their way home.

Those interested or who have questions should contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness), at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com) or 301-345-8755 and leave a message.



## 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.

## Merrily We Roll Along At Greenbelt Arts Center

See the musical Merrily We Roll Along at the Greenbelt Arts Center on January 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. and Sunday January 14 at 2 p.m. Music and lyrics are by Stephen Sondheim, book by George Furth, directed by Roy Hammond. Ticket required: visit [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org).

## Golden Age Club

January continues to be a busy month for the Greenbelt Golden Age Club, which meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. However, if public schools are closed due to weather (or open late), the Golden Age meeting is cancelled. The club begins collecting 2024 dues - \$15 for the year - in January; a part of the dues goes toward the annual luncheon in April, so early payment is appreciated. A check made out to Greenbelt Golden Age Club is preferred and paid members get a discounted price for the April annual luncheon.

January 17, January birthdays celebration, bring your lunch and a dessert or finger food to share

January 24, Bingo

January 31, Tea, bring finger food and reading materials to share. In addition, Daniel W. Wendel, EA, ABA, will discuss tax preparation - bring tax questions.

## Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library.

Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email [friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com). Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk.

Come see what Novel Endings has to offer and support the Greenbelt Library at the same time.

## Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings and welcomes new members, especially string players. For more information, visit [GreenbeltOrchestra.org](http://GreenbeltOrchestra.org).



## Interfaith Service, Garden Maintenance

Celebrate MLK Jr. Day on Monday, January 15 with CHEARS and Connecting Across Greenbelt at Schrom Hills Park. There will be an interfaith service at 3 p.m. on the applications of religious teachings to social justice immediately followed by a volunteer maintenance and service event for the Three Sisters community garden. Dinner will be provided after the service and garden maintenance.



## Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon

The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the updated start time. Meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Two menu options, one vegetarian, will be offered for each luncheon. All meals, which provide at least one third of recommended dietary allowances for older adults, include margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## All Year Round, Help Feed Those in Need

Greenbelt PORCH will collect food as scheduled below:

Sunday, January 14 - by 11 a.m., for 1-8 Courts Ridge and Crescent Roads

Saturday, January 20 - by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, January 21 - by 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road, 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road and Boxwood Village; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

To help out, leave a donation of nonperishables or hygiene products by the front door marked RUAK or PORCH visible from the street. Ensure donated items have not expired. If not part of a regular pickup route, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on Sunday, January 14 at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com). He will come to your porch and pick up your donations.

Volunteers who would like to expand Greenbelt PORCH to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are always welcome; especially needed are coordinators in Greenbelt East. Anyone who has questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Greenbelt PORCH, contact Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com).

## Volunteers Needed

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is seeking volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at [signup.com/go/UNkLnqk](https://signup.com/go/UNkLnqk) or email [staff@make125.org](mailto:staff@make125.org) if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is down the outside stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.



## Story Time Friday

On Friday, January 12 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. Kris DaCosta-Warshauer from the Clerc Center at Gallaudet will share the classic story The Snowy Day in American Sign Language (ASL). There will be a sign language interpreter present. This monthly tri-lingual program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill a love of literature.

After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy nutritious snacks. Spread the word to friends and families.

## Libros, Bolas, Burbujas

Damos la bienvenida a la comunidad sorda. El viernes 12 de enero a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo del Lago Springhill, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el sistema de bibliotecas conmemorativas del condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades animadas para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores para ayudar a desarrollar la educación temprana y habilidades de alfabetización. Este programa trilingüe mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta para los niños como una forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Damos la bienvenida a Kris DaCosta-Warshauer, del Clerc Center de Gallaudet, quien copartira la clásica historia El Día de Nieve en lengua de signos estadounidense (ASL).

Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse a jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Libros infantiles gratis. Aperitivos saludables y nutritivos gratis. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno ... unete a nosotros." Corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

### This Week at the New Deal Café

SUPPORT Greenbelt's only venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642		FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.		
113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD <b>Hours: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am - midnight; Sunday 9am - 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.</b>				
TH 1/11	FRI 1/12	SAT 1/13	SUN 1/14	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p <b>NEW EVENT! Drag Bingo with D'Manda Martini</b> 7-9pm	PIANO STYLINGS OF PETER REPERT, 6-7:30 <b>Built for Comfort</b> 8-11pm Wammie-nominated soul and R&B band	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE WITH KATY, 3:30-5p <b>KIVA</b> NOTE TIME: 7-10pm Worldbeat ensemble celebrating nature's magic	DEAF BRUNCH, 10:30A-12NOON  ~~~~~TBD~~~~~	
MON 1/15	TUES 1/16	WED 1/17	TH 1/18	SPECIALS!
MLK, JR. HOLIDAY <b>REEL AND MEAL+ "AFTERMATH" (2019)</b> 7-9pm	<b>NDC Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire</b> 7-9:30pm SIGN-UPS AT 6:30PM	<b>Pub Quiz</b> 7-9pm Test your knowledge!	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p <b>InToneNation</b> 7-9pm Classic and roots rock	<b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE <b>WEDNESDAY</b> \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE
Join or renew your membership. Go to <a href="http://www.newdealcafe.com">www.newdealcafe.com</a> , click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW." *For more information on these and other events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website. FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.				

### Greenbelt Access Television

Jan. 13, Sat - Jan. 19, Fri

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77

(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)

Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)

The Passion of Joan of Arc (1928)

Revered by film scholars and cinephiles for its powerful performances, unique aesthetics, and artful cinematography, it is no wonder that The Passion of Joan of Arc is on everyone's list of films you must see!

New This Month

Sally Davies - An Artist Profile

In this exclusive interview, Greenbelt artist Sally Davies shares her thoughts on art; from the creative process, to artistic struggles, to the everyday life that inspires her work.

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](http://Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube) for new video

# Obituaries

## Bruce Kuhl



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Bruce Kuhl

Bruce Douglas Kuhl died of Parkinson's disease on Friday, December 15, 2023, in the assisted-living section of Riderwood Village in Silver Spring.

Bruce was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 1944, where his father was stationed in the Army. A few years later, his family moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Bruce later attended Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. He enlisted in the Army in 1963 and served in Berlin, Germany, attaining the rank of sergeant. After discharge four years later, he returned to college to earn a master's degree.

Around 1980, Bruce moved to the Washington, D.C., area. He worked as a contractor for NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center. One of his projects, the Cosmic Background Explorer, earned the chief scientist a Nobel Prize.

In 1986, Bruce became a civil servant for the Naval Intelligence Command, later renamed Office of Naval Intelligence, in Suitland. As a computer specialist, he worked on the Year 2000 (Y2K) project among many others. He retired in 2002.

Then, he pursued volunteer work with the Senior Volunteer Service Corps supporting Senator Paul Pinsky in Annapolis, with the National Archives in College Park and with the University of Maryland in the English for Speakers of Other Languages program.

In the early 1980s, Bruce moved to an apartment on Parkway in Greenbelt, then bought a townhouse on Ridge Road in 1991. In 2022, he moved to Riderwood with his longtime partner, Joyce Wineland.

Bruce is survived by his son, Michael Jawer, of Parkway, and by his nephews, David and Kevin Kuhl, who live near Seattle, Wash.

## Esther Jean Snyder

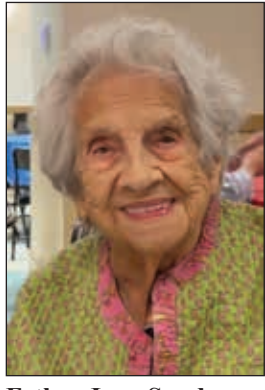


PHOTO BY CHRISTINA KAVANAGH

Esther Jean Snyder

Esther Jean Acton Snyder, age 102, passed on December 10, 2023. Known as Jean, she was born in 1921 in Chillicothe, Ohio, to Herman William Acton and Edna Ludwig. Jean graduated from the Chillicothe High School in 1939, where she had been active with the glee club and the a cappella choir.

In 1941 she married Carl Robert Snyder, also of Chillicothe, where they raised three sons. Jean and family became active in a local Boy Scout troop, the local Christian Science church and school sports teams. She worked at the local paper mill during the World War II years while Carl Robert was serving in the U.S. Army in Europe and North Africa.

Jean and her husband took up square dancing during the 1950s, and in the early 1960s she took oil painting classes and produced about 30 paintings, including landscapes, portraits and still lifes.

In 1970 her husband lost his job at the paper mill and the family moved to College Park, Md. She and her husband worked in Silver Spring at an education association.

After her husband died in 1979 she moved to Greenbelt in the late 1980s with her son Robert. In 1992 she moved out to California to be near her youngest son Paul, who worked in law enforcement.

Several years later, missing family, she moved back into an

apartment in Greenbelt. For the next 20-plus years she became involved with forest preservation groups, including membership on the city's Forest Preserve Advisory Board and GHI's Woodlands Committee. In 1998 she heard about a new housing development planned for Good Luck Road adjacent to the south border of Greenbelt Park. She drew attention to this with several letters in the Greenbelt News Review. Before long a group was formed to oppose this development. Joining with son Robert and 20 to 30 others, the group held rallies at this location across from Parkdale High School. The issue ultimately went before the Greenbelt citizens in 1999 by petition and even though the development was not stopped, the voters defeated the measure 2 to 1 to allow this 30 single-family homes cul de sac development to become incorporated into the City of Greenbelt.

While Jean was in her 70s and 80s she enjoyed international travel. She spent several weeks or months in Great Britain, Italy, Turkey and Egypt. She also made three trips to the Holy Land. During this time she volunteered at Fort Meade as a counselor representing her faith. She was active in several leadership roles in her local church in Hyattsville.

Jean was a member of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club and enjoyed seeing movies with

See OBITUARIES, page 6



Our sympathies to the family and friends of Bruce Kuhl, a longtime Greenbelt resident. He came to this area to work at Goddard and never left, with extensive volunteer work after his retirement from government service in 2002.

Congratulations to city Recreation Department employee Stephen Parks, whose photo Breathless, of a Utah state park, was featured in NRPA This Week, the online newsletter of the National Recreation and Park Association.

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

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



PHOTO BY STEPHEN PARKS

Breathless, published in NRPA This Week

### 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

Worship Service Sunday 9:30-10:30 am  
Celebrate hope with us



The Bible Says...

For nothing will be impossible with God.  
Luke 1:37



IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
(66 Ridge Rd.)

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

### St. John's Episcopal Church

11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)

Welcomes you each Sunday for  
Worship & Sunday School  
at 10:00 AM

### 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](http://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](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 14, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**Apocalypse Now?**

Rev. Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associates Anne Hoover and Carol Carter Walker

Near the end of his time, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said "Only when it is dark enough, can you see the stars".

For many, the challenges of our modern times (social, racial, political, economic, environmental, etc.) feel like the darkest of all time and/or signs of the end-times. On this MLK Sunday, Chaplain Anthony Jenkins will lead a service reflecting upon the time-sensitive shadows of our modern world's injustices – and the 'just-right' starlight Dr. King saw in each of us.

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

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS**

Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
City Council Room  
25 Crescent Rd

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
[CCGI985+owner@groups.io](https://www.zoom.us/j/98519851985)

"Know thou assuredly that the essence of all the Prophets of God is one and the same." – Bahá'u'lláh

**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
One Hillside Road

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

We are an Open and Affirming Church

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE 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.

**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

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

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

## At the Library

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGC-MLS) branches will be closed Sunday, January 14 and Monday, January 15 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. The libraries will reopen at noon Tuesday, January 16.

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays; noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2 at PGCMLS buildings.

### Storytimes

Friday, January 12: 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Community Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane. Pre-K Story Hour/Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder. Hosted by Greenbelt Branch Library staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9711053](http://pgcmls.info/event/9711053).

Friday, January 12, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9685454](http://pgcmls.info/event/9685454).

Wednesday, January 17, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9685530](http://pgcmls.info/event/9685530).

### Ride and Read

Thursday, January 18, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with free apps from PGC-MLS like Libby, Kanopy and Freegal to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/9698970](http://pgcmls.info/event/9698970).

## Greenbelt Chess Club Meets Next Two Mondays

The Chess Club will meet on Mondays, January 15 and 22, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Youth Center. Note the change of location. For more details, contact Effie at 443-415-1053.



## 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](http://greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org).

## Français, s'il vous plaît: French at the Café

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the New Deal Café every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages, all levels of fluency are welcome.

## Free Covid Tests Are Available Again

Once again, four at-home Covid tests per household are available for free from the federal government. Sign up to receive the tests at [covid.gov/tests](http://covid.gov/tests).

## Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and 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 JANUARY 15 - 19

Monday, January 15, **NO MEETING - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

Tuesday, January 16 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Discuss Possible Extra Tree Canopy Grant Application Period

Tuesday, January 16 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, On the Agenda: Mapping Objectives Exercise (imPACT Educational Consulting), Subcommittee Updates (Educational, Historical Exploration, Joint Committees), Executive Committee Update, Open Comments

Wednesday, January 17 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) TRIBESY AUDIT UPDATE**

Thursday, January 18 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, On the Agenda: Approval of October 4 Minutes, Introduction of Council Liaison Danielle McKinney, Discussion on Sustainable Communities Program Renewal Application, Discussion on M-NCPPC Special Exception Referral for LOL Childcare Station, 6250 Greenbelt Road (SPE-2022-012), Presentation of Municipal Building Feasibility Study

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](mailto: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 [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 15, in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. **THE GREENBELT CONNECTION WILL NOT BE OPERATING.**

## REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE

Week of January 15  
 Monday Route – Collected Tuesday  
 Tuesday Route – Collected Wednesday  
 Wednesday Route – Collected Thursday  
 Thursday Route – Collected Friday

There will be no appliance, odd metals, hard plastics, or yard waste collections on Friday, January 19.

## COMPOSTING PILOT PROGRAM

For 18 months, your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt.

The Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity Church on Good Luck Road. Quality compost will be returned to Greenbelt for use as a soil amendment to improve Greenbelt gardens and public space lands. Composting will reduce food waste going to the landfill and lower greenhouse gas emissions coming from the landfill. Compost Crew, the City of Greenbelt, and Trinity Assembly of God worked together to obtain the funding for the pilot through a grant from the USDA.

- Open to all Greenbelt residents
- Join with close-by neighbors to help fill a 7 gallon tote for weekly pickup
- Purchase a collection tote for a one-time cost of \$20
- Residents who are seniors, have fixed or low income, or have a disability are encouraged to participate



Register with Compost Crew at <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt/> or by using the QR code.

Questions? Email: [lrobes@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:lrobes@greenbeltmd.gov).



## CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge this fall: Emergency Diaper Program, Family and Unpaid Caregiver Resource Fair, Alzheimer's Awareness Month Webinar Series, Coffee & Conversations, two Free Produce Distribution events, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults webinar, Staying Strong webinar, and more.

For descriptions and information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms).

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY OF SERVICE

**JANUARY 15, 10 AM - 1 PM**  
 Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Be a part of the community effort to protect trees from beaver herbivory and invasive vines at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to place wire caging around the trunks of native trees to protect them from beaver herbivory and remove invasive vines.

Register by email at [kdricoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdricoll@greenbeltmd.gov).

## MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY EVENTS

**Storytime on Screen at Greenbelt Cinema** - January 15, 10:30 - 11:15 am Ages 1-5. Register at [www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info).

**Greenbelt Middle School Student Service Learning Credit Opportunity** - January 15, 11 am - 1 pm. Students ONLY. Email [dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov) or [joan2.jackson@pgcps.org](mailto:joan2.jackson@pgcps.org).

**Drop-In Play** - January 15 at the Youth Center from 12 - 9 pm or at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center from 12 - 6 pm. Call (240) 542-5600.

## APPLICATION PERIOD REOPENED FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

Due to the loss of Councilmember Ric Gordon, a seat is vacant on City Council. After discussing next steps during the **Monday, December 11, 2023, Regular Council Meeting** and during the **Monday, January 8, 2024, Regular Council Meeting** (view at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV)), the Greenbelt City Council is seeking to appoint this seat to any qualified voter who meets the qualifications of a regular City election, as stated below.

Any qualified voter who is at least 18 years of age may be nominated for the office of member of council:

- Upon filing at the office of the City Clerk a nominating petition signed by not fewer than fifty (50) voters;
- A written acceptance of the nomination;
- Such other statements as may be required by this charter or by law, including an affidavit of candidate;
- Completed financial disclosure form;
- A statement of intent will be required. Please explain why you are seeking to fill the vacant council seat. One (1) page maximum.
- A résumé.

Upon the finding by the City Clerk that the nomination petition, the written acceptance, and such other statements as may be required are in order, the name of such nominee shall be authorized to be brought forth to Council for consideration of appointment to the vacant council seat.

## BELOW IS THE TIMEFRAME FOR THE COUNCIL VACANCY PROCESS

**Tuesday, January 9**  
 process re-opens to obtain papers and file a nomination petition

**Thursday, January 18 by 5 pm**  
 is the last day to file a nomination petition & submit application materials

**Tuesday, January 23, 7 pm**  
 Work Session - Candidate Interviews for Council Vacancy

**Wednesday, January 24, 7 pm**  
 Special Meeting - Deliberation and Selection

A link to all forms (printable or digital) and an outline of next steps in the process can be found at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/councilvacancy](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/councilvacancy).

For more information, contact the City Clerk at [elections@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:elections@greenbeltmd.gov), or by calling (301) 474-8000.

## GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

- Benefits:
- RN Assessment
  - Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
  - Home Health Visits

Limited spots are available!

Please email Trinity Cephas, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at [tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:tcephas@greenbeltmd.gov) or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).



## COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today! Call (301) 474-8000.

## BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag).



## CO-OP continued from page 1

believes there was a misinterpretation some years ago that “subscribing member” means a \$10 membership, rather than an initial \$10 working towards \$100.

Part of the reason the change is coming is that the technology is now available to easily track members’ investment levels as a feature of the new Point of Sale system. Cashiers will now ask members to add \$10 to their account each month until they reach that \$100 investment level. Most co-ops in the country and the nearest co-op, in Takoma Park, require \$100 as membership, notes Gillotte.

### Equity vs Fee

The \$100 investment from each member is not a membership fee. It’s equity. It’s not considered taxable income for the Co-op and it’s refundable if a member moves or dissolves their membership. It’s also a one-time investment amount that members can make at once or work towards incrementally. Gillotte likens it to a share in a credit union.

### Impact for the Co-op

“Having this extremely low membership [investment] isn’t productive for the Co-op and it is very out of line with most food co-ops and, is really just, frankly, a mistake.” Investor-owned businesses get cash infusions by selling a stock and a private corporation might have a few people investing a million dollars, says Gillotte. “These equity payments that people pay in is really the way that our Co-op gets funded on the owner side, so as members or owners, they’ve got to fund the joint. And we do that by this \$100, from thousands of people, instead of thousands of dollars from hundreds of people ... a lot of people putting a little bit of money and that’s what we’re trying to do here.” Gillotte estimates that the Co-op is missing around \$100,000 of equity from members not vested or actively subscribing. He also anticipates bringing in more members through attractive rewards and future membership drives. “Any business needs more members and capital coming in than leaving,” he points out.

This “one-time correction of how we’re dealing with member capital will get us a good foundation on our balance sheet,” says Gillotte. The capital will help with regular everyday cash flow and be leveraged for future projects. “If we wanted to go to a bank for money, we [can show we] ... have \$20-\$30,000 in member equity on our balance sheet. So, the members have clearly demonstrated their commitment,” explains Gillotte. “Member equity is one piece of the overall financial foundation

that lets you do other stuff ... not always have to get money lent to you in the maximum capacity... be attractive to banks and other institutions to lend to you because your owners have put in their equity.”

### Impact on Members

If Co-op patrons don’t want to become vested members there won’t be much change to their life, says Gillotte. They’ll continue to be unable to vote and they won’t be eligible for special member rewards going forward, like the recent 10 percent off sale items, for example. “That seems fair that this small amount that they’ve invested is not sufficient to generate the member reward kind of tier,” says Gillotte. Gillotte doesn’t want members to think the only reason to become fully vested is to vote. It’s odd to think of that as a prize at the end, he says. “The \$100 is required. And with it, you get to vote,” says Gillotte, “as opposed to this idea that, like, you could somehow be a quasi-member. I mean, it’s literally about a democratic organization where voting was somehow perceived as optional.”

### Shared Memberships?

Gillotte says there’s no real plan to require each adult to have a membership, if a household has been sharing one. However, that household would only have one vote, he noted.

### Dividends

When patrons were regularly receiving rebates, they may have had money placed back into their member accounts some years. “A lot of people have gotten to \$40 or \$50 or \$100 that way,” says Gillotte. The Co-op is not anticipating a rebate this year because they have losses to pay down but the board could choose to plow any money back into people’s accounts if they are under \$100. It’s something they’re still thinking about, but the likelihood of a dividend is “pretty small,” he said.

### Co-op’s Financial Health

The Co-op has faced a couple of years of losses. Yet they’re not due to keeping the New Deal Café afloat, stressed Gillotte. Rather, they’re based on the competitive nature of the industry, a lag in hyperinflation prices hitting the Co-op on the supply end and being reflected in their prices on the shelves, a lot of repairs and equipment that had not been replaced (the new registers were a planned expenditure and didn’t come out of their operating ex-

penses of loss and profit). “But we’re close to being profitable,” says Gillotte.

### A Change

The Co-op did not spend five or six thousand dollars to mail people a letter or knock on doors, says Gillotte, but they have discussed the coming changes at the annual meeting and noted them in several recent email communications, though Gillotte concedes not all will have paid attention to or received information about this issue. “This is the right move. It properly funds the cost, it’s the right thing going forward,” he says. It wouldn’t be right or equitable to require it of new members and not existing ones, says Gillotte: “There’s an ... equitability concept within co-ops that people pay in what they’re supposed to pay and you don’t really change it unless you change it for everybody.” New members are being told very clearly, from the beginning, that every month they’ll be asked at the register to add \$10 until they get to \$100, says Gillotte. For existing members, the Co-op is offering an incentive of a 10 percent discount on a future shopping trip if they fully vest by January 20.

Gillotte said he appreciates members being willing to do their economic part and though he believes it’s how the Co-op memberships were always intended to work, he recognizes it’s a change. “Hopefully it’s not too much for folks to manage,” he says. “I think it’s the right thing for the Co-op.... It certainly doesn’t make my life easier, but ... it’s, like, the right thing to do.... Sometimes we have to do the right thing, even if it’s hard, because that’s how you operate ethically.”

“Any change is tricky ... certainly, the Co-op did not change very much for 35 years and then I came along and, and I’m a game-changer – for the better hopefully. I think I was hired for that,” he says.

### Check Your Balance

For those unsure of their membership status, they can ask at any register at the Co-op, even the self-checkout, or they can call the Co-op at 301-474-0522.



## Obituaries

her son Robert at the Greenbelt Cinema. She loved the city and the planned community concept with its tradition of volunteerism. Several years ago she joined the American Legion Auxiliary Post 136. She was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Over the past three years she resided with her caregiver son Robert on Hillside Road.

Jean was predeceased by husband Carl Robert Snyder (U.S. Army veteran WWII); son Paul A. Snyder (U.S. Marine Corps); brother Alan Acton (U.S. Navy); and sister Diane Saxton.

She is survived by son Robert L. Snyder of Greenbelt, son Michael S. Snyder and grandson Michael A. Snyder, great-granddaughter Tiffani Snyder and great-great-grandson Quin Smith, all of Chillicothe, Ohio; granddaughter Jean Marie Snyder of California; and various cousins.

In remembrance donations can be made to the Boy Scouts,



Esther Jean Snyder in 1939

PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

the Girl Scouts, the First Liberty Institute, Independent Women’s Forum or the Greenbelt Cinema.

## Sundays @ MT Hosts Game Day January 21

On Sunday, January 21 from 10 a.m. to noon, join Mishkan Torah for Sundays @ MT monthly programming with a Game Day, including mah-jongg, a movie club to watch the film *Oma and Bella*, and bagels for all to enjoy. All are welcome. Visit [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org) to RSVP.



## Wrap up those Holiday Debts

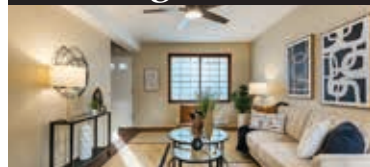


Rate as low as 8% apr\*

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112 Centerway, Roosevelt Center  
301-474-5900 [www.greenbeltfcu.com](http://www.greenbeltfcu.com)

\*apr=annual percentage rate. Rate subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit. Credit approval required. Limited time offer.

## New Greenbelt Listing



29B Ridge Road  
\$260,000

Fabulous, classic International Style duplex co-op home, with beautifully maintained original elements plus a custom-built Japanese Tatami Room!  
2 BR/1 BA.

Kim Kash

COMPASS  
BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2023  
Compass is a licensed real estate brokerage that abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is not guaranteed. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Compass is licensed as Compass Real Estate in DC and as Compass in Virginia and Maryland. 646 Pennsylvania Avenue SE Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005 | 202.245.9700

## Join Your 22nd District Legislative Team For the 19th Annual Annapolis Reception

Celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday



Senator Alonzo Washington  
Delegate Anne Healey  
Delegate Nicole Williams  
Delegate Ashanti Martinez

Parking in Navy Lot  
Additional Parking at Gotts Lot at  
25 Northwest Street  
Photo ID Required

January 15, 2024  
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Governor Calvert House  
58 State Circle, Annapolis,  
Maryland 21401

RSVP to BreAna Bell-Freeman,  
Del. Nicole Williams’s Chief of Staff  
Email: [nicole.williams@house.state.md.us](mailto:nicole.williams@house.state.md.us)  
or  
Phone: (410) 841-3058 Ext. 3058



ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA, INC.

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

Curated routes and trail maps:  
[anacostiatrials.org](http://anacostiatrials.org)

# Parke Crescent Gives Stability To Its Tenants, Despite Floods

by Cathie Meetre

Greenbelt City Council met December 13 with a representative from Parke Crescent Apartments, the red-brick apartments located near Roosevelt Center.

Cheresa Jones, manager of the apartment complex, was online to provide feedback to council. She said that the property was at 90 percent occupancy of the 82 out of 84 apartments available for occupancy. Two apartments are not available due to the risk of flooding. There are move-ins scheduled for early 2024 that will raise occupancy somewhat higher. She noted that there has been some turnover associated with recent three percent rent increases.

### No Evictions

In response to questions from Mayor Emmett Jordan, Jones replied that there were no evictions as a result of Covid and that Parke Crescent management had worked extensively and productively with the city to help residents utilize city and county resources to remain as renters. Renters have 12-month leases and are required to give 60-days notice to vacate. Jones remarked that there are now only three residents seriously in arrears with their rent – two being behind by as much as \$10K. Jordan stated that the city still has some rental assistance funds available if the cause of the delinquency could demonstrably be linked to the effects of Covid.

### Stable Management

Jones informed council that ownership and senior management of the property remains with Donaldson, a family-owned real estate business that has over 30 properties under management in the area and which has owned Parke Crescent for some decades. Jones has been Parke Crescent's manager since 2021. The complex is currently in the process of renewing its rental license with the city and working closely with city inspectors. Jones noted that this was moving forward smoothly. City Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby noted that they had no outstanding complaints on file against Parke Crescent from its tenants, and that among city rental properties, it was the one with the fewest complaints. She concurred that their relationship with the city was excellent.

### Flooding

Inevitably, the serious flooding that the complex experienced just over a year ago came under discussion. Hruby and City Manager Josué Salmerón both commented on the complexities involved in dealing with this issue. Although residential stormwater management is theoretically a county responsibility, there were flaws some years ago in the transfer of that responsibility from the city to the county that included, for example, easements that were not deeded to the county. In addition, the county is not responsible for commercial stormwater, and the apartments are affected by a combination of water from the residential area uphill and drainage issues on the commercial property itself.

### City/County Responsibility

Hruby detailed the ongoing effort between the city and the county to share responsibility eq-

uitably. She noted that American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money had funded a study that indicated the pipe now used for drainage was too small in diameter, and that they knew that the drainage was 90 percent residential in origin and only 10 percent commercial. In terms of progress with the county, the county has now budgeted \$60K per year for the next few years to assist the city in completing the transfer of responsibility process. Hruby described meetings with the county as "productive" and was optimistic of the arrangement being worked out.

The study also gave the city a baseline for the cost of the necessary improvements (\$1.5M) and Hruby expressed the city's intention to work on getting grants to contribute to the effort.

### Retaining Walls and Ponds

Also of concern in the flooding problem was a Parke Crescent retaining wall that prevents water from escaping and corrals it into an area that has no drainage mechanism. This would require their management to be involved in any corrective action. Councilmember Rodney Roberts noted that until Parke Crescent was built on what had previously been woods, there was not a drainage problem near the underpass at all. Roberts also suggested that instead of just installing a bigger pipe that would transfer water down to already-stressed creeks, the city consider alternatives such as retention areas to slow down the transfer of water into the pipe.

Hruby replied that consideration had been given to such interventions but that the area it would necessitate would be "very large." There had been discussions between Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and the consultant (CPG) as to these impacts and they differed on its feasibility, the size of a drainage retention accommodation that would be required and the impacts such a facility might have on trees. Roberts also mentioned the possibility of siting such a drainage facility under the surface of the Parke Crescent parking lot. In response to a question by Councilmember Kristen Weaver, Hruby stated that the study used the 100-year flood level. (*Editor's Note:* This is based on the historical record, but not on projections related to climate change and the apparent increasing intensity of storms.)

### Flood Outcomes

The fate of the individuals affected by the flooding was of concern to council. Jones told them that only one of the two apartments was occupied at the time of the flood, and that the occupant had only moved in five

days before. With the assistance of the Red Cross, the resident was moved into another unaffected and available apartment.

### Communications

In response to a question by Councilmember Danielle McKinney, Jones replied that communications with residents were effective. The primary method was via email, the News Review was available to residents at the mail boxes and she was available to residents individually. Jones also noted that no major renovations are planned and that apartments were renovated when renters left, as needed. She expected some improvements to landscaping and when Jordan mentioned the ARPA Tree Canopy grants available for tree planting, Jones indicated her interest in applying.

### Rats in the Center

Resident Leon Schachter spoke up in praise of Jones' stewardship of the complex. He noted, however, that the city center overall has a rat problem that, given its proximity to Parke Crescent, was spilling over.

Jordan responded that they were aware of the concern. He noted that some of the neighboring developments are having difficulties with bulk trash disposal and that the nearby restaurants and commercial areas are also prone to rat infestations. Schachter stated that whatever the city is doing about rats is not enough.

Further discussion at the meeting related to the pending council appointment and was inconclusive.

## COUNCIL continued from page 1

responsibility was to make this decision as fast as possible, which to her means it should pick the candidate who came eighth in the last election to fill the vacant seventh seat. Pope added that this candidate, Matthew Inzeo, was voted for by over 40 percent of those who participated in the election on November 7. Weaver disputed Pope's claim that reopening the application process makes council look as if it is trying to control this whole procedure. Jordan described himself as torn between the need to move quickly and the need to be fair and inclusive.

### Resident Viewpoints

One likely new applicant will be Kevin Lockhart (known widely as Coach K) from Franklin Park. Greenbelter Leon Schachter, another applicant, stated from the floor that there is someone who appears to be particularly well qualified, so council should stop feeling guilty and choose that applicant. Resident Claudia Jones told council that it should be ashamed of itself for mishandling this issue. Resident Bill Orleans expressed support for reopening the application process, pointing out that the greater problem here with low citizen participation is that councilmembers are all elected at large instead of from districts within the city and the charter needs to be changed to draw more people into the electoral process. Resident Lore Rosenthal stated online that she agrees with Schachter that council should move quickly to choose the one candidate who seems to be obviously best qualified while resident Bob Rudd, also participating online, emphasized instead that the extended process should be open and fair to all. Louise Weissman agreed with Rudd but

challenged Weaver in claiming that different communities within the city must produce their own leaders and council cannot do this work for them.

After declaring himself passionate about inclusion, Jordan called for a vote. The motion to reopen the application process for filling the vacancy until January 18 passed 5-1, with only Pope voting no. (Remaining January 8 business will be covered in a separate article.)

### Worksession Went the Other Way

At the time of the January 3 worksession on the vacancy, there were five qualified applicants: Amy Knesel, Matthew Inzeo, Leon "Lee" Schachter, James Whipple and Julie Winters. April Tanter had already withdrawn and Whipple has since withdrawn. Lockhart requested to be added to the list of applicants despite having missed the original deadline due, as he claimed, to late-arriving notification.

### Correlated Viewpoints

Jordan invited each member of council to speak about reopening applications. At that time, all but one – Roberts – concurred on not reopening. Though acknowledging that perhaps the initial qualification step was too short, council variously blamed the holiday season, insufficient communication to people of different languages and needs, and the poor availability of the News Review in Franklin Park (where it is not allowed to be delivered door to door). Each cited as downsides to accepting more applications as a combination of the possibility of further delays, the strain on council and city staff, the upcoming budget process and the potential legal problems in any

See COUNCIL, page 11



### PRELIMINARY AGENDA Meetings of the GHI and GDC Boards of Directors on January 18, 2024

#### GHI Closed Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m. - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approval of Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on November 2, 2023
- b) Legal Matters

#### GDC Closed Meeting – starts after the GHI Closed Meeting ends - closed to members and visitors

- a) Approval of Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on July 14, 2023
- b) Painting Hallways at Parkway

#### GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:45- open to members and visitors

- a) Statement of Closed Meetings held on January 18, 2024
- b) Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting held on November 2, 2023
- c) Approval of Addendum for Trust Ownership and Trustee
- d) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on February 2, 2024

#### GDC Open Meeting – starts after the GHI Open Meeting ends - open to members and visitors

- a) Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting held on July 14, 2023
- b) Contract for GDC Plumbing Repairs
- c) Apartment Rental from GRACE

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlfumqrD0uHtYmiqajPvD83QyzDVzOIIInR>

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



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# TENANTS continued from page 1

acceptable living conditions,” say the tenants. Over 50 percent of residents are seniors and 90 percent of those are single women. The city and county governments have been unable to make progress with the owner and property manager, and now residents anxiously await support from the office of Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown.

### New Owners

The apartment complex changed hands in early 2023 when it was bought by Charlestowne North Holding Company LLC, based in New York. Residents began encountering reduced maintenance, which created security, safety and health concerns including unlocked building doors, water leaks and damage, pest infestations, expired fire extinguishers, irregular garbage removal and dark parking lots.

Because the building is not compliant with Greenbelt City Code, the city did not renew its rental license, which expired September 1, 2023. Inspectors issued their citations with a November due date, with which the property failed to comply by December 28, incurring fines totaling \$6,350. The city is submitting citations to the court system as Maryland law does not permit unlicensed landlords to collect rent.

Reid, the onsite property manager for the company Livingo, arrived in late summer 2023. She has been unable to communicate with the new owner or obtain funds from them. Over the past year, onsite maintenance staff have been reduced from three to one, leaving a current staff of Reid, one maintenance person and a part-time cleaner. Reid said she tried to hire additional contractors to address the backlog of work, but contractors who previously worked at the complex will not take new work because of unpaid bills and bounced checks from the owner. Reid reports receiving 10 to 15 maintenance requests per day for outstanding work.

### Resident Advocates

Wanda Darden, Graeme Simpson and Pat Wickersty describe themselves as a tenant advocate group, working since early July 2023 with the City of Greenbelt to improve living conditions and safety for residents.

### Leaks and Plumbing Issues

Water leaks and plumbing problems have led to laundry room closures on multiple floors and water leaks into the lobby. Leaks from the hot water heating system have been reported. There are also reports of broken pipes in kitchens, damaged walls and ceilings from water leaks and mold in hall carpets.

### Rodents and Garbage

Tenant Hannah Gould said she found mice in her unit three times this year since new ownership and others have reported

hearing mice in the walls of their apartments. Darden said tenants who report mice to building staff are being advised to hire their own exterminator.

She reported that garbage removal is twice weekly and recycling once weekly, but there have been gaps with no pickup. She notified inspectors the week of January 1 that furniture and mattresses were left for two weeks after a tenant moved out, blocking a door.

### Security and Safety

The current owner stopped paying the security service, cutting off the electronic door locks and door monitoring at the entrance to the building in January 2023. Reports from multiple tenants say that they have seen unknown persons sleeping in laundry rooms, hallways and the community room, striking fear among residents. The elevator’s certificate has lapsed, making the use of the elevator at one’s own risk. A notice from the City of Greenbelt Department of Code Enforcement strongly urges residents to refrain from using the elevators and instead use the stairs. “For residents in our building who are elderly, disabled or who have mobility and health challenges you can imagine the type of dangerous and unethical situation this presents,” resident Penny Brooks told the News Review. Brooks’ mother has knee issues and is one of those who depends on the elevator. The eight-story building has residents as old as 104.

The property began billing tenants for electricity and gas, which current leases include in rent. City Manager Josué Salmerón said he asked WSSC Water, PEPCO and Washington Gas to contact him if they are considering disconnecting any utility service, to give the city an opportunity to act.

### A Once Desirable Property

Gould invited the News Review to her balcony apartment

“to see what makes this a great location,” with its view over Greenbelt Lake and the surrounding woods. She moved from GHI to live on one floor in an elevator building.

A resident’s 2023 review on ApartmentRatings.com said, “This once safe, well-run, clean, efficiently managed high-rise is now falling apart ... I lived here three years before the ownership change. It was a flawlessly run complex with friendly, responsive management. That is not the current situation, not at all.”

### Communication Cut

On January 8, a notice was posted in the building alerting residents that communications with the leasing office have been “shut down.” There is “no email, no internet, no phone service,” it states, providing a personal email

address for reaching Reid with building issues and concerns.

### Local Officials React

Salmerón said, “My biggest concern is we have numerous families suffering because of the neglectful property owner and that neglect can lead to displacing families ... Our priority is the safety and well-being of residents.” He said he wants residents to know “that you are not being forgotten or unheard. We are trying to work through the situation as proactively as we can in a way that creates a win-win situation for all.”

Salmerón has asked to meet with all tenants on Saturday, January 13 at 2 p.m. in Greenbelt Library’s auditorium on the lower level to discuss updates on the city’s work since July 2023.



PHOTO COURTESY WANDA DARDEN

Trash blocks the door outside a lower-level back entrance at Charlestowne North on January 7, 2024.

## Local Legal Advice Resources

**Community Legal Services of Prince George’s County**  
Provides advice clinics, direct representation and pro bono representation in civil law  
clspgc.org

**Maryland Court Help Centers**  
Free legal help in civil cases for individuals without a lawyer. Tenants and nonbusiness landlords may receive free advice, but not representation, from lawyers at the Maryland Court Help Center.  
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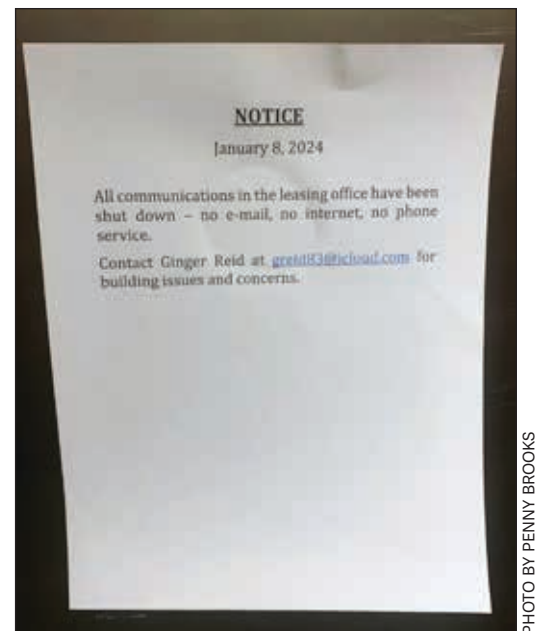


PHOTO BY PENNY BROOKS

On January 8, a new sign informed residents that the office now has no phone, internet or email service.



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 1 to 7, 2024. 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@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one death, two mental health diversions and four domestics, one with an arrest. There were three juvenile missing person cases; one resulted in the juvenile being arrested and transported to Cheltenham Juvenile Detention Center for violation of the home detention program.

### Carjacking

On January 1 at 4:25 a.m. near Edmonston Road and Edmonston Court, a Honda was stolen by a man who pointed an object believed to be a gun at the back of the driver's head.

On January 1 at 10 p.m. near 7600 Ora Glen Drive, a suspect jumped in and drove away a vehicle that had been left running.

### Robbery

On January 4 at 2:48 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, two men approached a man from behind and took his wallet; one suspect displayed a knife and both suspects fled on foot.

On January 5 at 9:21 a.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, a man was assaulted by someone who took his watch and fled on foot.

### Drug Charges

On January 6 at 5:04 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Road, a witness called to report a white SUV fleeing from the scene of tampering. Officers stopped the vehicle and identified the occupants. A consent search recovered tools, crack pipes, a user amount of crack cocaine and a small baggie of pills. The men were charged and released.

### Disorderly

On January 5 at 2:34 a.m. near 145 Westway, while on patrol, an officer observed a woman who appeared to be intoxicated with injuries to her face. The woman was belligerent and declined police assistance.

### Fraud

On January 3 near 7 Greenknolls Place, there were fraudulent transactions on a bank account, and near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a customer paid for services with a fraudulent check. On January 5 near 7600 Ora Glen Drive, a woman received a call from her bank stating that someone had forged a check on her account; the bank stopped the transaction.

### Theft

On January 1 near 5500 Stream Bank Lane, two packages were stolen from a porch.

On January 2 at 8:22 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman's friend stole money out of her purse.

### Commercial Theft

On January 1 at 3:59 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Metro Drive, someone was caught stealing; charges are pending. On January 3 at 3:40 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, two women stole items and as they were leaving, words were exchanged between the owner and one of the women, who came back and assaulted the owner. On January 5 at 5:21 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two subjects well known to authorities grabbed two suitcases and filled them with merchandise; both subjects fled and were captured by police. On January 6 at

12:27 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a suspect tried to steal several items but was arrested and banned from the property. On January 7 at 4:14 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two people stole items. On January 7 at 11:11 p.m. near 5500 Cherrywood Lane, three men stole food and fled in a black Lexus.

### Threats

On January 5 at 9:59 p.m. near 9100 Edmonston Court, two men had a dispute and one threatened to cut the other.

### Vandalism

On January 5 at 4:16 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, someone threw a rock that broke a kitchen window; another rock was thrown at the glass patio door which didn't break. On January 7 at 11:35 a.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a woman's ex-boyfriend damaged her patio door after an argument. On January 7 at 3:48 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a brick was thrown through a bedroom window.

### Vehicle Crimes

#### Suspicious Vehicle

On January 1 near 6400 Capitol Drive, a box truck was seen canvassing the area of the Honda dealership. A suspicious truck was parked nearby with a peep hole cut into the back roll-up door, facing the dealership. An employee advised that the presence of this vehicle always precedes multiple thefts from autos at the dealership.

#### Stolen Vehicles

Six vehicles were stolen: on January 1 near 6400 Ivy Lane, a Hyundai Elantra (Md. 7EB0429), and near 9200 Edmonston Road, a 2020 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 5FL3588) was stolen by a woman known to the owner; on January 2 near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a white 2020 Toyota Highlander (Md. 1EG7585); on January 4 at 4:33 p.m. near 6060 Springhill Drive, a black 2019 Honda HR-V (Md. 7DW6543) was stolen after being left running, and near 9200 Edmonston Road, a gray 2014 Tesla model S (Md. 1FJ0787); and on January 5 near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace, a white 2019 Toyota Highlander (Md. 9EX0593).

#### Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On January 1 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, an officer on patrol found a car reported stolen from Montgomery County. On January 4 near 400 Ridge Road, a stolen Hyundai Elantra was found damaged.

#### Theft from Auto

Wheels were stolen on January 1 from a Hyundai on the dealer lot near 6500 Capitol Drive, and on January 3 from a 2023 Honda Accord near 160 Westway. On January 5 near 6946 Hanover Parkway, a rear tag was stolen (Md. A280373). On January 6 at 5:08 p.m. near 20 Southway, a woman's purse was stolen from her car while she was inside paying for gas; and near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a vehicle was found with a damaged window and a missing airbag.



# Police Officers Begin Covering Intersections Without Guards

In the December 28 issue the Greenbelt News Review reported on the school crossing guard shortage and its impact on Greenbelt schools, particularly Eleanor Roosevelt High School. On January 5, in response to the county shortage of crossing guards and community concern, the administration of County Executive Angela Alsobrooks announced an emergency crossing guard staffing plan, effective immediately. Prince George's County police executive command staff, along with police officers, are temporarily staffing uncovered locations until dedicated crossing guards are hired. In addition, the Police Department's School Crossing Guard unit is launching a recruitment campaign, distributing bilingual hiring flyers, utilizing social media, engaging the faith-based community, collaborating with County Council members, partnering with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and promoting the job posting through Employ Prince George's.

"Ensuring the safety of our children on their way to and from school is non-negotiable," said Alsobrooks. "Every child deserves a safe journey, free from unnecessary risks. The emergency crossing guard plan is a critical step towards this commitment. It reflects our dedication to providing the necessary resources to protect our children and highlights the collaborative efforts within our community to keep our youngest residents safe on the roads."

The Prince George's County Police Department's School Crossing Guard (SCG) unit is tasked with overseeing 302 crossing guard assignments daily at 151 distinct intersections near 102 schools across the county. The staffing decline since 2016, primarily due to retirements and exacerbated by the pandemic, led to challenges in maintaining adequate numbers of crossing guards, said the administration. The emergency plan addresses these challenges head-on, they claim, aiming to bolster the SCG program and restore safety measures for the community.

"The emergency school crossing guard plan underscores our proactive approach to addressing the critical shortage," said Prince George's County Police Chief Malik Aziz. "We recognize the importance of a swift response and the dedication of our officers, who will temporarily fill vital roles until a more permanent solution is in place. This plan is a testament to our adaptability and



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Crossing guards at Eleanor Roosevelt High School

prioritization of the well-being of the students we serve."

"We extend our sincere gratitude to the Prince George's County Police Department for their swift and effective response to the critical shortage of school crossing guards," said PGCPS Superintendent Millard House II. "The safety of our children is paramount, and the emergency plan devised by the police department is a testament to their dedication and collaboration. We appreciate the ongoing commitment to finding solutions that prioritize the well-being of our children as they travel to and from school."

The Prince George's County Police Department encourages interested individuals to apply for the crucial role of School Crossing Guards.

*This article draws upon information from a January 5 press release from Prince George's County.*

### Key Highlights of the Emergency Staffing Plan

**Police Officers at Uncovered Locations:** As new guards are recruited, they will replace officers at the covered locations.

**Recruitment Efforts:** Recruitment campaign, distributing bilingual hiring flyers, utilizing social media, engaging the faith-based community, collaborating with county council members, partnering with PGCPS and promoting the job posting through Employ Prince George's.

**Enhanced Incentives:** To attract more candidates, the starting pay for SCGs has been increased from \$12.77 to over \$17.00/hour. A reduction in the age requirement from 21 to 18 is being considered.



PHOTO BY DITTE MCINNIS

Pink camellias bloom in winter.



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# COUNCIL continued from page 7

selective reopening that favored a particular group or individual. Four of the five councilmembers present (plus Pope by email from Germany) concluded, to quote Weaver, that it's "too late to go back" and that the pressure of upcoming business was such that they should continue on the current path. Jordan noted that council and the city had used all their standard methods for communicating including in Spanish and English.

### Roberts Wants It Fixed

The exception was Roberts, who stated he was "disappointed" that council was "sticking with a bad decision." He said that when he makes a mistake, he fixes it and he thought council should do the same. He thought a person with Franklin Park's welfare in mind should be given a chance to participate and that the bottom line should be for council "to do the right thing" even if a delay resulted. He also noted that though the city charter required the vacancy to be filled "as soon as possible" that could mean a month away and still be compliant.

### Residents Back Roberts' View

When the meeting was opened to comments from the floor, five consecutive speakers stood up to agree with Roberts – none to disagree. Applicant Whipple thought there had been no reason to make the deadline so early. Applicant Schachter felt council had done all the groundwork and could easily and legitimately extend the window for a week. Both, despite being applicants themselves, thought council should find a way to allow Lockhart (and perhaps others) to join the pool of applicants, despite lengthening their own odds.

Orleans concurred, stating that

council had the power to simply appoint someone and nothing bound them to the current process as it was not prescribed in the city charter. He noted that Lockhart had everything needed for being a suitable replacement for Gordon – pointing out that Lockhart alone is African American, a resident of Franklin Park and has a strong record of working with local youth.

Michael Hartman noted that council has the power to open this up again and that just to say it's "unfortunate" that this happened is not enough given they have the power to change it.

### Coach K Is Ready to Go

Lockhart then spoke, holding up his completed application with, as he pointed out, 50 signatures, the "crazy" financial disclosure and his statement. He felt disappointed council hadn't changed with the times and insisted that Franklin Park needs to be represented, whether by him or someone else. He said he knows literally hundreds of kids in Franklin Park and that he could do so much for the community to help bring it together. He said he just needs a chance "to get his foot into the door." Regardless of what happens, he said he will still work with the kids and his presence will still be felt. "Knock! Knock! Let me in," was Lockhart's poignant closing request.

Out of numerous additional comments submitted electronically during the meeting only one directly supported continuing with the current process.

### Criteria, Question and Voting

The remainder of the worksession was spent in a wide-ranging but ultimately inconclusive discussion of the criteria and the logistics of council's voting process.

Jordan, Pompei, Weaver and McKinney concurred they should not disclose the interview questions beforehand and on sequestering the applicants while they were interviewed one at a time by council in a session live-streamed to the public.

Council's view was challenged by applicant Schachter who favored a much shorter list of criteria (Qualifications, Connectivity to Greenbelt and Availability) and a publicly disseminated set of questions that gave the applicants a chance to think before responding. His view was that council was making the process "too complicated."

After discussing how council would execute the voting process for choosing the councilmember after the interviews, ranked choice voting, suggested by Hartman, seemed to appeal as the optimal method for coming to a

fair and reasonably rapid conclusion in which applicants would not know which councilmembers had voted for whom. The decision was deferred for further consideration.

### Draft Criteria for Appointment

1. Motivation
2. Qualifications
3. Community Involvement
4. Demonstrated Public Service
5. Collaboration and Competency
6. Diverse Perspectives and Inclusivity
7. Innovation and Vision
8. Integrity and Accountability
9. Viability (removed by Councilmember Weaver during the discussion)


Note: an expanded list is expected to be posted on the city website.



A juvenile bald eagle perches on the Safeway store at Greenway Center on Wednesday, January 3.

PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWARDS

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## New Golden Age Club Officers



PHOTO BY ROBIN OLSON

City Manager Josué Salmerón administered the oath of service to the new officers of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club. From left, Honorary Vice President John Henry Jones, Corresponding Secretary Joyce Bailey, Salmerón, Recording Secretary Joan Baker, Second Vice President Martí Galvin, First Vice President Annie McFarland, President Judy Parker and Treasurer Ken Mahen.

### City Notes

The City Manager visited the Golden Age Club meeting, swearing in their 2024 officers. Human Resources staff assisted the City of College Park with a compensation study.

After three adoptions, the Animal Shelter residents are four dogs, three cats and 12 kittens.

Environmental/Sustainability collected 28.86 tons of refuse and 12.02 tons of recyclables. Facility Maintenance serviced all city HVAC systems and prepared snow plows for a storm. Horticulture picked up curbside leaves and Christmas trees.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center staff set up a News Re-

view pickup location and hosted a Youth Workforce Development Program.

Community Center staff managed floor maintenance of the gym, dance studio and hallways, while facilitating a Family Concert, Open Studios and Youth Musical rehearsals. The facility also accommodated Girl Scouts, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Community Orchestra and two rentals.

The Museum welcomed over 500 Museum visitors in 2023.

CARES, collaborating with Springhill Lake Elementary School staff, began an active parenting class.

## City Sponsors Many Events To Honor MLK Day of Service

Greenbelt celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with multiple events on Monday, January 15. First up is a Day of Service volunteer event at Buddy Attick Park: Living with Beavers, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. All ages are welcome. For more information, email [kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov).

Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System, will host Storytime on Screen, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., for ages 1 to 5 (children must be accompanied by an adult; adults must be accompanied by a child). Register online at [pgcmls.info/event/9724602](http://pgcmls.info/event/9724602).

For Greenbelt Middle School students, Greenbelt CARES will host a student service learning credit opportunity from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will include tutoring and ESOL programs, creating educational packets for future city programs. For more information, email [dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov) or [joan2jackson@pgcps.org](mailto:joan2jackson@pgcps.org).

And the Recreation Department will host drop-in play at two locations, from noon to 9 p.m. at the Youth Center and from noon to 6 p.m. at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. For more information call 240-542-5600.

# Middle Eastern Trauma Is Topic Of January Reel and Meal Film

by Donna Hoffmeister

The film *Afterward*, a 2019 film by Ofra Bloch, will be screened on Monday, January 15 as part of the New Deal Café's Reel and Meal film series. Bloch, an Israeli Jew, explores the deep mistrust between Palestinians and Israelis. Through interviews with residents of Germany, Israel and Palestine, she reveals how trauma, fear and hate are passed down from generation to generation. Bloch poses tough questions about Israel, the Holocaust and the Jewish people, confronting her own ingrained biases as the granddaughter of Holocaust survivors.

The film shows how difficult it is for Israelis and Palestinians to listen to one another because of three traumas: the Holocaust, the Nakba and the occupation. The ongoing crisis in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel provokes strong emotions and opinions throughout the world, and Israel and Palestine can be difficult to discuss even in faraway Greenbelt.

A psychoanalyst by trade, Bloch attempts to overcome this barrier by asking questions and allowing people to think about what they say. She also reveals her own vulnerability, fear and anger. In Germany she asks herself how she might rid herself of hatred for present-day Germans, who bear no responsibility for Nazi crimes. Overwhelmed by feelings of guilt, the Germans she interviews struggle to put into words their sense of responsibility.

Bloch gets a panoply of responses when she talks to Palestinians. Palestinian psychiatrist Samah Jabr says the Holocaust is always brought up whenever Palestinians want to discuss their difficulties with the occupation, by claiming that nothing compares to the Holocaust. Speaking with Bassam Aramin, whose 10-year-old daughter was killed by an Israeli soldier, Bloch feels an enormous sense of shame at what



PHOTO FROM THE FILM AFTERWARD

**The Combatants for Peace is an Israeli-Palestinian NGO committed to nonviolent action in Israel and the Palestinian Territories.**

Israel has done to Palestinians. Here she feels like the perpetrator, not the victim.

The testimonies in the film range from the horrifying to the hopeful. In Bloch's view, overcoming one's own trauma enables one to empathize with the suffering of others and connect across divides, which in turn fosters understanding. Stay after the film for a discussion about the immense challenges to achieving reconciliation in the Middle East.

Leah Harris, an independent journalist and Ashkenazi Jewish-American Palestine solidarity activist, will lead the discussion. She is also a consultant and subject matter expert on psychological trauma, which she approaches from a social justice and human rights perspective. In 2003 she co-led an Interfaith Peace Builders delegation to Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian West Bank,

and she collaborates with various advocacy organizations including If Not Now, Jewish Voice for Peace and the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights. Harris has a master's degree in politics from Georgetown University's Center for Contemporary Arab Studies.

The film is free and live at 7 p.m. on Monday at the New Deal Café and on Zoom. Online registration is required for virtual participants at [tinyurl.com/ReelMealJan2024](http://tinyurl.com/ReelMealJan2024). The Café offers a full menu, including several vegan options, for the live screening or to take out. Reel and Meal at the New Deal is a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues, presented by the Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition. For more information email [donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net](mailto:donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net).



## Artful Afternoon Concert



Musicians from the Relic Ensemble perform for a large crowd at the Artful Afternoon on Sunday, January 7. They will give a free performance of their program of French baroque music, *The Enchanted Forest*, at Greenbelt Community Church on Sunday, January 14 at 3 p.m.



Harpichord player Robert Warner tunes his instrument before Sunday's concert, surrounded by curious children.

- Photos by Jon Gardner

## Travels with the News Review



PHOTO BY DERMOT KELLY

From left, Rowan Kelly, Christine Doran and Bernard Kelly pause to check the News Review on a Christmas trip to Dublin, Ireland.



PHOTO COURTESY CARRIE DIKE

Carrie Dike enjoys Colchester, the first Roman settlement in England, with her News Review.

