



ERHS lacrosse, p.15



Girl Scouts, p.16

## Gathering at Compost Facility Showcases City Pilot Program

by Carol Griffith

Midway between Earth Day and Compost Week, a warm Friday, May 3, was perfect for the ribbon cutting of the new city compost facility located at the Trinity Assembly of God church on Good Luck Road. About 50 residents, several members of council and employees of Public Works attended. Three representatives of Compost Crew, a locally-owned food waste recycling business with whom Greenbelt partners in its compost effort, also attended.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

**Kristie Blumer, senior director of composting at Compost Crew, shows participants “almost finished” four-week-old compost.**

In their remarks before the ribbon cutting, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Luisa Robles, sustainability coordinator for Greenbelt, especially thanked the Trinity Assembly of God church and its pastor, Tino Cione, the third partner in Greenbelt’s cooperative compost project.

Jordan noted that the church is a historic member of the community, adding that prior to its conversion to the compost facility, that area of church property had been a trash pit. Tom Taylor of the Green Team Organic Circle recognized the

See **COMPOST**, page 7

## Schrom Hills Shooting, JEDI Audit Dominate April 22 Council Meeting

by Pat Scully



COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

### Key gaps identified in the JEDI audit

Apparently the public is waiting until after the various worksessions before weighing in on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget, as no one offered input at the public hearing portion of council’s Monday, April 22, meeting. Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that the full budget is available online ([greenbeltnmd.gov/government/city-administration/finance/city-budget](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/government/city-administration/finance/city-budget)) and that adoption of the budget is scheduled for June 3, following a second public hearing on May 29.

City Manager Josué Salmerón noted a few highlights. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) position is now part of the operational budget. The deficit is now closed, at the expense of some activities and cost reductions. The proposed budget includes a 2 percent cost of living adjustment for employees, along with a 3 percent merit increase, moves considered vital to attract-

ing and retaining qualified staff. He noted that the recent closing of Chevy’s restaurant and the T.J. Maxx store at Beltway Plaza raises concerns about the city’s property tax income.

### JEDI Audit

Tyra Smith, the city’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) officer, presented recommendations based on the finding of the recent Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) audit report, conducted by Tribesy. That report had found that staff morale was the biggest issue, affected by employee perception of departmental silos and stifled initiative. The final report can be viewed at [greenbeltnmd.gov/government/diversity-equity-and-inclusion](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/government/diversity-equity-and-inclusion).

Smith proposed two approaches to address the elements of an unhealthy environment that the JEDI audit identified. The top-down approach will involve senior management and supervi-

sors in reviewing policies through a JEDI lens to improve systemic accountability on DEI issues through all departments. The bottom-up approach will involve establishing DEI leads from all departments on a JEDI Action Team. This team will drive programs and employee engagement opportunities across departments.

The recommendations involve a learning journey for all staff to achieve Greenbelt’s DEI goals: defining a clear mission, breaking the “silos” that inhibit collaboration between departments, establishing ways to recognize the work employees do, encouraging and supporting employees in bringing forward new ideas, and bringing employees together more often for fun and learning.

Smith outlined the structure of the JEDI Action team, which will have three subcommittees: employee engagement and

See **COUNCIL**, page 6

### Election

## Alsobrooks and Trone Feature In Contentious Primary Race

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

“Maryland emerges as 2024’s most brutal Senate primary,” declared the news site Axios this week. Greenbelters voting in the

Democratic Primary will find 10 candidates running for the U.S. Senate seat, with no incumbent for the position. The retiring incumbent, Senator Ben Cardin (D), leaves an opening for which the brutal race of note is between the two top-runners, U.S. Representative David Trone and Prince George’s County Executive Angela Alsobrooks.

Trone has faced criticism for some of his recent negative ads, including one saying the Senate is no place for “training wheels,” which was later edited to remove the comment. Meanwhile, Alsobrooks has accused Trone of trying to buy a Senate seat and criticized his donations to Republicans who oppose abortion (though Trone himself does not). In terms of policy the pair broadly agrees. Both list education, environment, criminal justice reform, gun violence and veterans among their priorities.

### Alsobrooks

If elected, Alsobrooks would become Maryland’s first black senator. She has served as Prince George’s County Executive since

her election to the position in 2018 and was previously the county’s State’s Attorney. Alsobrooks was born and raised in Prince George’s County and emphasizes her long history of public service and experience reducing violent crime as State’s Attorney. As County Executive, Alsobrooks says she’s focused on creating jobs and economic opportunity. As for public education in the county, she cites the

See **PRIMARY**, page 10

### What Goes On

**Monday, May 13**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, May 15**  
7 p.m., Council Worksession: Final Budget Review, Municipal Building

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



PHOTO COURTESY ANGELA ALSOBROOKS

Angela Alsobrooks



PHOTO COURTESY DAVID TRONE

David Trone



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Molly Turner, 7, poses with the art she made during Artful Afternoon on Sunday, May 5. Residents had the chance to try their hands at making art using spray paint at the Community Center in an event led by Shaymar Higgs, executive director of The SPACE. Higgs will lead two more workshops creating art with spray paint and stencils this coming Sunday, May 12, at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. For more information or to sign up visit <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BABAB2BA4FF2-49255210-may12workshop#>.

# Letters to the Editor

## VFD Auxiliary Thanks Bake Sale Supporters

On behalf of Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, we would like to thank our friends and neighbors who supported our bake sale this past Sunday. We are extremely grateful to the Greenbelt community for your enduring support of our successful bake sale. We could not have achieved our goal without your support. In addition, we greatly appreciate the support of the Greenbelt Co-op in allowing the Auxiliary to continue holding bake sales on the Co-op ramp.

*Kathy Legendre  
President, GVFD Auxiliary*

## Whose Bright Idea?

I have a question that no one seems to be able to answer. It concerns recent construction of Greenbelt Road near ERHS and this week from Southway on Greenbelt Road. Who had the bright idea to perform road work at 8 a.m. on weekdays?

I have contacted various departments of authority to no avail. The Greenbelt police and public works weren't made aware that this construction would be taking place.

I tried the State Highway Administration and have not heard back from them. It seems to me that they could have picked a better time to do repairs that wouldn't impact so many people in an already congested area.

*Sherry Fletcher  
(See previous News Review articles from January 4, p. 7 and February 8, p. 9 - Ed.)*

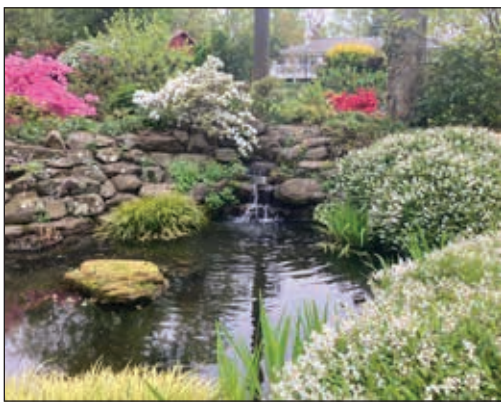


PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK



The pond and waterfall at Mary Lou Williamson's garden

## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### Hundreds of Beavers

In this 19th-century supernatural winter epic, drunken applejack salesman Jean Kayak is stranded in a surreal winter landscape with only his dim wits to guide him. He must go from zero to hero and become North America's greatest fur trapper by defeating hundreds of beavers – all played by actors in full-sized mascot costumes. Kayak develops increasingly complex traps in order to win the hand of a mischievous lover.

### Indigo Girls: It's Only Life After All

As the iconic folk-rock band Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have made their mark as musicians, songwriters and dedicated activists. They have represented radical self-acceptance to many, leading multiple generations of fans to say, "The Indigo Girls saved my life." They battled misogyny, homophobia and a harsh cultural climate chastising them for not fitting into a female pop star mold. Sundance award-winning director Alexandria Bombach brings us into a contemporary conversation with Amy and Emily – alongside decades of the band's home movies and intimate present-day verité.

### The Old Oak

The Old Oak is the last pub standing in a once thriving mining village in northern England, a gathering space for a community that has fallen on hard times. There is growing anger, resentment and a lack of hope among the residents, but the pub and its proprietor TJ are a fond presence to their customers. When a group of Syrian refugees move into the floundering village, a decisive rift fueled by prejudices develops between the community and its newest inhabitants. The formation of an unexpected friendship between TJ and a young Syrian woman named Yara opens up new possibilities for the divided village in this deeply moving drama about loss, fear and the difficulty of finding hope.

### Suzume

In this animated fantasy, 17-year-old Suzume's journey begins in a quiet town in Kyushu when she encounters a young man who tells her, "I'm looking for a door." What Suzume finds is a single weathered door standing upright in the midst of ruins as though it was shielded from whatever catastrophe struck. Seemingly drawn by its power, Suzume reaches for the knob. Doors begin to open one after another all across Japan, unleashing destruction upon any who are near. Suzume must close these portals to prevent further disaster.

### The Blues Brothers

After his release from prison, Jake (John Belushi) reunites with his brother, Elwood (Dan Aykroyd) – collectively known as the "Blues Brothers." Jake's first task is to save the orphanage the brothers grew up in from closing, by raising \$5,000 to pay back taxes. The two are convinced they can earn the money by getting their old band back together. However, after playing several gigs and making a few enemies, including the police, the brothers face daunting odds to deliver the money on time.

## Correction

See page 12 for a correction to last week's newspaper.



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:  
MAY 10th - 16th

**Hundreds of Beavers**  
(NR) (2024) (108 mins)  
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Sun. 5:15 PM  
Mon. 5:15 PM  
Tues. 7:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Thurs. 8:15 PM

**Indigo Girls: It's Only Life After All**  
(NR) (2024) (123 mins)  
Subtitled

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Sat. 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 7:45 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM  
Wed. 7:45 PM  
Thurs. 5:00 PM

**The Old Oak**  
(NR) (2024) (113 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Mon. 2:15 PM  
Thurs. 5:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 5:00 PM  
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:15 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM

Mon. 5:00 PM  
Tues. 7:00 PM  
Wed. 5:00 PM

**Suzume**  
(PG) (CC) (DVS) (2022) (122 mins) Cinema Pop! | Dubbed

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Mon. 8:00 PM

**The Blues Brothers (R)**  
(1980) (133 mins)  
Cult Classic

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

PETE REPERT



## Letters Policy during Elections

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.

The News Review will not print letters endorsing candidates. The News Review will not print a letter raising a new issue the week prior to election day, when no other party would have a chance to respond.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.  
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

# Community Events

## The Rudes Abide Opens Friday

The Rude Mechanicals, known for their innovative approach to classic plays, return to the Greenbelt Arts Center with *The Rudes Abide*: a one-acts festival that branches out from their usual fare while keeping Shakespeare at the core.

Three of the four offerings are decidedly Shakespearean. Jaki Demarest presents a tribute to Nahum Tate, a 17th-century poet best known for his happy-ending *King Lear* adaptation, employing the Bard's words in *Coriolanus* to envision the titular general and his enemy Aufidius as a reminiscing couple. Liana Olear transports Friar Laurence from *Romeo and Juliet* into *Cymbeline* and *Much Ado about Nothing*, plays that share elements of *Juliet's* scheme to fake her death via sleeping potion. Sean Eustis brings music and pantomime to a staged reading of Elizabethan poems including Shakespeare's *The Phoenix and the Turtle*, *The Lover's Complaint*, and *The Pilgrim's Passion*. Joshua Engel diverges from the theme with the DC-area premiere of local playwright Claudia Bach's *The Insect*, a Eugène Ionesco-inspired absurdist comedy about two women who encounter a mysterious bug in their home.

The Rude Mechanicals remain dedicated to the health and safety of their troupe and patrons. In addition to GAC's customary masked performance – which will take place on Sunday, May 12 and require audience masking for the benefit of immunocompromised guests – all Rudes productions supplement the theater's existing air circulation with additional filters to reduce airborne contaminants.

This event runs weekends from May 10 to 18 (8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and one 2 p.m. Sunday matinee) and requires tickets. Visit [rudemechanicals.com](http://rudemechanicals.com) or [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org) for more information.

## Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges

All Greenbelt residents are invited to a community forum to help create a report card to assess progress on race relations in the city since 2020. The annual George Floyd Remembrance event, titled *Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges*, will be held on Sunday, May 19 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center from 2 to 3:30 p.m. All are welcome. This event is organized by Connecting Across Greenbelt, with help from many other Greenbelt-recognized groups.

## Free, Healthy, Plant-Based Cooking Series

The Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS), with support from the Greenbelt Community Foundation, is offering a six-session Food for Life workshop on nutrition and plant-based cooking. The sessions will offer recipes for those who want to improve their general health; prevent and arrest heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes; or control their weight. This approach to food will also interest anyone concerned with how lifestyles, industrial farming and overreliance on animal foods contribute to climate change. This unique program will introduce delicious African American Culinary Heritage recipes that inspire healthful eating. A whole-food plant-based diet is a powerful lifestyle tool to prevent and arrest common chronic conditions like high blood pressure, heart disease and Type 2 diabetes.

Classes will be led by Greenbelt resident Geraldine Adams, a certified Food for Life instructor. The program will take place at the Community Center in the kitchen and adjacent dining room/classroom. The sessions are from 6 to 8 p.m. and are offered on Wednesdays May 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19 and 26. Each session features a different topic and participants are encouraged to attend each class. Participants will get to sample all of the delicious foods prepared. There is no fee, but donations are suggested at the workshop per evening program or for the entire series. Donations are welcome to help cover the cost of materials, food and to support the project.

To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4smjwy68>.

Registration is limited to 20 participants (on a first-come first-served basis).

## Writers Group Meets on May 17

The monthly meeting of the Greenbelt Writers Group will be held at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 17 in the Community Center. All interested writers are invited. Open readings will be held and the group will continue a discussion of a potential joint writing project. The April meeting was cancelled due to the emergency closure of the Community Center; so, if a poem was prepared for Poetry Month, bring it for this month. For more information, email Barbara Ford at [barb.ford@comcast.net](mailto:barb.ford@comcast.net).

## Choreography Dance Club Performs May 17



PHOTO BY ANGELLA FOSTER

**Dancers Mila Shapiro, Casey Cruz, Eleanor Colarco and Lana Shapiro pose before a Greenbelt Dance Studio Choreography Club performance in 2023.**

The Greenbelt Dance Studio, a program of Greenbelt Recreation, invites guests of all ages to a free performance by participants in the 2024 Choreography Club under the leadership of Angella Foster.

As the culmination of three months of training and preparation, the performances are choreographed, costumed and performed by dancers ages 10 and up. This educational club provides young dancers with hands-on experience and helps to illustrate some of the skills it takes to become a professional dancer or choreographer. To participate in the club, all performers should have a minimum of two years dancing experience and a serious interest in pursuing it in the future.

The performance will take place Friday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Dance Studio, located in the Community Center, Room 10. No tickets are required but space is limited so register here to attend: [bit.ly/3QtaCYp](http://bit.ly/3QtaCYp).

City of Greenbelt 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).



## Bike to Work Day Is Friday, May 17

Bike to Work Day is back. On Friday, May 17 at 7 a.m., a convoy led by Laurie Lemieux of Proteus Bicycles will leave the Greenbelt pitstop in front of the Aquatic & Fitness Center, heading to downtown College Park (City Hall) and continuing to Washington, D.C. A second convoy, led by Jeff Lemieux of Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail, will leave the Greenbelt pitstop at 8:30 a.m. heading to Goddard Space Flight Center via the future trail route alongside Greenbelt Road. All bike commuters are welcome to join in. Keep in mind that these are not supported rides; all riders are responsible for their own navigation and safety. For more information on the Greenbelt East Trail visit [greenbeltnasatrail.org](http://greenbeltnasatrail.org); for general information and to sign up for Bike to Work Day, go to [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org).

## Shred-It Event

Saturday, May 18, from 8 to 11 a.m. bring unwanted paper documents to be shredded for free at the 2024 Greenbelt Shred-It Event. The event will take place at 112 Centerway.

## Music, Vendors, Crafts At Green Man Festival

Join the fun at the Green Man Festival on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12 at Roosevelt Center. There will be Drum Circles both days. Bands will be playing all day. In the evening, music continues inside the New Deal Café both days, with Soulfied Village and the Supernatural Sound System.

There are over 40 vendors, crafts for kids, info booths, a Green Man Parade, food, roving entertainers, face painting and family fun both days. Dress as your favorite fairy, green being, butterfly or creature. All free. For more information, visit [greenmanfestival.org](http://greenmanfestival.org). The festival is a project of CHEARS (Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society).

## Free Movie Night May 16 at GATE

On Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center, Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) will be hosting a special screening of *Johnny Mnemonic* (1995), a true gem of 90s sci-fi absurdity. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. To register, visit [tinyurl.com/GATE-JohnnyMnemonic](http://tinyurl.com/GATE-JohnnyMnemonic).

## Food Rescue Group Needs Volunteers

With so much food being wasted and dumped in landfills, have you ever wanted to make a difference and divert surplus food from food sources to those nonprofit organizations that need it the most? Prince George's County Food Equity Council ([pgcfec.org](http://pgcfec.org)) has collaborated with Food Rescue US to try to prevent this waste and take surplus food (whether from restaurants, grocery stores or farmers markets) and deliver it to public food banks and soup kitchens in the county. One such rescue is located right here in Greenbelt, our own local Farmers Market, scheduled each Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until mid-November. Two volunteers with two cars will show up around 1:15 p.m. and will check in with farmers and vendors to see if they would be willing/able at the close of the market to donate surplus food to a church-run food bank in Laurel. Volunteers will bring reusable bags or cardboard boxes to collect food, then drive for 15 minutes up to Laurel to drop off collected food to church staff, who will keep that food in cold storage until ready to distribute to those in need. If interested, one of the local Food Rescue volunteers, Jeannie Bellina ([rbellina@verizon.net](mailto:rbellina@verizon.net)), is happy to answer any questions. The group's motto is Be the Rescue.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## 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

Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 5/09	FRI 5/10	SAT 5/11	SUN 5/12
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm <b>The Greg Mayer Project</b> 7-9pm R&B, rock & soul	<b>Billy Coulter Band</b> 7-10pm Inspired, original music that blurs the lines of roots & rock	<b>GREEN MAN FESTIVAL</b> 10am - 6pm For line-up, go to the NDC website <b>Soulfied Village</b> 7-10pm	<b>GREEN MAN FESTIVAL</b> 10am - 8pm For line-up, go to the NDC website <b>Supernatural Sound System</b> , 5-7pm
MON 5/13	TUES 5/14	WED 5/15	TH 5/16
<b>MEMBERS' APPRECIATION NIGHT</b> 4-9pm Discounts for NDC members!*	<b>Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason</b> 7-9:30pm Sign ups at 6:15pm. ExpressYourself!	<b>Pub Quiz</b> 7-9pm Bring your own team or form one on the spot	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm <b>Drag Bingo w/ D'Manda Martini</b> 7-9pm Unlimited bingo!
SPECIALS!			
<b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE <b>WEDNESDAY</b> \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE			

\*Join NDC! Go to [NewDealCafe\(dot\)com](http://NewDealCafe(dot)com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

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THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.

Contact: [jbeltower@yahoo.com](mailto:jbeltower@yahoo.com). We promise: It won't hurt!

**Greenbelt Access Television**  
May 11, Sat - May 17, 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)  
**Heroes of Shaolin (1977)**  
Revenge comes at a price! A classic martial arts film and a joy to watch, directed by William Chang.

New This Month  
**Spring Digital Animations**  
Mister Geo's students have been working hard this spring to bring you more incredible digital animations! Tune in to watch!!

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 productions.

# Obituaries

## John Ward

John Ward died April 26, 2024. He was born October 24, 1943, and was a military brat who grew up all over the world. He lived in Greenbelt for more than 24 years before moving to College Park. He practiced law, mostly as a public defender for the Prince George's County Public Defender's Office.

John was a man of many interests and talents. He and his wife Beatrix Whitehall were among the founding members of the Greenbelt Arts Center in 1979. As well as playing the violin in the Prince George's Philharmonic Orchestra for several years, John was also a founding member of and fiddle player with the Homespun Ceilidh Band. The Celtic performing group played frequent gigs in Greenbelt – including an annual performance at the Greenbelt Arts Center for many years, the Green Man Festival and the Labor Day Festival – as well as many venues on the East Coast as far away as Connecticut. He even appeared on stage in the Greenbelt Cinema space, which at the time went by the moniker The Utopia Theatre. He also played Oscar in The Odd Couple and composed music for Lincoln and God, a play by D.C. playwright Tony Gallo. John Ward is survived by his wife Beatrix Whitehall.

- Penny Martin, friend and Greenbelt resident

## L. Ben "Pappy" Guiffre

Born in 1934 at the height of the Great Depression to parents LaBré and Marguerite, L. Ben "Pappy" Guiffre was raised by his Sicilian great Uncle Mike, Michael's wife Mildred and her sister – his spiritual mother – Aunt Nellie. He died at home in Greenbelt on April 30, 2024.

Ben grew up in Riverdale and graduated from Northwestern High. He joined the U.S.



L. Ben "Pappy" Guiffre

PHOTOS COURTESY THE FAMILY

Army and served as a Special Forces paratrooper in Europe in the 1950s, returning to find his best friend's younger sister had grown into an all-American beauty. They married, began a family and bought a farm – he working hard to make her dream come true of having four children and a place in the country.

Ben had lived in Greenbelt since 1991 and was a member of the Greenbelt Golden Age Club and Greenbelt Writers Club.

Ben was an accomplished artist but – as it is told – made babies faster than paintings, and so began what became a more than 60-year career as a private investigator and consulting detective. He had an affinity for underdogs and marginalized communities, taking a particularly strong stand for the wrongfully accused. Always a soldier, he was the unconventional leader of two Boy Scout troops, the director of numerous community plays, the instigator of the "poker boys," a master designer, illustrator and builder, church chili champion and lover of nature. He had many trees planted over the years on

behalf of those he cared about.

A master embellisher, Ben was a great storyteller, with an ear for the vernacular and an eye for God's sense of humor. (In his final wishes, he said, "Tell them not to worry about me going to heaven, because I'm hedging my bets. I'm taking a bottle of

See OBITUARIES, page 12

## Mishkan Torah to Host Open House, May 19

Mishkan Toran invites the community to join them for a Lag B'Omer Family Celebration and Open House on Sunday, May 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. Enjoy a klezmer concert with renowned band Lox & Vodka at 3 p.m., family-friendly crafts and games, a community nosh table, music and dancing. This is a chance to meet and learn about this welcoming, inclusive Jewish community. Learn more on their website at MishkanTorah.org. The event is free to attend, but RSVPs are requested on the website.



Denna Lambert receives NASA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Medal.

PHOTO COURTESY DENNA LAMBERT

Music lovers will be saddened to learn of the death of fiddler and composer John Ward, who died on April 26. He will be remembered in Greenbelt for his many performances with the Homespun Ceilidh Band.

Condolences to the many friends and family members of L. Ben "Pappy" Guiffre who died on April 30. He was an artist, writer, play director and builder. Ben had lived in Greenbelt since 1991.

Congratulations to Denna Lambert who received NASA's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Medal in their 2024 Agency Honor Awards. Lambert will celebrate 20 years at NASA next month.

Congratulations to Lauren Silberman who has won the Agatha Award for best first mystery. Silberman writes under the penname Daphne Silver and was featured in our January 18 issue.

Congratulations to Eleanor Roosevelt High School boys and girls lacrosse teams, both of whom won the county championship on May 6 (see page 15).

During national Teacher Appreciation Week, a special thank you to all of Greenbelt's dedicated teachers.



Lauren Silberman won the Agatha Award for best first mystery.

PHOTO COURTESY LAUREN SILBERMAN



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

**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, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
 Celebrate hope with us.

**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

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
 One Hillside Road  
 We are an Open and Affirming Church  
 Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School  
[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 • Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*  
 • Sunday Mass:  
 o Sat vigil 5pm\*  
 o Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
 • Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.  
 Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.  
 \*Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.  
 CELEBRATE WITH US  
 135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

**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:  
[CCG1985+ownere@groups.io](https://www.zoom.us/j/98519851985)

**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)

"The honor and distinction of the individual consist in this, that he among all the world's multitudes should become a source of social good." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá  
**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

The Bible Says...  
**Happy Mother's Day!**  
 Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,  
 But a woman who fears the LORD,  
 she shall be praised.  
 Proverbs 31:30  
**Sunday Worship Services**  
 10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)  
**MCFcc.org**

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**  
 10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
 Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield  
 An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.  
 Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
 Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
 Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
 For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
 Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
 Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
 Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)  
 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community  
 May 12, 2024 at 3 p.m.  
**You'll Be in My Heart: Reflections on Mother's Day**  
 Rev. Ann Kadlecek with Worship Associate Carol Carter Walker  
 There are many different experiences of Mother's Day. We gather today in all the complexity of this day to explore and honor what might be true and meaningful about this celebration for each of us.  
 Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



# City Information & Events

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

## GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7:30 pm

#### ORGANIZATION

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS

- Presentations
- Municipal Clerks Week Proclamation
- Memorial Day Poppy Presentation
- Asian American Pacific Islander American Heritage Month
- \* Minutes
- Statement of Record - Closed Session - April 8, 2024
- Statement of Record - Closed Session April 22, 2024
- Administrative Reports
- \* Committee Reports

#### LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland Authorizing the Acquisition by Negotiated Purchase of Certain Real Property Known as Parcel 84 (TAX ID NO. 2397727), Containing 22.09 Acres, at a Purchase Price of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$196,000), Plus Incidental Costs, for a Public Purpose
  - 2nd Reading and Adoption
- An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland to make a Supplemental Appropriation in the Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund in the amount of One Hundred Ninety-Six Thousand Dollars (\$196,000) for the Acquisition of Certain Real Property Known as Parcel 84 (Tax Id No. 2397727), Greenbelt, Maryland
  - 1st Reading, Suspension of Rules
  - 2nd Reading, Adoption

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- Mobile Security Unit (MSU) - Number 2
- Award of Purchase Police Radios
- Award of Purchase - License Plate Reading Camera System
- Charter Review Initiative
- Visualize 2050
- Authorize City Manager to Purchase a Shuttle Bus
- Introduction of Proposed Council Goals
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- \* Meetings
- \* Stakeholders
- \* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board
- \* Discussion and Approval of Letter to District Delegates and the Maryland Insurance Administration Expressing Concern Over Unsustainable and Unjustifiable Increases in Homeowner Insurance Rates
- \* Award of Contract - Parcel 84 Boundary Survey and Legal Description
- \* GAFC Structural Remediation Project - Outdoor Equipment Room Change Order

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).

### THANK YOU

We would like to thank the Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union for their generous donation of \$1,000. This donation will be used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for the City of Greenbelt's Annual Back 2 School Health Fair.

If you'd like to donate or volunteer, please contact [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov).



### EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION Open Registration

Please remember that you must register each month. Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent's name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate. To register: <https://forms.gle/3YdCeg8mC5LRfJsT6> or call Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302.



### MEETINGS FOR MAY 13 - 17

Monday, May 13 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**

Wednesday, May 15 at 7 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION – FINAL BUDGET REVIEW**

Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes of May 1, Council Liaison Update, Discussion: WSSC Standpipe Rehabilitation Project

Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 pm, **PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

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

### NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY 2024 MAY 17, 6:30 - 8:30 AM

Parking Lot of Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway

Commuter Connections and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association invites you to join over 16,000 area commuters for a celebration of bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, low-cost commuting option and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. The Greenbelt Pit Stop will be one of 100 Pit stops in the regional area.

Register at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org); Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, [dquynnreno@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dquynnreno@greenbeltmd.gov) (240) 542-2053.



### WALKING FOR WELLNESS 2024

Saturday, May 18, 9 am  
Buddy Attick Park Lake

May is observed as Mental Health Awareness Month. Help the Greenbelt Police Department raise awareness and provide support for those in our community. Join us for a delightful spring walk around Buddy Attick Park Lake. Enjoy the fresh air and other smiling faces.

Vendors for this event should arrive by 8 am.

The Wellness Walk will begin at 9 am, but walkers and runners are encouraged to start arriving by 8:30 am.

Sponsored by the Greenbelt Police Department. 550 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD. (301) 474-7200.



### REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS 101

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 1 PM

Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road

Have you ever wanted to learn more about the endearing ectotherms who call Greenbelt home? Join Environmental Coordinator, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, and the Greenbelt Park Rangers to uncover the mysteries and misconceptions of these happening herps!

Register at <https://ow.ly/zu0y50RyU5J>.



### CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:

- Dementia Friendly America Webinars, May - June.
- Emergency Diaper Distribution. Must register <https://forms.gle/3YdCeg8mC5LRfJsT6>.
- Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road  
Upcoming Dates: May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
- Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)  
Upcoming Dates: May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm

For descriptions and information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms) and see ads on this page!

### ANIMAL CONTROL REOPENING

Mark Your Calendars!  
Starting May 25

The Greenbelt Animal Shelter, situated behind the Greenbelt Police Department at 550 Crescent Rd in Greenbelt, MD, is set to reopen its doors after a four-year hiatus. Starting May 25th, 2024, we'll be open for walk-ins every Saturday from 11 AM to 3 PM. Our small animal shelter, measuring approximately 900 square feet, can accommodate up to six dogs, 15 cats, and occasionally small animals. The city of Greenbelt is the only municipality in Prince George's County that operates its own animal shelter and adoption program. We take great pride in treating all our animals ethically and humanely. During our convenient open hours, visitors can see and apply to adopt animals, access our free pet food pantry, schedule pet microchip appointments for just \$5, apply for dog park permits, and more. We strive to make your experience with us as easy and enjoyable as possible.



### 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.

### ARTFUL AFTERNOON

Sunday, May 12, 1 - 3 pm, FREE  
Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Create art with spray paint and stencils with artist Shaymar Higg!

Info & Sign-up: <https://bit.ly/4aNKFLd>

### GREENBELT DANCE STUDIO CHOREOGRAPHY CLUB PERFORMANCE

Friday May 10, 5:30 pm, FREE  
Community Center, Room 10

Reserve a seat: <https://bit.ly/3QtaCYp>

### WELCOME KIT STUFFING PARTY

Thank you for all your donations for the 2024 Welcome Kit! We will be hosting a stuffing party at the Municipal Building located 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 on

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2-4 PM.

Contact [candrews@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:candrews@greenbeltmd.gov) for more information & to attend!

### 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).



# COUNCIL continued from page 1

recognition, strategic planning, and awareness and education. All leadership and supervisory staff will commit to training in emotional intelligence, effective dialogue, conflict management, Connecting Your DEI Why and inclusive leadership.

An action team meeting was scheduled for the next day.

Councilmember Kristin Weaver noted that the action team has 13 members, with all departments represented. She said she had been disheartened by the results of the Tribesby audit, but that it was important for issues to come to light and be addressed, and not be buried.

The Tribesby audit had found a number of JEDI cultural threats affecting employees, including a cohort of white veteran employees who control access to institutional knowledge, inhibit change and frustrate and harm employees who attempt new things. It found many characteristics of a culture rooted in white default, such as defensiveness, "one right way" thinking, power hoarding, conflict among directors that contributes to departmental "silos" and outdated systems impacting employee workloads. See pages 44-46 of the April 22 meeting agenda packet, available by clicking the Municipal Access TV button on greenbeltmd.gov.

Councilmember Jenni Pompei appreciated the plan's employee-centered approach and its goal of "making the city an inclusive space where people want to work." Councilmember Danielle McKinney noted the forward thinkingness of the learning jour-

ney for all staff, who would develop soft skills, especially leadership skills. She saw the plan as a way to help city staff to support the community in the best way possible.

### Pushback from Citizens

In an email read by Jordan, resident Michael Hartman found it sadly ironic that the DEI action plan discussion starts on Passover, a major religious holiday. He also wanted the action team to ensure that the inclusivity extended to people with disabilities.

J Davis of Greenbelt East stated that a positive strategy had been presented at the meeting, but she characterized comments on social media about the DEI audit as "not productive, negative and destructive." She felt the public didn't understand the goal of the audit and that some of the terms, such as "white bubble" and "white default" were causing pushback.

Councilmember Amy Knesel acknowledged the upsetting terminology, but opined that "feeling uncomfortable is where learning starts." Resident Lois Rosado had found it a difficult report to read but commended the efforts of the action team. She noted that an explanation of the terms was essential and that they were "going to make people uncomfortable."

Other members of the public shared the discomfort, but were not apparently willing to start learning.

Resident Justin Baker said that use of the terms such as "normalization of whiteness" and "white default" showed that the audit "is

a racist agenda, as is the DEI program." Resident Bob Rudd supported Baker's view. He asserted that "all races, creeds and colors have been involved and welcomed in Greenbelt since its founding" and he "feels disrespected" that anyone would suggest otherwise. "The people who object don't need to be educated," he maintained.

(In fact, according to Greenbelt: History of a New Town, 1937-1987, when the first Greenbeltians were selected, "Blacks, however, were excluded.")

### Update on Shooting

Police Chief Richard Bowers provided additional details about the shootings that occurred on April 19 at Schrom Hills Park on Senior Skip Day. The gathering in Schrom Hills Park occurred after the crowd of hundreds of teenagers had been dispersed by Bowie Police from their original gathering place. Greenbelt Police, among others, responded to reports of disorderly conduct, noise and parking clogging Hanover Parkway. They found a large crowd that was generally behaving, with squirt guns and water fights in evidence before the shooting. As a coordination meeting between the various forces was breaking up, officers heard gunfire and ran in the direction of the shots. They provided vital emergency first aid, as the fire department's

See COUNCIL, page 8

# Shaymar Higgs and The SPACE Will Host Impact Day June 7

by Shaymar Higgs

The SPACE: Free Art For All is teaming with Deloitte, a global leader in professional services, to invite children, students and neighbors to participate in the annual Impact Day on Friday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with lunch upon departure. The event will be held in the Upper Space, located near Laugh Out Loud stations in Beltway Plaza.

According to a Deloitte press release, "We will be partnering with The SPACE: Free Art For All and other local partners to produce S.N.A.P. (Sustainability, Nutrition and Art Playground) Camp to bring participants a variety of Arts and Crafts activities, Sustainability and Nutrition workshops to teach the youth

around farming and growth, fitness demonstrations in sumo and capoeira, all in interactive sessions designed to foster creativity, critical thinking and leadership skills. Our professionals are eager to share their knowledge, experiences and passion with students."

Deloitte's Impact Day is a firmwide initiative attempting to harness the firm's scale, skills and experience to help address societal challenges and contribute to community organizations. This year, they are reaching out to K-12 schools, believing students can benefit from this opportunity to engage with professionals, explore various career paths and gain valuable insights into the working world.



PHOTO BY BONNIE SCHRACK

Kathy Fitzgerald, John Henry Jones and Lesley Kash enjoy the Greenbelt-Beltsville Garden Club Plant Sale in Roosevelt Center on May 4.

**Luminis Health**

**Our Nurses Are Rising Together**

**RISING TOGETHER**  
NURSES WEEK 2024

*Thank you to our nurses for coming together to care for our community.*



Join our team and rise with us at [LuminisHealthCareers.org](https://LuminisHealthCareers.org)

Behavioral Health Pavilion  
Lanham, MD

J. Kent McNew Family Medical Center  
Annapolis, MD

Pathways Alcohol & Drug Treatment Center  
Annapolis, MD

# COMPOST continued from page 1

assistance of other local partners and contributors – Composting Municipalities Organizing Now, CHEARS, Greenbelt Community Garden Club and Green ACES – and expressed gratitude for the USDA grant the project has received after being informed of its availability by Compost Crew.

Compost Crew’s business development director Alan Van Order and CEO Ben Parry praised the Compost Outpost as the crown jewel of their projects. Greenbelt’s food scrap donations are the cleanest food scraps of all their collections, they noted, saying, “We in Greenbelt should be proud.”

Compost Crew’s Kristie Blumer gave a lively interactive presentation on the compost process utilized at the Compost Outpost, Compost Crew’s name for their proprietary system of handling food scraps. First she gave attendees a refresher course on what materials do and do not compost. Next she invited the audience to examine and smell materials from each stage of the composting process. With some trepidation, a few attendees volunteered to smell the food scraps collected the day before and seemed relieved to report there was no smell. Blumer explained how the composting process made that possible: to create compost for use as a soil amendment there must be a balance of carbon and nitrogen. The food scraps provide the nitrogen and wood chips that are added serve as the carbon source. The process uses a blower to aerate the

material and water is added to maintain consistent moisture and temperature until the mixture is deemed compost. Electricity to power the blower and the water are currently purchased from the church but future plans include examining the feasibility of having a solar energy supply to provide the necessary electricity and capturing rain water to meet the need for water. When fully processed, the compost is moved to a pad to cure and await delivery. The Trinity Assembly of God church and Greenbelt Community Garden Club will receive the first delivery of compost.

Greenbelt’s plan to increase composting in the city has been in the works for 15 years. In addition to the Compost Outpost, the city maintains a community composting site at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and a food scrap collection site at Buddy Attick Park. Food scraps from that facility are taken to the county composting center, not processed at the Compost Outpost.

The Food Scraps Curbside Collection Pilot Program is currently in the first of three phases. There are now 200 participating households in the pilot. Later phases will add 120 participants in August and then 90 more in about six months. Residents interested in participating in the next phase of the compost pilot project to begin in August may preregister on the Compost Crew’s website, [compostcrew.com](http://compostcrew.com) or use the QR code below.



Mayor Emmett Jordan, assisted by Councilmember Jenni Pompei, cut the ribbon at the new compost facility as, at left, Councilmember Kristen Weaver and, at right, Compost Crew’s Ben Parry look on.



Scan this QR code to preregister for the next phase of the composting pilot program.



**GREENBELT News Review**  
**Make Friends and Influence People**  
 Become a News Review member.  
[www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

# Greenbelt Progressives Meet, Showcase Projects, at Springhill Lake Recreation Center

by Donna Hoffmeister

On May 4, several groups gathered at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center to showcase their various projects and arrange potential collaboration. City Councilmembers Kristen Weaver, Danielle McKinney and Amy Knesel also attended.

Amanda Jennings said that the Peace and Justice Coalition was successful in getting a resolution passed by the Prince George’s County Council to urge the reduction of U.S. nuclear weapons. They are also involved in raising awareness of the Ukrainian crisis and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict through Friday demonstrations on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway overpass and Sunday vigils at the Roosevelt Center. Daniel Thies spoke about the progressive film series, Reel and Meal at the New Deal Café, which has screened films on the third Monday of every week since 2007. He mentioned the upcoming May 20 film about the dairy industry in India. He invited groups to suggest a film related to their concerns.

Greenbelter Carolyn Lambricht Davis spoke about the work of the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society (CHEARS) with the youth group, the Earth Squad, which maintains the three different gardens in Greenbelt (Schrom Hills Park, Central Greenbelt and Franklin Park) as they learn to become stewards of the environment. CHEARS sponsors the annual Green Man Festival in Roosevelt Center, which is coming up this next weekend. This year CHEARS was awarded a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation to launch a project entitled Co-Learning to Prepare and Eat Low-Environmental Impact and High Health Heritage Foods. It aims to help people make a radical shift in food choices as a way to alleviate the climate crisis. The first meeting takes place on Wednesday, May 15 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in the Community Center.

Nirvan Sengupta spoke about Connecting Across Greenbelt’s annual George Floyd commemoration – Breaking Barriers, Build-

ing Bridges – on Sunday, May 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center. The group hopes to track progress in Greenbelt’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and to keep a scorecard on how race relations improve. The group also canvasses in Franklin Park to make apartment residents aware of the various resources Greenbelt has available for them.

Lois Rosado reported on Greenbelt’s Black History and Culture Committee, which first celebrated Black History Month in 2018 to ensure that African Americans were recognized for their achievements. She noted that 51 percent of Greenbelters are African American. The theme for the 2025 celebration is African Americans and Labor. Rosado also spoke about the Prince George’s County Lynching Memorial Project, which will hold its annual essay and arts competition on June 15 at the Community Center from 1 to 3 p.m. The contest recognizes high school students who write an essay or create a piece of art that relates to Black History in Prince George’s County.

Kurt Stand spoke about

various projects of the Prince George’s Chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America, such as promoting rent stabilization in Prince George’s County and the voting option of “uncommitted” in the upcoming primary election as a way to protest the war in Gaza. Rubin Scott spoke about his efforts to get children in Franklin Park involved in pickleball. He meets with the kids on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. and would especially appreciate donations of paddles and balls.

Joe Parks spoke about a Greenbelt chapter of the Soka Gakkai International Buddhist Association. Ed Fallon spoke about the Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance’s success in getting non-U.S.-citizens in Greenbelt the right to vote in local elections. He also spoke highly of Jeff Harrison and the work of the ACLU’s Greenbelt People Power to support local immigrants. He commended Jennifer Dudley, president of the Rotary Club, for the Rotary Club’s work on nuclear disarmament. The avid discussion following the presentations suggested that the gathering was energizing and appreciated.



Mary Murchison-Edwards reads the News Review in front of the historic Lyric Movie Theatre in downtown Blacksburg, Va.

PHOTO BY FRED EDWARDS



**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**  
**Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors**  
**on May 16, 2024**

GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:00 p.m.- open to members and visitors

- Designation of GDC Stockholders
- Approval of the March 7, 2024 GHI Open Meeting Minutes
- Trust Ownership Request
- Storm Water Report
- Approve the 2024 June-December Board Meeting and Work Session Schedule
- Review the 2023 End-of-Year Financial Report
- Review the 2024 1st Quarter Financial Report
- Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on May 16, 2024
- Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on June 6, 2024

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

- Approval of the March 7, 2024 GHI Closed Meeting Minutes
- Legal Matter
- Request to Sublease a GHI unit
- Contract Termination
- Personnel Matter – Update

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

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlfumqrDOuHtYmiqajPvD83QyzDVzOIInR>

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

## COUNCIL continued from page 6

EMTs were delayed for nearly 20 minutes due to the traffic on Hanover Parkway by people fleeing the event.

Councilmembers and residents deplored the event and commended the first responders. Various questions were asked, but few were amenable to satisfactory answers.

Could the police have had more warning, perhaps through the schools? Unlikely. Although the schools no doubt recognized it was Senior Skip Day when taking attendance in first period, the gathering sites shifted frequently, with the new locations disseminated in real time on social media outlets adults tend not to use.

Can the city, perhaps through its faith community, provide trauma counseling to the students who witnessed the shootings? Jordan explained that such action is probably best left to the many schools from which the students came, as the city does not have names of the participants.

And the overarching, overwhelming, intractable question: How do kids that age have guns?

### Maglev Update

Susan McCutcheon of the Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit (MCRT) gave an update on the proposed Northeast Maglev project from D.C. to Baltimore. She noted that the company has withdrawn its application for water quality certification from the Maryland Department of the Environment, without which the project cannot proceed, but is nevertheless reaching out to the minority- and women-owned business communities in Baltimore, as if they're going full-speed ahead. MCRT is working to counter their advances by providing information on the roadblocks the project is hitting. She also thinks that, with the Key Bridge collapse and need to rebuild it, Maryland transportation funds are unlikely to go to the maglev project.

J Davis, a member of the MCRT strategizing group, agreed that the maglev people are still trying to drum up support and that the opponents need to maintain pressure.

Lois Rosado, participating online, noted that maglev supporters are circulating petitions on Instagram that need to be countered.

(See upcoming story for more information on the status of the maglev and visit MCRT-Action.org for updates on the main page and further actions on the opposition tab.)

### Concurrent Board Membership

Council adopted, after some debate, a measure that would allow individuals who serve on the Board of Appeals, Employee Relations Board or Ethics Commission to also serve on one other of the city's advisory boards and commissions. The reason for the resolution, said Jordan, was the difficulty in recruiting enough

people to serve on the boards. Currently individuals can serve on only one board and there are numerous vacancies that have not been filled.

Davis was worried that the measure would encourage a lack of diversity on the advisory bodies. Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed, saying that the measure will not solve the problem of a lack of volunteers, but rather sets up special rules for a small group of people. He was concerned that the measure created a structure that lacked DEI. Resident Bill Orleans argued that it was better to have vacancies on committees than to have council able to appoint someone to more than one. Why, he asked, in a city of 25,000 people can't we find 100 people who want to participate in the affairs of our city? Jordan rejoined that, "Some people roll up their sleeves, some just have opinions."

The measure passed 4-2, with Roberts and McKinney opposed. (Difficulty engaging residents in community service was also raised at the recent council work-session with HOAs. See page 13.)

### Other Actions

Council also unanimously approved a sole-source contract with CMG Flooring to install a new floor in Room 12 of the Community Center to convert it into an annex for the dance studio. The flooring is specific for dancing and is designed to accommodate all types of dance classes, including ballet, jazz, tap and barefoot.

A resolution to purchase 22 acres of land between Greenbelt Station and the Greenbelt Metro Station at slightly below market value for \$196,000 was given its first reading. The property has significant environmental features, including streams, wetlands and woodlands. The city currently holds an easement to construct and maintain a trail to the Metro station, but staff believe that purchase will give the city control of all future use of the property, including the trail.

Following the public portion of the meeting, council went into closed session to discuss public security.

## Fast Traffic on Greenbelt Road Near Goddard Clocked at 70 mph

by Jeff Lemieux



PHOTO BY JEFF LEMIEUX

UMD student volunteers Uchenna Ekwunife, Ethan Pham, Trinity Killip and Meseret Arnold pose with their handheld speed radar. Not shown is Miguel Rodriguez.

Student volunteers from UMD's Information Studies program recently recorded speeds of 68 and 70 miles per hour during a 30-minute weekday radar study of Greenbelt Road near Goddard Space Flight Center. The recording site was the westbound lanes, near the "ghost" bus stop across from the Shell Station, just east of Cipriano Road.

During the 2:30 to 3 p.m. period on April 23, 113 speed recordings were collected. The average speed recorded was 43 mph, close to the posted speed limit of 45 mph. The lowest speeds (two observations) were in the 27- to 29-mph range, and the highest speeds recorded were in the 68- to 70-mph range (also two observations).

Of course, recording speed from the side of the road with a hand-held radar has a degree of uncertainty. Many cars drove by in groups following the changing of the traffic light at Cipriano Road, and the students were not able to record speeds from all

individual cars. Thus, the chart probably understates the number of cars traveling in the mid-range of speeds, between about 35 mph and 50 mph.

However, the students were able to track individual speeds from many of the outliers, including seven observations of 55 mph or above within the half-hour study period.

Friends of the Greenbelt East Trail propose a two-way barrier-protected bike- and walk-way on the north side of Greenbelt Road between Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Glenn Dale, including the long stretch in front of the Goddard entrances. They believe the trail would provide a natural or organic traffic-calming effect by making the road seem less like a highway and more like a neighborhood street. This, in turn, the group hopes would help reduce dangerous outlier speeds. For more information, visit [greenbeltnasatrail.org](http://greenbeltnasatrail.org) or email [info@greenbeltnasatrail.org](mailto:info@greenbeltnasatrail.org).



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## At the Library

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays and 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.

### Storytimes

Friday, May 10, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356777](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356777).

Monday, May 13, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356750](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356750).

Wednesday, May 15, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356785](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356785).

### Bibliobop Dance Party

Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Bust a move and shake the sillies out. Bring a parent(s) or caregiver(s). Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10384844](http://pgcmls.info/event/10384844).

### Talk on Frances Perkins

Monday, May 13, 4:30 p.m., ages 18+ (adults). Greenbelt resident Charles Hoffacker, a distinguished board member of the Frances Perkins Center, presents an insightful talk on Perkins' life and legacy. Discover the enduring impact of this trailblazing figure whose contributions continue to shape American history. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10240110](http://pgcmls.info/event/10240110).

### Teen Action Group

Wednesday, May 15, 4:30 p.m., ages 13 to 18. Need to earn community service hours? Come make a difference in the community, gain friends from around the area and make your voice heard in your public library. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/10356453](http://pgcmls.info/event/10356453).

### Ride and Read

Thursday, May 16, 11 a.m., ages 16+ (adult). Get some physical activity in while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on one of the stationary bikes with great free apps from PGCMLS 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/10369469](http://pgcmls.info/event/10369469).

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FY25 Budget

# Public Safety Issues: Speed Cameras, More Officers, Shelter

by Diane Oberg

City Manager Josué Salmerón's proposed public safety budget calls for police spending of \$11.8 million in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25), which starts July 1. The Greenbelt City Council discussed the proposed budget on Monday, April 29 with Salmerón and department staff.

Key topics of discussion included whether the city needs more officers and whether to replace the current animal shelter.

Roughly \$10.3 million of the proposed police budget is for personnel expenses, including for staff maintaining the station and vehicles; \$1.3 million is for other operating expenses; and \$138,100 is for new equipment. About \$10.1 million will be funded through general city revenues and \$1.7 million through various other sources, such as grants and public-private partnerships. In addition, Salmerón calls for spending \$358,400 on animal control, an 8 percent decrease from the adopted budget for the current year.

**Staffing**

During the current fiscal year, Police Chief Richard Bowers has restructured the command staff. Where previously there were three captains, one lieutenant and seven sergeants, there are now two captains, three lieutenants and six sergeants. Bowers said that this allows developing more than one lieutenant to prepare for the captain positions. The number of sworn officers is proposed to remain at 53, along with 21 civilian positions, yielding 74 total staff. In addition, a four-person animal control staff fills out the public safety staffing at 77 full-time equivalents.

**More Officers?**

One crucial issue for the future is whether the department needs more officers. Councilmember Kristen Weaver wondered if an additional officer might reduce the department's need for overtime, which cost more than \$1.1 million (estimated) in the current fiscal year. Bowers said, in essence, it depends. Much of the overtime stems from covering absences/shortages of communications and patrol staff, court appearances, late arrests and training, as well as covering crime suppression details. In addition, certain city events, such as July 4 and Labor Day, are staffed by officers on overtime and every holiday requires overtime spending.

An entry level officer costs the city \$95,760 with benefits. In the first year, there is an additional expense of \$40,000 for vehicle, uniform and equipment, bringing the total first-year cost for an additional officer to \$135,000 to \$140,000, Bowers said.

The department will also be planning for negotiations as the collective bargaining agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge expires at the end of FY25. The next agreement will likely increase compensation as entry pay in other jurisdictions is \$62,000 to \$65,000 per year, compared to Greenbelt's starting pay of \$58,000 (without benefits).

Bowers addressed the Facebook conversation about the de-

crease in the number of officers since 2008, when there were 56 officers. He said that two positions, the public information officer and accreditation manager, were converted to civilian positions. A partnership with Beltway Plaza had funded an additional officer but this position was eliminated when Beltway Plaza withdrew from the partnership.

Resident Molly Lester, who had initiated the Facebook discussion, noted that the city population and number of housing units had increased since FY2008. We owe it to our officers, she said, to find additional resources in the budget. She also called for a renewed visioning process to gather public input into the priorities for future budgets that are not merely driven by council and city management.

Resident Kathy Legendre called on council to add two more officers to each of the four patrol squads.

**Cameras**

Bowers said that this summer the department will do a comprehensive study of its speed cameras. The program was established with the goal that the cameras would pay for themselves, which the speed cameras are not doing.

Overall, the cost of the city's camera programs is increasing. The annual cost of the police body camera contract has increased from \$85,000 to \$150,000 per year. This cost includes new cameras, tasers, an upgraded platform and storage fees.

**Animal Control**

The proposed budget allocates \$317,800 for animal control, overseen by the police department, an 18 percent decrease from the adopted FY24 budget. More than 80 percent of that amount (\$260,900) is for personnel expenses, which decreased 11 percent. Other significant expenses are animal care, feeding and veterinary bills (\$30,000), building maintenance (\$5,600) and departmental equipment (\$5,500).

One critical need, not yet provided for in the budget, is to replace the current animal shelter. According to an April 25 article in the News Review, the current shelter was opened in 2007 as a temporary structure (a trailer). However, it is now 17 years old and on its last legs. Salmerón suggested reprogramming the \$120,000 in American Rescue Plan Act funds designated for a water fountain at the dog park, to a new trailer. The estimated replacement cost, however, is \$180,000 and Salmerón said he would work to identify the remaining funds. While the new shelter, if approved, would have the same footprint as the old, its

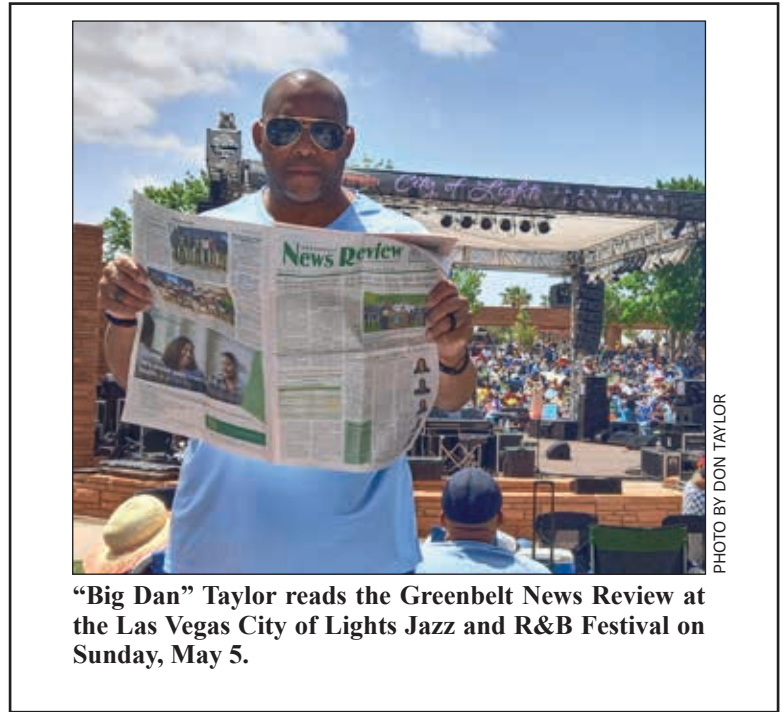
internal configuration would be different and staff would actually have a restroom inside, eliminating trips to the police station.

Councilmember Silke Pope, who had championed the water fountain, accepted this proposal but stated that the city still needs to find a water source for the dog park. Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested that the city could "build a lot nicer building for \$180,000," rather than using another trailer.

Bowers and council praised Shelter Supervisor Walter Rivas-Flores for his work. He has fully staffed the shelter, has brought the number of shelter volunteers to 40 and reintroduced the food pantry program. The shelter is also now open one day a week.

The shelter now has a two-week to two-month waiting list, so residents must schedule drop-offs. When asked about the city's three feral cat colonies, he replied that the department does not have the money to run a trap, neuter and release program.

Anyone wishing to contribute to the shelter can do so through WAGS (Well-Wishers for the Animals of Greenbelt Shelter). Funds can be dropped off at the communications window of the police station or sent to WAGS at Box 1672, Greenbelt, MD 20768. For more information see the WAGS Facebook page at facebook.com/people/WAGS-Greenbelt-MD/100066309265511/.



"Big Dan" Taylor reads the Greenbelt News Review at the Las Vegas City of Lights Jazz and R&B Festival on Sunday, May 5.

PHOTO BY DON TAYLOR

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# PRIMARY continued from page 1

10 new schools that have been built, expanding access to healthcare, mental health and addiction treatment and youth outreach. Her campaign lists 16 areas of priority, among them abortion rights; she says on her first day in office she'll co-sponsor the Women's Health Protection Act and stand up against Republican attempts to defund Planned Parenthood. Other priorities include climate change and protecting the Chesapeake Bay, gun safety, voting rights and "protecting democracy," saying she will fight for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, expand and protect voting rights and believes the filibuster in the Senate should be eliminated. For her full priorities visit her campaign website at [angelaalsobrooks.com](http://angelaalsobrooks.com).

### Trone

Trone is in his fifth year as Representative in the U.S. House for Maryland's 6th Congressional District. He is also a wealthy businessman, co-owner of Total Wine and More, the largest private wine realtor in the country with an annual revenue of \$3.1 billion. Despite his fortune, Trone aims to connect with workers and the middle class, explaining that he knows what it's like to experience financial insecurity because his father went into bankruptcy and lost their family farm. He bills himself as a job creator and someone in a financial position to reject PAC money, lobbyists and corporations and match Republican spending that will back Larry Hogan for the senate seat in the fall election.

His priorities are similar to Alsobrooks' and his campaign website outlines 15 of them. Among them he cites jobs and economic development, advocating for raising the minimum wage; healthcare, including fighting addiction and the mental health crisis; criminal justice reform; and supporting education and medical research. Trone also lists abortion rights among his priorities and voted for the Women's Health Protection Act. He has a rating of 100 (out of 100) from Planned Parenthood in their ratings of representatives based on their voting records. For the complete details of Trone's priorities visit his campaign website at [davidtrone.com](http://davidtrone.com).

### Campaign Spending

As of April 24, Trone had loaned his campaign over \$54 million and his campaign spending is approximately 10 times that of Alsobrooks'. Campaign finance records show Trone's campaign has spent \$51,413,130.29 in total disbursements between January 1 and April 24. During the same period Alsobrooks' campaign has spent \$5,875,228.01 in total disbursements.

### Endorsements

Alsobrooks has been endorsed by the Washington Post and Governor Wes Moore. Among Maryland's Democratic congressional delegation she is endorsed by Rep. John Sarbanes (D-3), Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-4), Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-5), Rep. Kweisi Mfume (D-7) and Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-8). Among State Senators for Prince George's County she's endorsed by Jim Rosapepe, Alonzo T. Washington, Ron Watson, Nick Charles and C. Anthony Muse. She's endorsed by State Delegates for Prince George's County Ben Barnes, Anne Healey, Nicole Williams, Kym Taylor, Adrian Boaf, Marvin E. Holmes Jr., Jazz Lewis, Andrea Harrison, Denise Roberts, Karen Toles, Kent Roberson, Veronica Turner, Jamila Woods, Jeffrie E. Long Jr. and Kevin Harris. Alsobrooks is also endorsed by Senator Chris Van Hollen and Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman.

Trone is endorsed by an array of unions, including LiUNA!, State's Attorney for Prince George's County Aisha Braveboy and Maryland Attorney General Anthony Brown. Among Maryland's Congressional delegation, he is endorsed by Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger (D-2), the only Democrat not endorsing Alsobrooks. He is also endorsed by State Delegates for Prince George's County Ashanti Martinez, Dani Taveras, Mary Lehman, Joseline Peña-Melnik and Joanne Benson, State Senator for Prince George's County.

The Senate seat has long been securely Democratic but former governor Larry Hogan, who enjoyed broad support as a Republican within a predominantly Democratic state, is the likely Republican nominee. The race for this seat in November could make Maryland a deciding state in which party controls the Senate.

### Election

## Seven Republicans Are Running For Maryland's U.S. Senate Seat

by Lesley Kash

The field of seven Republicans includes former Maryland governor Larry Hogan and Robin Ficker, who have moved to the lead with fundraising and television ad campaigns.

### Moe Barakat

Moe H. Barakat, managing director of the United States-Qatar Business Council, lives in Montgomery County. Barakat reported raising over \$1,100 in the most recent filing with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC).

### Chris Chaffee

Chris Chaffee, a contractor, lives in Calvert County. He was the Republican nominee for U.S. Senate in 2022 and also ran in 2016. Chaffee has not filed any fundraising information with the FEC.

### Robin Ficker

A disbarred attorney and former state delegate, Ficker most recently finished a distant third in the 2022 Republican primary for Maryland governor. According to recent reports filed with the FEC, Ficker loaned his own campaign nearly \$4.2 million, while collecting about \$10,000 in contributions.

### Lorie Friend

Lorie R. Friend, a registered nurse, lives in western Maryland. She finished second in the 2022 U.S. Senate Republican primary.

Self-reported campaign funds of \$727 as of March 31 included \$376 she loaned to her own campaign.

### Larry Hogan

After two years out of office, Hogan remains popular, with a "purple" independent Republican branding. An experienced statewide candidate, he raised over \$3.1 million between mid-February and March 31.

### John Myrick

John A. Myrick, a former Harford County deputy sheriff and 23-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force Reserves, has raised nearly \$5,200 according to the most recent report filed with the FEC in March.

### Laban Seyoum

Laban Y. Seyoum is a relative unknown in politics. The Prince George's County resident has no website, no contact information and no campaign social media accounts. There was no fundraising information available from the FEC.

*Information found in Maryland Matters*



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### City Notes

City Manager and Planning staff hosted a Four Cities meeting, met with Crowne Plaza Hotel's new manager and joined Public Works ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Compost Facility. Planning met staff from various agencies for an FBI site visit.

After two dogs and a snake were adopted, Animal Shelter residents are nine cats, six kittens, four dogs and a rabbit.

The Public Works streets crew prepared a grave at the Cemetery and repaired concrete at the outdoor pool. Environmental/Sustainability's electronics/styrofoam recycling event drew 265 participants.

Community Center and Library staff coordinated on emergency lockdown procedures. The facility accommodated Girl Scouts, Concert Band, Golden Age Club, Community Orchestra, Pottery, Interfaith Leadership, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Advisory Planning Board, Girl Scouts, Alliance for Reproductive Freedom and 14 rentals.

Environmental, Park Rangers and Therapeutic Recreation presented a birding orientation tour at Greenbelt Lake for seven participants.

CARES initiated weekly events at Green Ridge House celebrating Older Americans Month.

### 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).



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred April 29 - May 5, 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, four domestics with one leading to an arrest, one sexual assault, three mental health diversions involving suicide and one resolved missing person report.

### Assault and Robbery

On April 30 at 4:43 p.m. near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, two suspects stole sneakers from a boy sitting near a restaurant and, at 4:47 p.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, two suspects in a blue vehicle stole sneakers from a person walking.

On May 3 at 9:47 a.m. near Hanover Parkway and Greenbelt Road, a boy was assaulted and robbed of his bag on the way to school by two boys, one of whom goes to the same school.

On May 4 at 10:37 p.m. near 7619 Greenbelt Road, someone hit a man's vehicle, assaulted him and took his phone.

On May 5 at 3:12 p.m. near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, a delivery driver was assaulted while making a delivery.

### Animal Complaint

On May 5 at 12:40 p.m. near 9100 block Springhill Lane, seven puppies in poor health were being kept in unsuitable living conditions: a metal crate in a small unshaded courtyard, with no clean water and excrement throughout the area. The owners were contacted, Prince George's Animal Control was called to assess the conditions, and Greenbelt Animal Control will follow up.

### Disorderly

On May 4 at 1:30 p.m. near 6200 Greenbelt Road, a man in the back of a store was found yelling and throwing items. Officers identified him and issued a criminal citation; he was banned from the premises.

### DUI Arrests

On May 3 at 2:44 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Crescent Road, a driver was found in the middle of the road with the odor of alcohol coming from the vehicle, confused speech, and bloodshot and glassy eyes. After sobriety testing she was arrested for DUI.

On May 5 at 11:49 p.m. near Hanover Parkway and Good Luck Road, a vehicle was found stuck on the median barrier. EMTs

found two people asleep inside the vehicle and smelled a strong odor of alcohol. Both were impaired, uncooperative, and one started yelling when he was not allowed to get back in the vehicle. He became verbally aggressive and noncompliant with handcuffing. One person was arrested for DUI, and the other for disorderly and resisting arrest.

On May 5 at 12:59 a.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Springhill Drive, a vehicle was being driven unsafely with a flat tire, and the driver gave off the odor of alcohol. He had difficulty walking to the rear of his vehicle, and after field sobriety tests, he was arrested for DUI.

On May 5 at 11:10 p.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Springhill Drive, officers were dispatched for a report of an armed subject in a vehicle but no weapons were found. The driver had bloodshot eyes, smelled of alcohol and had open containers of beer inside the vehicle. He refused to take a field sobriety test, resisted while being arrested for suspected DUI and was taken to the police station. There he stated he'd had three or four beers, submitted to a breath test and was over the legal limit.

### Fraud

On May 5 near 7819 Mandan Road, unauthorized purchases were made on an account.

### Theft

On May 1 at 5:11 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items.

On May 2 at 11:38 a.m. near 9134 Edmonston Court, a woman left two bags on the sidewalk next to her vehicle and ran back to her apartment to get something. When she returned the bags were gone.

On May 3 at 10:11 p.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a woman stole items from a store and left in a vehicle.

On May 4 at 5:15 p.m. near 9220 Springhill Lane, a woman washing her clothes at the laundry center went home, and when she returned the clothes were gone.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicle

On April 30 near 6002 Breezewood Drive, a light blue 2010 Toyota Sienna (Md.

3BY1861) was stolen.

### Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On May 3 near 6208 Breezewood Court, a 2021 Toyota RAV4 had been stolen from its parking spot and was impounded after being in an accident.

On May 4 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a tracking app led to a stolen 2023 Toyota RAV4 being recovered in Greenbelt.

### Attempted Theft of Auto

On May 5 near 9005 Breezewood Terrace, a Hyundai Kona had a broken window and damaged ignition.

### Theft from Auto

Vehicle windows were broken and items stolen on April 30: near 6116 Breezewood Drive; near 5506 Cherrywood Lane, a backpack; and near 6040 Greenbelt Road, a purse stolen from a 2021 Toyota RAV4. On May 1 near 32 Ridge Road, a license plate was stolen (Md. 5DB5872). On May 2 near 9110 Springhill Lane, a phone was stolen from a vehicle.

### Vandalism to Auto

On May 1 near 7408 Frankfort Place, a 2010 Honda Civic was sprayed with red spray paint on its door and window.

On May 2 near 6108 Breezewood Drive, a window was broken on a 2009 Honda Civic.

On May 2 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a business reported three fleet vehicles with a brown oil-like substance on their hoods.

## Police Investigate Fatal Shooting of Greenbelter

Homicide Unit detectives of the Prince George's County Police Department are investigating the fatal shooting of a Greenbelt man that occurred on Sunday night in Temple Hills. The victim is 22-year-old Louis Smith, Jr. of Greenbelt.

On May 5 at approximately 11:20 p.m., officers responded to the 2600 block of Southern Avenue for the report of a shooting. Once on scene, they located Smith inside a stairwell suffering from gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Detectives are working to determine a motive and identify a suspect(s).

A reward of up to \$25,000 is being offered for information leading to an arrest and indictment in this case. Anyone with information who would like to speak to a Homicide Unit detective may call 301-516-2512.

## Indecent Exposure On Ridge Road

On Sunday, May 5, near Ridge Road and Hamilton Place a man estimated to be in his 40s allegedly asked a resident for directions. As the resident approached the man's blue Chevy Suburban she noticed he was naked and was engaging in lewd behavior. The resident contacted Greenbelt Police to report the incident but the suspect drove away. If anyone has any information or comes into contact with this man, immediately contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.

## GreenCAPS Mosquito Tip: Another Season

Mosquitoes start breeding once nighttime temperatures consistently reach 50°F – so mosquito breeding season is here. Like last year, GreenCAPS – Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides – is committed to fighting mosquitoes in environmentally sustainable ways.

Start by inspecting your garden for all kinds of standing water, from bamboo pole openings and birdbaths to water catch basins and wheelbarrows. And talk to your neighbors, too: Just one bottle cap of stagnant water is enough to breed 300 mosquitoes in about 10 days. Remove standing water wherever possible. In areas where it's not possible, use Mosquito Bits or Mosquito Dunks, with a naturally occurring bacterium, to kill mosquito larvae. This is a cheap and sustainable way to reduce mosquito populations. Both products are available in home improvement stores and online. They are environmentally safe (EPA-approved for organic gardening), efficient and locally made.

Mosquitoes are not just a summer nuisance, they are also potential carriers of diseases. Spread the word that there are many ways to fight mosquitoes successfully – ways that won't harm people and their pets, pollinators or the environment. Pesticides should only be the last path of action. To learn more, to support our work and/or to volunteer, email GreenCAPS – Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides – at [GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com](mailto:GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com).



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## Correction

In last week's issue the results of the Middle Grades Math Meet were incorrect. The News Review had instead received the results of the Online Math Madness Spring Competition. The results of both competitions are below.

PGCPS Middle Grades Math Meet	
Classification	School/Team Name
Math 6	1st Place – WMPanther2 – Walker Mill MS, coach Tyrone Frierson
	2nd Place – JPHBears3 – Judith P. Hoyer Montessori, coach Erwin Salvo
	3rd Place – None
Accelerated 1	1st Place – DKCardinals1 – Dora Kennedy French Immersion, coach Georges Akolo
	2nd Place – GMBears4 – Greenbelt MS, coach Myrna Natividad
	3rd Place – GMBears3 – Greenbelt MS, coach Myrna Natividad
Math 7	1st Place – JPHBears4 – Judith P. Hoyer Montessori, coach Erwin Salvo
	2nd Place – IFEagle3 – Imagine Foundations Leeland, coach Peter Snipes
	3rd Place – IFEagle4 – Imagine Foundations Leeland, coach Peter Snipes
Accelerated 2	1st Place – BTTigers1 – Benjamin Tasker MS, coach Ronald Marquez
	2nd Place – TJJaguar3 – Thomas Johnson MS, coach Norberto Torbeso
	3rd Place – GMBears1 – Greenbelt MS, coach Yongsul Cho
Math 8	1st Place – SSBobcat2 – Sonia Sotomayor MS, coaches Belle-Ange Mbayu and Rene Tchigankong
	2nd Place – WWJaguar4 – William Wirt MS, coach Michael Afolabi
	3rd Place – JPHBears1 – Judith P. Hoyer Montessori, coach Tim Johnson
Foundations for Algebra	1st Place – BTTigers3 – Benjamin Tasker MS, coach Evelyn Policarpio
	2nd Place – WWJaguar5 – William Wirt MS, coach Nadya Gutierrez
	3rd Place – TJJaguar1 – Thomas Johnson MS, coach Oluwafunmilayo Ogeyingbo
Algebra/Geometry	1st Place – KMCobras1 – Kenmoor MS, coach Joseph Sokoloff
	2nd Place – BTTigers2 – Benjamin Tasker MS, coach Evelyn Policarpio
	3rd Place – CPCadet1 – Colin Powell Academy, coach Ramil Orbita

## PGCPS Online Math Madness Spring Competition

### Sixth Grade

Winner: Kettering Middle School, coach Maribel Brador  
 Runner-up: Benjamin Foulois Creative and Performing Arts, coach Leon Fields

### Seventh Grade

Winner: Dora Kennedy French Immersion, coach Georges Akolo  
 Runner-up: William Wirt Middle School, coach Anthony Mesina

### Eighth Grade

Winner: Thomas Johnson Middle School, coach Oluwafunmilayo Ogeyingbo  
 Runner-up: Greenbelt Middle School, coach Yongsul Cho

### Accelerated Math 1

Winner: Kettering Middle School, coach Maribel Brador  
 Runner-up: Dora Kennedy French Immersion, coach Georges Akolo

### Accelerated Math 2

Winner: William Wirt Middle School (702), coach Anthony Mesina  
 Runner-up: William Wirt Middle School (701), coach Anthony Mesina

### Foundations For Algebra

Winner: Benjamin Tasker Middle School, coach Evelyn Policarpio  
 Runner-up: Oxon Hill Middle School, coach Kristina Vaughn

### Algebra/Geometry

Winner: Dora Kennedy French Immersion, coach Marc Désiré Yougnia  
 Runner-up: Walker Mill Middle School, coach Victoria Baltazar



## OBITUARIES continued from page 4

barbeque sauce in case I go in the other direction.”) His writings are being compiled into a book to be published later this year: *Soulrush: A Compendium of Perilous Prose and Poetry for the Ages*.

Like his father before him, Ben was a dog lover, with canine companions through the years, including Duke, the German Shepherd who came back with him from Germany and understood commands in both English and German, and in later years, Diesel, his faithful English Staffordshire Terrier.

When asked what was most important to him during the last part of his life, Ben replied. “As always, I want to invest myself in the human family and most particularly my progeny.”

Ben is survived by his sister Antoinette, his “bride” Jean, his beloved friend Francesca and cousin Julie, his lifelong friend Stanley, brother-in-law Jack, children Michael, Suzette, Christina, Guy, niece Melanie, 10 grandchildren – Heather, Laurie, Noah, Austin, Elisabeth,

Nick, Spencer, Caleb, Cassie, Caty – nine great-grandchildren – Jasmyn, Natalie, Jayson, Arthur, Benjamin, Mehrin, Quinn, Luka, Marcus – with all their partners, and innumerable cousins, nieces, nephews, surrogate “goddaughters & godsons,” neighbors, strangers and friends.

To make a donation in Ben's name, please consider his heartfelt prayer: “Lord, help us to help the helpless, give hope to the hopeless, and feed, shelter and clothe the homeless.”

The family sends their sincerest thanks to his caregivers: Susana, Barbara, Chuck, Sharon, Neal, Precious and Veronica, and many others who deserve thanks for the care and attention they gave.

A memorial tree planting will take place on what would have been Ben's 90th birthday, December 20, 2024, at Beale Circle in Riverdale. Guests will be invited to read passages from his book *Soulrush*. (To receive details of the service and notice when the book is published, please email [info@soulrushpress.com](mailto:info@soulrushpress.com).)

- Suzette M. Guiffre, daughter



## Greenbelt Photo Exhibit At Corcoran School of Art

Danielle Towers' photojournalism thesis on the City of Greenbelt is now on display at the Corcoran School of Art in Washington, D.C. Towers is a graduating photojournalism student at George Washington University who chose Greenbelt as her focus. Over the last year she photographed numerous Greenbelt community events and residents, working as a photographer for the News Review on election night and other special occasions.

“We need to be thinking about what types of communities we want to hope for, to dream for,” says Towers.

You can visit Danielle's photography of Greenbelt, which is part of the Next Festival, on display at the Corcoran School until May 16, Wednesday to Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. at 500 17th Street NW.

## 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.



**FY25 Budget**

# Council Discusses Public Safety, Volunteer Fire Department Spending

by Diane Oberg

In addition to police and animal control, the City of Greenbelt also supports other public safety activities such as equipment for the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad (GVFD&RS) and citizen emergency response units. The Greenbelt City Council discussed those programs as part of its public safety worksession on April 29.

**Fire and Rescue**

For many years now, the city has maintained a reserve account for helping the GVFD&RS purchase equipment. According to the budget document, “these funds may be used when other funding sources are determined by the City Council to be insufficient.” Council must approve any expenditures from this fund.

At the end of the current fiscal year on June 30, 2024, the expected balance in this fund is \$432,000. City Manager Josué Salmerón is proposing to continue the annual \$120,000 contribution. The GVFD&RS is also budgeting for \$10,000 in contributions, level with the FY23 and FY24 totals but down from \$40,453 received in FY22.

Chief Thomas Ray reported that the volunteers are planning to replace the 2014 Pierce Engine at an expected cost of \$800,000 to \$1 million. They have replaced the utility truck discussed at last year’s budget meeting and expect to replace the chief’s car next year.

Ray was very concerned about the budget squeeze caused by changes in how the county distributes funds to the volunteer departments, both for Emergency Medical Services vehicles and for station program management funds. The program management funds were cut from \$22,000 per year to \$15,000. Ray said the GVFD&RS believes it should let the county manage its own apparatus and let the volunteers focus on running their own units.

Salmerón will work with Ray to draft a letter for council to send to the county regarding the issues the chief raised.

In addition to cuts in the revenue it receives from the county, a new GPS-based definition of service areas has extended Greenbelt’s response area to Route 450. In addition, when a GVFD&RS vehicle is in an accident, they do not get reimbursed for the insurance deductible, even if paid county staff were driving.

**CERT/CART**

Laura Kressler, team leader of both the Greenbelt Commu-

nity Emergency Response Team (CERT) and the Greenbelt Community Animal Response Team (CART), presented those teams’ budget requests.

CERT’s most urgent need, she said, is for a new trailer. Their current trailer is leaking badly and is too small. She estimated the cost of a trailer that fits their needs as between \$10,000 and \$14,000. Salmerón said that as CERT is part of the city’s emergency preparedness planning, he will develop a replacement option for the trailer.

Both teams are requesting to again receive the \$1,500 from the city. CERT would use theirs for supplies and equipment for activities such as a July 4 first aid and cooling tent and their Labor Day booth to educate attendees on disaster preparedness.

CART’s budget request would be used for a cooling tent for dogs at the Labor Day Festival, a booth at the Labor Day Festival to educate the public on disaster preparedness and attending an event required under the grant that paid for their trailer, which is larger and better configured than the current CERT trailer.

Both teams plan to host a joint training class in the fall.

**PORCH Food Pickup**

Greenbelt PORCH collects donations of nonperishables and hygiene products and brings them to the St. Hugh’s Food Pantry. Donations must be placed by front doors in containers marked RUAKE or PORCH visible from the street. The pantry cannot accept open containers or food that has expired.

Sunday, May 12, by 11 a.m. for 1 to 8 Courts Ridge Road, 1 to 8 Courts Crescent Road and 1 to 2 Courts Westway.

Saturday, May 18, by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road.

Sunday, May 19, by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and for P.A.L. (PORCH at large) members (including former Woodland Hill donors). Contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com by noon on May 19 and he will come to your porch.

Monday, May 20 by 10:30 a.m. for Pinnacle Property Apartments.

Sunday, May 26, after 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road and 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road and by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

# Council Grapples with Affordable Housing, Community Engagement

by Maurice Crawford

On Wednesday, May 1, the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with local Homeowner Associations (HOAs) and Condominium Owner Associations (COAs). Invitations were sent to several Greenbelt HOAs/COAs and two attended the worksession, Charlestowne Village Condominiums, represented by Lois Rosado, and Boxwood Village, represented by Robert Goldberg-Strassler.

**Charlestowne Village**

Rosado spoke highly of the Charlestowne Village community, which has an active COA board led by a dynamic president, Daisy Brown. A current concern of the community is the increase in insurance rates. The cost of their master insurance has gone from \$49,000/year to \$109,000/year. This translates into a 14.7 percent increase in condo fees for the community, which has a significant effect, especially for their senior residents.

Another issue is when utility companies dig up a road it takes a long time for them to return and repair it. Sometimes Charlestowne Village takes it on themselves to do the repairs and then bills the utility. City Manager Josué Salmerón felt that this is part of a larger issue because there are projects conducted by different entities (e.g., Maryland Department of Transportation, utility companies, etc.) and no one in the city government is notified about these projects. It is a public safety issue and there needs to be a better way of coordinating projects planned in the city.

**Boxwood Village**

Goldberg-Strassler said that he resigned from the Boxwood Village Civic Association board about a year and a half ago and that the board is no longer active. However, even though the residents are not participating in the association they are a neighborly and friendly community, and there is a plan to have a house-to-house garage sale later this month.

**WSSC Water Tower**

Boxwood Village’s main worry is the plan for the WSSC water tower refurbishment. The community feels that they are not getting information in a timely manner and therefore are unable to respond to actions taken by WSSC. Also, the residents whose homes are near the tower are concerned about the value of their properties.

Councilmember Danielle McKinney pointed out that there

are two companies working on this project. One company is constructing a temporary cellphone tower; council met with representatives of this firm in April. These contractors have been communicating with Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby and have submitted construction plans.

The second company is WSSC Water, which is conducting the tower refurbishment. Hopefully, their plans will become clearer on Monday, May 20, when a worksession is scheduled with them.

**Community Engagement**

Regarding the lack of participation in HOAs/COAs, Councilmember Amy Knesel wondered if organizations are having trouble reengaging the community post-Covid and if this disengagement is appearing in other areas.

Goldberg-Strassler, who also assists with organizing the Labor Day Festival, felt that in the past more groups were engaged in the Festival. For example, Eleanor Roosevelt High School had three to four booths and now has none. Also, participation in the Festival by civic associations and churches is not as robust as it once was.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts stated that Covid has nothing to do with this disengagement and that the community of Greenbelt has not been engaged for 30 to 40 years. However, Councilmember Kristen Weaver noted that having

a booth at the Labor Day Festival may no longer be the best and easiest way to fundraise. She believes we need to be careful how we think about community engagement and that just because it is different does not mean that it is worse. She points out that there are pockets of community engagement online (e.g., Buy Nothing Greenbelt).

Goldberg-Strassler feels that the desire of the community to engage is still there and that it is demonstrated in different ways, for example, the increase in the number of people participating in Cookies-on-the-Bridge or the number of people donating to PORCH. McKinney added that people are excited and proud to live in Greenbelt. The community has diversified and there are different ways to engage the different parts of the community.

Salmerón recognizes that communicating with different segments of the community is a challenge and that the city is trying to build its social media. He felt that there is no single strategy that will work so we need to do more cross promotion of events. He also noted that in the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 budget there are funds for constituent services and an element of this would be to connect with HOA/COAs in the community.

**Affordable Housing**

During the meeting it was  
See HOUSING, page 15

**Greenbriar’s Spring Yard Sale at**

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**BOXWOOD VILLAGE (GREENBELT) COMMUNITY YARD SALE** – Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19, 9 a.m. to noon. Maps with the addresses of ten participating families will be provided at the playground at the corner of Lastner and Ivy Lanes in Greenbelt starting at 8:30 a.m.



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

**BOXED:** \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

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# Sports

## ERHS Teams Enjoy Sweet Springtime Sports Success

by Patrick Gleason

As the fragrant scent of spring wafts through the May evenings, Eleanor Roosevelt High School's spring sports teams have completed successful seasons as they now prepare for playoffs. The softball team is undefeated thus far, including a victory over Bishop McNamara. Led by pitcher Natalia Jarquin and seniors Quinn Lansing and Mia Maniece, the Raiders have dominated county competition all season, including a resounding 25-0 win over the Bowie Bulldogs.

Meanwhile, both lacrosse teams capped successful regular seasons with county championship victories on May 6. The girls defeated Chesapeake Math & IT North 12-4, while the boys beat Oxon Hill 20-9. The girls are 12-0, led by the offensive output of sophomore Isabelle Becraft, and play the winner of DuVal and Bladensburg on Friday, May 10. The boys enter playoffs at 10-1 with their first game also on Friday. Senior Kai Howarth guides the Raiders in pursuit of their second straight region championship. If both teams are victorious, they will play again on May 13.



PHOTO BY PORTIA BARNES

The ERHS Girls Lacrosse team heads into the state playoffs as an undefeated one seed after defeating CMIT North in the county championship.



PHOTO BY ALPHANMADOU JALLOW

The ERHS Boys Lacrosse team members celebrate with their county and league championship trophies on May 6.



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## HOUSING

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pointed out that the costs of goods and services are increasing throughout the country and this is reflected in higher insurance rates, utility bills and other costs (the 12-month inflation rate for March was 3.5 percent). In addition, many buildings are aging and costs associated with maintaining them are increasing. This led to a larger conversation about the affordability of living in Greenbelt.

Roberts pointed out that his GHI co-op fee exceeds his mortgage payments and he no longer believes that Greenbelt is an affordable community. Mayor Emmett Jordan felt that the question is at what point does a community become unviable if the fees for the overhead costs become so high that they discourage new members from buying in. Rosado wonders, if the FBI does come, what will that mean in terms of affordability for homes? Whatever plans are made we need to be sure that the community has input, she says.

Regarding the increases in insurance rates Councilmember Silke Pope suggested sending a letter to Maryland State Senator Alonzo Washington asking about a cap on these rate increases. She also suggested that this matter be raised among the four cities (the coalition between Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights, College Park and New Carrollton) because they all face the same issues.

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# Area Girl Scouts Gather To Celebrate “Thinking Day”

by Holly Wheeler

On April 21, nearly 200 Girl Scouts of all ages from Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights, Beltsville, Hyattsville, Laurel and other nearby communities, along with their troop leaders and parents, gathered on the Community Center lawn to celebrate community and diversity. Observed since 1926 as an international day of friendship, World Thinking Day brings Girl Scouts together every year to learn about Girl Scouts and Girl Guides in other countries. As they have in the past, this year each troop chose a country that also supports Girl Scouts or Girl Guides and presented posters about their country, the country’s flag and traditional food. Some troops also performed songs or dances from their country. Scouts

from different troops also organized activities such as relay races to teach about composting and recycling, games to practice navigation and spatial awareness skills, and a chalk mural created by all. Finally, World Thinking Day was an opportunity to recognize both Girl Scouts and volunteers for their service to our communities and each other. Nine scouts from Troop 23007 were recognized for earning the Girl Scout Silver Award, the second highest national award in Girl Scouts. In addition, volunteer Mika Bennett received an Appreciation Pin for her service to the local Service Unit, while Anitra Byers received the Sustained Service Award for her many years of dedicated service to area Girl Scouts.



A large crowd of girl scouts gathers outside Greenbelt Library on World Thinking Day.

PHOTO BY ANITRA BYERS



Girl Scouts join together on the Community Center lawn for World Thinking Day.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE NICKEL



PHOTO BY MELISSA YASHINSKI

Brownie troop 23035 (3rd graders) chose to represent Japan. The troop here shows off the poster they worked hard to create. Pictured from left are Emma Friend-Gomez, Lauren Freeman, Alice Ormsby, Parker Smith, Maggie McCullough, Lucy Borg, Sofia Burke Taboada, Violet Yashinski, Phoebe Burkett and Meriel Cason.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE NICKEL

Troop 22014 were representing Germany.



PHOTO BY NIKKI JOHNSON

From left, Appreciation Pin recipient Mika Bennett, Service Unit Money Manager Kathryn Kovarik, Welcome Specialist Sue Kohn, Sustained Service Award recipient Anitra Byers, Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan and Event Coordinator Kerry Kidwell-Slak



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE NICKEL

Troop 1069 represented Sweden.



PHOTO BY ANITRA BYERS

Presentation of the Colors



PHOTO BY NIKKI JOHNSON

Troop 23033 performs their dance from France.