



Peace Day, p.7



Studio Open House, p.16

## Greenbelt Amends City Charter To Allow All-resident Voting

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Supporters of All-resident Voting gather in the Municipal Building on Monday, September 23. Back row from left, Tre Leon-Lierman, Alexandra Melinchok, Frankie Fritz, John Appiah-Duffel, Eden Aaron (CASA), Jorge Benitez-Perez; middle row from left, Ed Fallon, Emily Frias, Mayor of Mount Rainier Celina Benitez, Julia Aviles-Zavala; front row from left, Chris Herman, Holly Leon-Lierman, Abel Amene, Louise Weissman, the daughter of Celina Benitez, Edmonston Councilmember Kony Serrano Portillo, Trent Leon-Lierman

On Monday, September 23, Greenbelt City Council held a public hearing on all-resident voting. Following the hearing the six councilmembers who were present voted unanimously to amend the city's charter to allow non-

citizens to vote in local elections.

In the November 2023 election the question of allowing noncitizens who meet residency requirements appeared on the

See **CHARTER**, page 12

## Green Ridge House Residents Wait 23 Minutes for Fire Response

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

At 11:18 a.m. on Monday, September 23, a fire alarm sounded in the Green Ridge House apartments on Ridge Road. It was a mechanical failure but it would be 23 minutes before a single fire engine responded to the multi-story 101-unit complex that is home to elderly and disabled

residents. Residents recounted the fear they felt waiting for a response from the fire department and say it highlights the problem with removing career firefighters from Greenbelt.

"It points out the problem that we're having with losing our career fighters," resident Bobbi

Troyer told the News Review. It's a 101-unit HUD building filled with senior citizens and disabled folks, some of whom are ordered to stay in their rooms until they're removed by firefighters, emphasized Troyer. "Blood could be on their hands," said Troyer of those responsible for removing Greenbelt's career firefighters. "In 23 minutes it would burn to the ground. Even today some could have died of fear."

Residents were listening to the alarm for 23 minutes, she reported. One lady on the third floor came out onto her balcony and was sent back into her apartment to wait, said Troyer. "How terrifying for her to see us all

See **GREEN RIDGE**, page 11

### What Goes On

**Monday, September 30**  
No City Council Meeting  
**Wednesday, October 2**  
Rosh Hashanah, No City Council Meeting

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



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Green Ridge House

## Greenbelt Paralympian Wins Relay Silver Medal in Paris

by Jack Downs

Zach Shattuck, a Greenbelt native who lived on Hillside Road during his childhood, represented Team USA at the Paris Paralympics earlier this month, where he won a silver medal in the 4 x 50m freestyle relay.

### Greenbelt Connections

Much of Shattuck's family have lived in Greenbelt, including his grandparents Jack and Dolores (Dee) Downs, who resided on Crescent Road from 1958 until their deaths in 2021 and 2023 respectively. Shattuck also coached the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team Barracudas for the 2022-2023 season.

Shattuck left the Greenbelt Barracudas last year to coach at St. Mary's College of Maryland, where he stayed until he left for the Olympic and Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs to prepare for the Paralympic Trials. Moving to the training center "gave me a lot more of a sense of where I was at and what I needed to do to get where I needed to be," he said.

Shattuck, who has dwarfism,



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Zach Shattuck, who swam the third leg of the four-person relay, realizes his team won a silver medal for the USA.

was highlighted by the News Review in the December 22, 2022, issue when he was then the new coach for the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team; during his training at the Greenbelt pool, in the March 23, 2022, issue;

### Election 2024

## On the Ballot: Maryland Constitutional Amendment on Reproductive Freedom

by Erica Johns

In the November 5 general election, Maryland voters will decide on a proposed amendment to the Maryland Constitution about reproductive freedom. If passed, the amendment will secure a state constitutional right to reproductive rights already enacted in Maryland legislation.

The measure will appear as Ballot Question 1: "The proposed amendment confirms an individual's fundamental right to reproductive freedom, including

but not limited to the ability to make and effectuate decisions to prevent, continue or end the individual's pregnancy, and provides the State may not, directly or indirectly, deny, burden or abridge the right unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means." This sentence reflects the actual amendment text. Voters will vote for or against the amendment.

See **BALLOT**, page 13

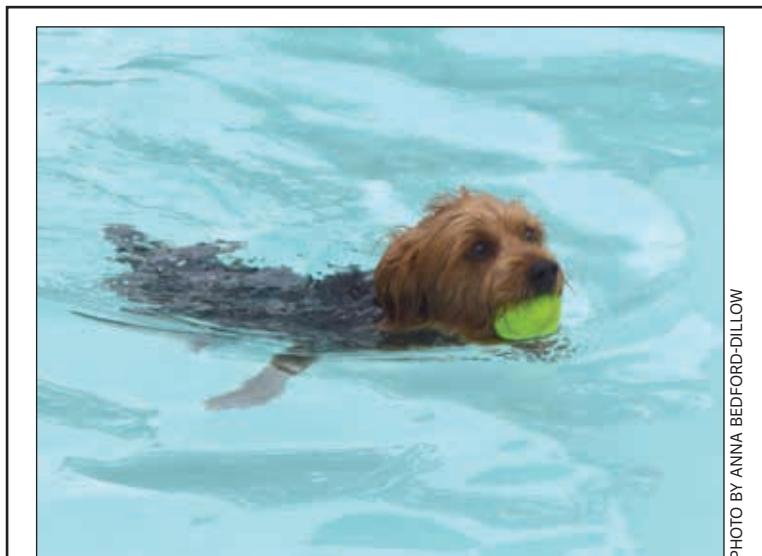


PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

On Saturday, September 7, the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center sponsored the annual Pooch Plunge. The fundraiser for the Greenbelt Animal Shelter was a rare opportunity for the pooches of Greenbelt to take a turn in the outdoor pool before it closes for the winter. Dogs of all kinds turned out to plunge, paddle, run around or spectate. See more photos, page 16.





The new Buddy Attick playground nears completion.



The new Springhill Lake playground is almost ready for use.

- Photos by Lesley Kash

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

**Lee**

This directorial feature from award-winning cinematographer Ellen Kuras portrays a pivotal decade in the life of American war correspondent and photographer, Lee Miller (Kate Winslet). Miller's singular talent and unbridled tenacity resulted in some of the 20th century's most indelible images of war, including an iconic photo of Miller herself, posing defiantly in Hitler's private bathtub. Miller had a profound understanding and empathy for women and the voiceless victims of war. Her images display both the fragility and ferocity of the human experience. Above all, the film shows how Miller lived her life at full throttle in pursuit of truth, for which she paid a huge personal price, forcing her to confront a traumatic and deeply buried secret from her childhood.

**Megalopolis**

In this Roman epic set in an imagined Modern America, the City of New Rome must change, causing conflict between Cesar Catilina (Adam Driver), a genius artist who seeks to leap into a utopian, idealistic future, and his opposition, Mayor Franklyn Cicero (Giancarlo Esposito), who remains committed to a regressive status quo, perpetuating greed, special interests and partisan warfare. Torn between them is socialite Julia Cicero (Nathalie Emmanuel), the mayor's daughter, whose love for Cesar has divided her loyalties, forcing her to discover what she truly believes humanity deserves.

**Paul McCartney & Wings: One Hand Clapping**

Directed by David Litchfield, this film captured a moment when Paul McCartney and Wings had found and defined their signature sound. Filmed over four days at Abbey Road Studios in August 1974, the film provides an insight into the inner workings of the band as they work and play together in the studio. Including performances of tracks from Wings masterpiece Band on the Run (released in 1973), intimate footage of the band hanging out in the studio, combined with audio interview snippets, the film also includes, previously unreleased in full footage, a solo acoustic performance by Paul called The Backyard Sessions. In addition to the film, this screening event includes an introduction by Paul McCartney recorded exclusively for movie theater audiences as well as newly-released Polaroids of the band.

**Imitation of Life**

Lora Meredith (Lana Turner), a white single mother who dreams of being on Broadway, has a chance encounter with Annie Johnson (Juanita Moore), an African American widow. Annie becomes the caretaker of Lora's daughter, Suzie (Sandra Dee), while Lora pursues her stage career. Both women deal with the difficulties of motherhood: Lora's thirst for fame threatens her relationship with Suzie, while Annie's light-skinned daughter, Sarah Jane (Susan Kohner), struggles with her African American identity.



**Peace Month**



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:**  
SEPTEMBER 27th - OCTOBER 3rd

**Lee (R) (CC) (DVS) (2024)**  
(117 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM  
with guest speaker  
Sun. 1:30 PM (OC), 4:15 PM  
Tues. 6:30 PM  
Thurs. 7:15 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Sat. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM  
Mon. 1:45 PM, 4:30 PM  
Wed. 7:15 PM

**Megalopolis (R) (CC) (DVS)**  
(2024) (138 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 4:45 PM, 7:45 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM  
Tues. 6:15 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 4:15 PM, 7:15 PM  
Sun. 1:00 PM, 4:00 PM  
Tues. 7:00 PM  
Thurs. 7:00 PM

**Paul McCartney & Wings:**  
**One Hand Clapping**  
(NR) (2024) (67 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 3:00 PM

**Imitation of Life**  
(NR) (1959) (125 mins)  
Film in Focus | Led by Dr. Caitlin McGrath | Capped at 25  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Mon. 7:00 PM

**Walz-Vance**  
**Vice Presidential Debate**  
Free Community Viewing  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Tues. 9:00 PM

**THE LIFE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER**



Pete Reppert

- News Review, November 15, 2018

**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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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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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 and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.  
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.







# Obituaries

## Keith Bair

Keith Alan Bair died on July 29, 2024, in Dewey, Ariz. He was born on August 27, 1949, at North Capitol Street Hospital in Washington, D.C., to parents Bruce and Lois (Buckley) Bair, and joined brother Dennis.

Keith attended school in Greenbelt for several years and made many more childhood memories during frequent visits to GHI and his aunt Barbara Buckley.

After graduation, Keith served in the United States Army, eventually settling in Colorado, where he married the love of his life, Beverly (Otis) Bair. After Beverly died in 2014, Keith returned to Greenbelt where he cared for his aunt Barbara and realized his dream of becoming a pet parent to a Basenji; he was twice blessed with canine siblings Boo and Ziggy.

When Barbara died in 2019, Keith, Boo and Ziggy retired to the Prescott Valley area of Arizona just as he and Beverly planned. While content to enjoy the beautiful winter weather with his dogs, Keith also joined the Jerome S. Cranke/Prescott Valley American Legion Post #140 and attended local faith services as a devout Assemblies of God adherent.

Keith will be fondly remembered for his massive collection of slogan T-shirts plus an encyclopedic knowledge of and insatiable curiosity about American cinema and television, world history and dad jokes.

School (class of 1961). After college, the army and his wedding, he returned with his wife, Bobbi, and they raised their two children, Jeannie and Theo, in three different homes on Ridge Road. They continued to live in Greenbelt until retirement.

Tony was a man known for his kindness and patience, his ever-present sense of humor, his quick intelligence and keen insight and his enjoyment of life. He was quick with puns and jokes (good and bad), a talent he passed on to his son, who could keep him laughing like no one else. He shared his love of books, particularly science fiction, with everyone he could and often passed along his favorite books to his children, grandchildren, friends and extended family.

Tony's professional life was centered in public service. After graduating from Duke University in 1965, he returned to Maryland and taught at High Point High School. He was drafted in 1967 and served three years in the Army, including a tour in Vietnam and a year stationed in Germany. After the Army he returned to Greenbelt and used his GI Bill benefits to attend the University of Maryland Law School. He practiced criminal law in Prince George's County as a state's attorney, then a public defender and then again as a state's attorney, until he reluctantly retired in 2011. He enjoyed the challenges of the courtroom and always did his best for his clients and the

See OBITS, page 8

## Favor's Table Saturday at Mowatt

The Favor's Table next community giveaway will occur on Saturday, September 28 at 4 p.m. at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church.

Food, new shoes, clothes, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, hygiene kits and household items, including new and gently used items, will be distributed. Kids must be present to receive shoes. To receive diapers, parents or guardians should bring the baby's birth certificate/health insurance card. Recipients are asked to bring bags.

Favor's Table is a nonprofit organization founded during the pandemic that seeks to provide food, clothing, training and basic necessities to those in need.

## Contemplative Prayer At Comm. Church

A contemplative prayer group meets on Tuesdays at the Greenbelt Community Church, 1 Hillside Road, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This is a time to pray in silence for oneself, others and the world. It nurtures inner and outer peace and reinforces the oneness of all people and creation.

The format for this group is an opening introduction, 30 minutes of silence and then some sharing. All are welcome to attend from all denominations and faith traditions. For more information, contact Patience Robbins at [patience.robbins@gmail.com](mailto:patience.robbins@gmail.com).



Our condolences to the family and friends of Keith Bair, an early and recent Greenbelter, who was the nephew and final caretaker of longtime Greenbelter Barbara Buckley.

Our sympathies also to the family and friends of Frederick Anthony "Tony" McCarthy. He lived most of his life in Greenbelt and dedicated his life to public service.

Hearty congratulations to swimmer Zach Shattuck for his part in the silver-medal-winning 4 x 50m freestyle relay team at the Paralympics in Paris. Much of his family was there to cheer him on.

Congratulations to Greenbelt's Jay Evans who won the 2024 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals® People's Choice Award. Evans was se-

lected along with his colleague Yan Ping (Judy) Chen for their work in the Agricultural Research Service revolutionizing bee diagnosis and treatment.

Congratulations also to the recipients of the annual Goddard Space Flight Center awards, including Greenbelters Jon Gardner (Center Director's Award), Padi Boyd (Leadership Award) and Vanderlei Martins (NASA Distinguished Public Service).

Send details of your news to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



"We have enjoined upon all mankind to establish the Most Great Peace — the surest of all means for the protection of humanity." — Bahá'u'lláh



**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

The Bible Says...

**The Ten Commandments**  
#3-Don't Take The Lord's Name In Vain  
Exodus 20:7



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

[MCFcc.org](http://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

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**  
-Missouri Synod-  
6905 Greenbelt Road

SUNDAY  
Divine Service:  
9:30am  
Fellowship/Bible Study:  
11:00am

- LITURGICAL
- SACRAMENTAL
- BIBLICAL



## 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



September 29, 2024 at 3 p.m.

### Earth Song

Anthony Jenkins

In the spirit of our September theme (Love) and this weekend's UU Climate Justice Revival, we'll consider the nature of humanity's evolving relationship with Mother Nature. Together we'll shine some contemplative light on our interdependent connection to the whole of Earth's ecosystem, and how we can live more lovingly into its collective liberation.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

## F. Anthony McCarthy

Frederick Anthony "Tony" McCarthy died on September 12, 2024, at the age of 81, in Portsmouth, N.H., where he and his wife, Bobbi, had recently relocated. Tony grew up in 6 Court Ridge. He attended Greenbelt Center Elementary, Greenbelt Junior High and High Point High

**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+owner@groups.io](mailto:CCG1985+owner@groups.io)  
[cathcomgreenbelt.org](http://cathcomgreenbelt.org)

**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)

**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)  
301-474-5410  
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 GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
• Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*  
• Sunday Mass:  
◦ Sat vigil 5pm\*  
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
• Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.  
\*Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.  
**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)





# 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).

**MEETINGS FOR SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 4**

Monday, September 30 at 7:30 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEWS**

Tuesday, October 1 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Labor Day Parade, Grants Update, Preparation for PTA Presidents Meeting*

Tuesday, October 1 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Planning for PSAC's Upcoming October Committee Meetings on Danger of Radon, Carbon Monoxide, and Severe Weather; Status Update on Draft License Plate Reader General Order. \*All PSAC Meetings Are Virtual Through February 2025\**

Wednesday, October 2, **NO COUNCIL MEETING - ROSH HASHANAH**

*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).*

**FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION**

**UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17 - TWO LOCATIONS**

**Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Lower Parking Lot:** 1 - 3 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**Springhill Lake Recreation Center:** 3 - 4 pm, [registration](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov) required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or register online at <https://forms.gle/dhzUfpvsMDbGUtQKA>.

**DEI FOCUS GROUPS**

September 21 - 28

Various locations in Greenbelt or online via Zoom

Your voice matters and Greenbelt wants to hear it! We are holding focus groups and community conversations September 21 - 28 to gather feedback, experiences, and ideas on how the City can better serve YOU. With multiple dates and locations, you can join us in-person with light refreshments or online via Zoom.

Please visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar) for location dates and times or register and complete the sign-up form at <https://forms.office.com/r/pH1mHaJHpn>.

**CAREGIVER APPRECIATION DAY**  
 Thursday, November 7 / 1 - 4 pm  
 Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

It's your turn to be cared for! Join us for this FREE event on Thursday, November 7 for light refreshments, mini-swap bags, massages, and more! Please note that registration is required and opens on October 7.

To register, contact Brendy Garcia at [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 424-0302.

**ART STUDIO OPEN HOUSE**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1-4 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

Meet local artists and shop for beautiful and functional wares See art and experimental fashion in the gallery. Enjoy free drop-in activities with Greenbelt Access Television.

Sign-up to participate in a free wearable art workshop by visiting <https://bit.ly/3XTsr5V>.

More arts program information at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts).

**CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS**

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

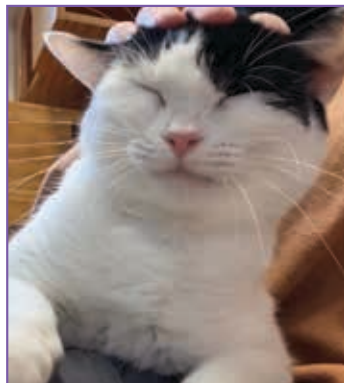
- Aging Solo.** Tuesdays, October 8 - November 12. 11-12:30 pm via Zoom. This nationally awarded program focuses on taking charge of your aging. Aging Solo will help you reflect on priorities, map out support network, and put plans in place. To register call (240) 424-0302 or email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).
- Greenbelt Nursery Project.** Our Greenbelt Nursery project is dedicated to supporting families with young children. We provide 6 Home Visits that offer personalized care and resources. To register call (240) 424-0302 or email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).
- Emergency Diaper Distribution.** Must register <https://forms.gle/2n5KDKQYfBhLNaHxw9>. Call (240) 424-0302.
- Produce Distribution** at the Greenbelt Municipal Building, Lower Level Parking Lot, 25 Crescent Road  
*Upcoming Dates: September 19, from 1 - 3 pm*
- Produce Distribution** at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)  
*Upcoming Dates: September 19, 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!

**FEATURED PETS MORNING GLORY**

Ready for Adoption?  
 Call (301) 474-6124

2-year-old Morning Glory was found in an abandoned apartment back in April with her two siblings, who've both since been adopted. Morning Glory is a petite gal. She has a tiny face, tiny paws, tiny meow, and a tiny tail—even her 6-month-old (still adoptable) roommate Dusty has outgrown her! Morning Glory would be happiest as the only pet in the home. She's not the biggest fan of having to share her human's attention (or lap), but her sweet personality is more than enough to fill your home.



If you're interested in adopting mini Morning Glory, call (301) 474-6124 or email [animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov)!

**NOTICE OF CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION**

At its regular meeting of September 23, 2024, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until November 2, 2024, at the Municipal Building, as well as on the City's Web site at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov).

Copies may also be requested of the City Clerk. It will become effective on November 12, 2024, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. As also required by state law, this notice is given to provide a fair summary of the resolution. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2024-1

A Resolution To Repeal, Re-Enact And Amend City Charter Section 15, "Voters"; Section 18, "Registration For Election; Universal Registration; Section 19, "Registration"; Section 26, "Voter Identity"; Section 33, "Appeals"; To Allow Noncitizen Residents To Vote In Local City Elections (Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2024-1)

Purpose: To amend the City Charter to allow persons who are residents of the City of Greenbelt but not citizens of the United States may register to vote and become qualified voters in City elections, under applicable provisions of the Charter and Code.

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).



**TEMPORARY CENTERWAY CLOSURE**  
 Monday, September 30 & Tuesday, October 1

Beginning Monday, September 30, Centerway will be closed for repairs as we remove and replace sections of concrete in the Roosevelt Center area. This will include the milling and blacktopping of Centerway.

For more information, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/news](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/news) or call (301) 474-8000.



**FREE FLU CLINIC**

Thursday, October 3 / 1 - 7 pm

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road

Join us at our FREE flu clinic before winter begins! This clinic is FREE and open to everyone! Registration is required.

To register, contact Brendy Garcia at [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 424-0302 or visit <https://mychart.ochin.org/mychart/OpenScheduling/Standalone>.

**DIGITAL INCLUSION WEEK**

October 7 - 10

Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road

You must register to participate. Registration Open Now. Senior Planet Free In-Person Lectures.

- October 7 / 1 - 2 pm - Everyday Uses for Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- October 8 / 1 - 2 pm - Staying Safe Online\*
- October 9 / 1 - 2 pm - Online RX Drug Resources
- October 10 / 1 - 2 pm - Digital Coupon Tools

To register, please call (240)-424-0302 or email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**AGING SOLO**

Tuesdays, October 8 - November 12 / 11-12:30 pm, via Zoom

This nationally awarded program focuses on taking charge of your aging. Aging Solo will help you reflect on priorities, map out support networks, and put plans into place as you age.

To register, contact Brendy Garcia at [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or (240) 424-0302.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY**

SEPTEMBER 28, 10 AM - 1 PM

Greenbelt Forest Preserve - Hamilton Tract

This year's theme for National Public Lands Day is "Together for Tomorrow" and the City of Greenbelt is inviting you to work together with the Department of Public Works and the Forest Preserve Advisory Board to steward the environment so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come! Lend a hand as we continue our project to remove invasive bush honeysuckle from the forest preserve understory near the Northway Ballfields.

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

**ANNAPOLIS NAVY YARD TOUR**

Thursday, September 29 / 9 am - 3 pm

60+ Only; R: \$55, NR: \$65

Ride the Yard: GEM Car Tour! Cruise through the Yard in one of their five-passenger electric vehicles and take in all the sites and history that the Naval Academy has to offer. See the Yard in style with our GEM tour in a comfortable, five-passenger electric vehicle, which highlights the "gems" of the Naval Academy. Lunch will be provided by Greenbelt Recreation.

478203-1: Thursday, 9/26. 9 am- 3:30 pm R: \$55, NR: \$65

**ACTIVE AGING WEEK**

September 30 - October 6

Active Aging Week is an annual event that promotes healthy and active lifestyles among older adults. Organized by the International Council on Active Aging (ICAA), the week-long event aims to dispel the myths of aging, encourage the 50+ population to adopt a healthier lifestyle, and showcases the benefits of stay physically, socially, and mentally active as people age.

Keep an eye out for events during Active Aging Week 2024!

For details, please contact Priya Gardner Lemieux at [pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov).

**BUDDY ATTICK PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN WORK SESSION**

Wednesday, October 16, 7:30 pm

Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road

The Buddy Attick Park (BAP) Draft Master Plan can be viewed online at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BAPMP>.

A City Council Work Session is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16 at 7:30pm in the Greenbelt Municipal Building (25 Crescent Road). The City Council Work Session is open to the public. If you would like to provide written feedback, please send your comments to [BAPproject@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:BAPproject@greenbeltmd.gov) by Friday, October 4, 2024.

**PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Greenbelt, MD** - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

**WHO CAN I CONTACT?**

**Office of the County Executive**  
[countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us](mailto:countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us)  
 (301) 952-4131

**Office of the County Fire Chief**  
[tdgreen@co.pg.md.us](mailto:tdgreen@co.pg.md.us)  
 (301) 883-5200

**At-Large County Council Member Hawkins**  
[At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us](mailto:At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us)  
 (301) 952-2195

**County Council Member District 4**  
[councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us](mailto:councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us)  
 (301) 952-3094

*Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:*

*City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or [council@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:council@greenbeltmd.gov).*

**ONLINE BILL PAY**

The City of Greenbelt launched online bill pay services on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. Residents are now able to pay their bills via check, bank transfer, debit card, or credit card.

To find out more information and to sign-up, visit [ow.ly/Jo9450TaHTH](http://ow.ly/Jo9450TaHTH).

**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 **Advisory Committee on Trees, 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!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

# COLLEGE PARK



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**5**  
2024

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Live Music & Performances · Food & Treats  
Free Museum Entry · Kids & Game Zones  
Helicopter Fly-in · Family Entertainment

**COLLEGE PARK DAY.ORG**



Free parking will be available nearby, along with a free shuttle service from select locations, and bike racks. The event site is minutes away walking from the College Park-UMD Metro Station (on the Green Line).



# Peace Day at Buddy Attick Park: Speakers Bring a Sense of Hope

by Diya Shah



PHOTO BY MICHAEL REINSEL

**Peace Day tree planting. The tree was planted in honor of Marc "Kap" Kapastin, the longtime general counsel for Quantum Companies, who owns Beltway Plaza. Although he didn't live in Greenbelt, he had a very strong community spirit and was supportive of many Greenbelt activities, including the Labor Day Festival, the Greenbelt Farmers Market and The SPACE Free Art For All nonprofit in the mall.**

Greenbelt Rotary Club members and other notable Greenbelt residents gathered at Buddy Attick Park on Saturday, September 21 to celebrate World Peace Day. The event featured inspiring speeches from community leaders who emphasized unity in today's divisive world. Throughout the afternoon, the community-driven conversations that took place fostered a sense of hope, capturing the event's core mission of promoting peace.

Nomie Hamid, the current Rotary district governor for District 7620, welcomed the crowd that included Greenbelt Rotarians, former Rotary district governors and Greenbelt city councilmembers. In kicking off the event, Hamid reminded the community of the importance of peace within their life and also the importance of nurturing peace around the globe. "Let us remember that peace begins with each one of us in our interactions," said Hamid. "Let us go forward with renewed strength to act in ways that bring about the peace we wish to see in this world," Hamid said in conclusion.

Mayor Emmett Jordan took the stage to commemorate the life of Marc "Kap" Kapastin, one of the founding members of the Greenbelt Rotary Club. Jordan

announced that the city council, in partnership with the Rotary Club, would be planting a tree in honor of Kapastin's life and contributions to the Greenbelt community. "We're hopeful that by planting this tree today, we are symbolically planting the seeds of peace, but also honoring the legacy of Kap," said Jordan before leading the crowd across the park to plant the tree.

The rest of the event passed informally as attendees and Rotarians conversed in small groups and shared stories about the different projects in which they are involved.

According to Jennifer Dudley, the current president of the Greenbelt Rotary Club, the goal of the day's event is not simply celebrating world peace. "It's more important to celebrate toward world peace and to just celebrate each other," said Dudley.

As president, Dudley wants the club to get more invested and involved in the Greenbelt community. "It's important to us," she said. "Because everyone needs peace – whether it's in yourself or in your community."

*Diya Shah is a student in the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.*



PHOTO BY DIYA SHAH

**From left, Councilmember Kristen Weaver, City Manager Josué Salmerón and Mayor Emmett Jordan are among those participating in the Peace Day tree planting.**

# Council and Staffers Consider Community Center Policies

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt City Council worksession on August 28 included the senior staff of the Department of Recreation, including Director Greg Varda, Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald, Acting Assistant Director of Recreation Facilities & Operations Andrew Phelan, plus City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon and City Manager Josué Salmerón.

Although not on the agenda, perhaps the most tantalizing element of the evening was progress on the Greenbelt Armory acquisition (see City Notes on p.11). Concerns exist on growing graffiti and vandalism while the building remains owned by the federal government, excluding the city. Salmerón expressed cautious optimism that action would occur before the end of the year. City management has been working to move a purchase forward and is working on hiring a consultant to perform a feasibility study.

### Recognition Groups

A recognition group is an association of citizens that meets several criteria – a leading one being that it is not for profit (though not necessarily a 501(c)(3)). After going through an application process, such groups can apply for city funding and limited free use of city facilities.

Since 2018, the 29 recognition groups have increased to over 51, putting pressure on space and support. In addition, the current official business plan was crafted in the 1990s and is out of date, with numerous informal changes to accommodate changing needs.

Varda will lead the team updating the plan and will involve other departments in its development and deployment.

### More Funding

New in the city budget this year is an additional \$36,500 in discretionary funding for recognition groups. One well-received idea floated by DeWald was the addition of a one-time on-ramp for new groups as needed. One suggestion made initially by Mayor Emmett Jordan was that first-time applicants out of the annual cycle be limited to a lower amount (regular upper limit is \$5,000) of perhaps \$2,500. This received a favorable nod from participants.

Groups would then be eligible to apply for the larger amount in the next full cycle.

Regular applications go live in November and receipt is through February but referring a mid-year application to a single most relevant advisory board (rather than a multiboard) would speed the on-ramp process. In response to a question by Councilmember Danielle McKinney, DeWald explained that there is a basic application for certification, renewed annually, to establish the relationship with the city for use of space and facilities.

### Expanding Scope

Because residents and organizations are now associated with a wider span of activities than originally, Varda's update will include the Recreation Department as overall coordinator but draw in other city departments as it does effectively now.

Former councilmember J Davis noted that the original evaluation process was set up to avoid

"any taint of favoritism" in assessing requests for funds. The process, which Davis feels has worked well, keeps the decisions out of council hands until the last step. Davis also noted that, given the tenacity with which groups are reminded to submit, council and the system in place need to be somewhat strict about enforcing the deadlines if the process is to be fair.

A request came from Bob Rand that organizations with different fiscal years from the city should be able to submit their financial statements per the organization's fiscal year and that rather than filling in the form, they should be able to submit reports generated by their accounting software. DeWald countered that she understood, but having material in different formats and for different periods would make it difficult to compare among many applications.

### Review Boards

DeWald said it would be helpful if council would request advisory boards to suggest participants, particularly from advisory boards, in the review process. City management has had mixed success in appointing evaluators, and recruiting members from advisory boards would elicit members who are experienced and have a commitment. In reinforcing a comment from Councilmember Kristin Weaver, DeWald echoed that those who do serve often note how much they enjoyed the experience.

### Matching Grants

Jordan noted that all grants require some degree of matching. Full details of the restrictions and policies as they stand at this time can be found on the city website in a document entitled City of Greenbelt Policy and Information Guide for Recognition Groups. DeWald also informed council that although questions in the applications ask how many

residents are involved in or are affected by the proposed grant, there's no cutoff – it's just one factor that is considered.

### Reporting

Jordan also suggested adding a requirement for a short report on the outcome of the grant. At the moment, although recipients complete a financial report, they don't describe the fate of their projects unless they apply for a new round.

In response, Varda reminded council that it interviews all the recognition groups annually and this was also a time that council could ask about achievements. DeWald confirmed an annual statement of expenditures is required, saying it would be easy to incorporate a request for a list of accomplishments. In response to questions from Jordan, staff noted that it is rare that groups don't spend the money. Gaymon clarified that if it isn't spent, it goes back into the general fund. Occasionally, an organization will fail to come up with its match, but rarely. Each such case is dealt with individually.

### Community Center

Phelan described the current utilization of the Community Center space. There are programs and organizations that occupy space essentially permanently and pay rent, like the News Review, GATe and the Nursery School; and several are city programs for seniors. Some spaces are in high demand especially those with specific facilities like a kitchen or a dance studio. He also summarized the annual process that the department goes through to allocate forward utilization where it contacts groups that routinely use the Center to allocate space for the upcoming year and avoid conflicts.

There are online information and application forms, but many

See **WORKSESSION**, page 10

## MARYLAND GUITAR FESTIVAL CONCERTO NIGHT



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PERFORMS RODRIGO'S  
FANTASÍA PARA UN  
GENTILHOMBRE



**SCOTT BORG**  
PERFORMS RODRIGO'S  
CONCIERTO DE ARANJUEZ



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AND THE GUITAR FEST  
ORCHESTRA

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CULTURAL ARTS CENTER  
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scan here for tickets

\$20 GENERAL ADMISSION, FREE FOR MC STUDENTS



# Mishkan Torah's Karp Family School Welcomes Toddlers, Kindergartners

by Karen Knee

The first day of classes for Mishkan Torah's Karp Family Hebrew School was Sunday, September 8. Cantor Yael Fischman, the K-8 teacher, welcomed a new group of kindergarten students who spent about an hour listening to stories, singing songs and forming Hebrew letters out of Play-Doh. She was assisted by Gonzaga High School senior Quinn Gibson, who has previously taught art classes to kids at Glen Echo Park.

Next door, Phyllis Oresky and her helper, Maggie Brown, taught a Torah for Tots class for kids ages 2 to 4. The toddlers and their parents learned about the Jewish New Year, Rosh Hashanah, which is coming up on October 3 to 4. They sampled apples and honey, a traditional Rosh Hashanah food to usher in a sweet year, and decorated apple and honey plates to take home.

In addition to weekly Hebrew School classes and monthly Torah for Tots, Mishkan Torah is also offering family services for the High Holidays and a Pizza in the Hut celebration for the harvest holiday of Sukkot on Friday evening, October 18. All classes and events are free and open to all individuals and families who are interested in being part of a Jewish community. For more information, visit [mishkantorah.org](http://mishkantorah.org) or contact [childrensd@mishkantorah.org](mailto:childrensd@mishkantorah.org).



Cantor Yael Fischman leads a story time for kindergarten students and their parents.

- Photos by Jonathan Katz



Phyllis Oresky leads the new Torah for Tots class.

## Obits cont'd from p.4

county. During his many years in Greenbelt and Prince George's County, he also served on a variety of local boards and civic organizations, including the Greenbelt Advisory Planning Board and the Board of Trustees for Prince George's Community College, among others.

After retiring, Tony and Bobbi moved to Deep Creek Lake in Garrett County, Md. There they continued to enjoy the companionship of longtime friends from Greenbelt, who retired there, and also cherished the new friends and community he found in the county. He enjoyed playing golf and bridge. He joined Emmanuel Lutheran Church, did water aero-

bics at the CARC, and worked out at GoPT and Cardiac Rehab – places he became infamous for making others laugh. He and Bobbi loved traveling across the country and the world. He particularly enjoyed taking river cruises in America and Europe. When they were not traveling, they loved hosting family and friends at their home nestled among the trees on the lakeshore.

He was predeceased by his father, Frederick Anthony McCarthy, Sr.; his mother, Imogene Jones McCarthy Byerly; and his stepfather, Theodore C. Byerly.

He is survived by his wife Roberta Bole "Bobbi" McCarthy; son Theodore McCarthy of Alexandria, Va.; daughter Jean Spear, son-in-law Eric; three granddaughters, Acadia, Colleen and Rebecca Spear of Portsmouth, N.H.; and his brother John McCarthy, of Sorrento, Fla. They all love him dearly. His memory is treasured by an expansive web of cousins, in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends, both life-long and recently made.

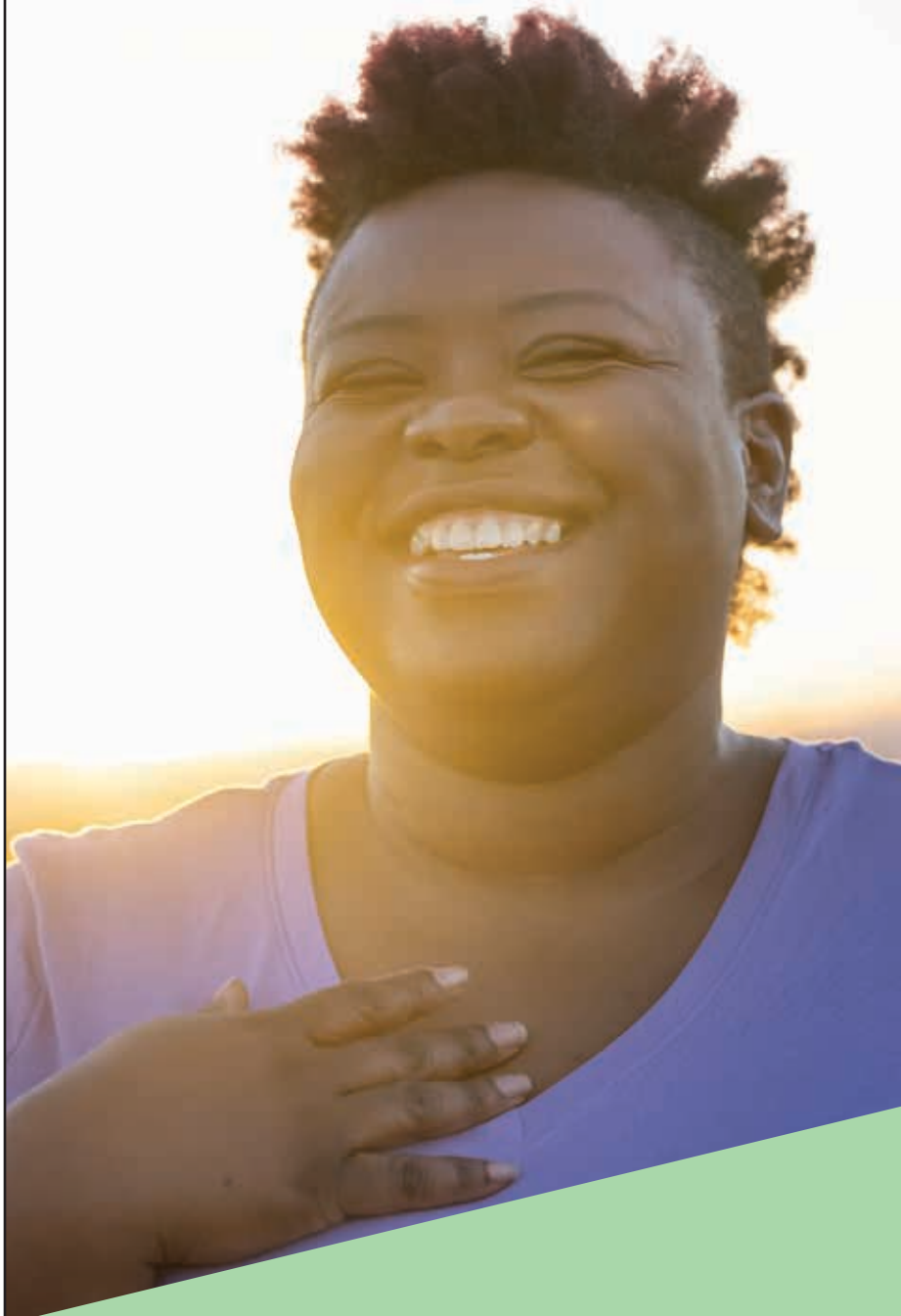
A Celebration of Life service will be held in Greenbelt, on Monday, September 30 at 11 a.m. at Greenbelt Community Church, with a social hour to follow in the church hall. The family welcomes all who knew and loved Tony to join them. Anyone wishing to share their favorite memories or photos of Tony can email them to the family using Tony's email address, [famccarthy@yahoo.com](mailto:famccarthy@yahoo.com).



### Holiday Services At Mishkan Torah

Mishkan Torah invites all to join in the High Holidays this year. Come and celebrate in this warm, friendly and inclusive Jewish community. Interfaith and LGBTQ+ families are very welcome. Rosh Hashanah services will be held October 2 to 4 and Yom Kippur services October 11 to 12. Children's services will be available. Learn more and register on the website at [MishkanTorah.org](http://MishkanTorah.org).

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Luminis Health Ob-Gyn Bowie  
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# City Council Approves Spending On Economic Planning, Land Use

by Michael Zeliff

On September 9, the Greenbelt City Council addressed issues ranging from economic development to a three-year database contract for police investigations. A separate article deals with discussion of a city charter amendment on noncitizen voting (see page 1).

## Recent Closed Meetings

Council approved three Statements for the Record involving closed meetings that occurred on July 31, August 19 and August 26. All three examined policies regarding city personnel, with the last closed meeting also addressing potential litigation and security where “public discussion would constitute a risk.”

## City Manager’s Report

City Manager Josué Salmerón began Administrative Reports by declaring the Labor Day Festival to be a great success, with cleanup finished by Wednesday morning. Work funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) continues on Braden Field, the pool and on Buddy Attick and Springhill Lake Recreation Center playgrounds. A grant from Safe Streets for All will provide \$200,000 in transportation improvements that will also make possible additional such funding for Greenbelt in the future. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion events will occur on September 21 at Beltway Plaza, on September 24 via Zoom, at Greenbriar Community Center on September 26 and at Springhill Lake Elementary School on September 28. Other dates and locations are pending. Salmerón recognized Police Officer Joshua Forney who received a Lifesaving Award for his prompt response to a man in dire need (see article in the September 12 issue) and he noted the recent hiring of John Mason as Greenbelt’s economic development manager (see article on page 16) and Patricia Fillman as the new animal control supervisor. Salmerón added that staff are testing social media as a marketing platform for expanding communication.

## Economic Development

Mayor Emmett Jordan introduced Willdan Financial Services of Washington, D.C., and Bethesda as the choice among 24 applicants to assemble an economic development, strategic plan and marketing report for Greenbelt. Salmerón explained that the city is still recovering from the Covid pandemic and this report will assist not only businesses but also residents. Managing Principal Molly McKay stated that Willdan recently worked on the Prince George’s County 2035 project and so already has “boots on the ground.” Its goal here will be to develop a work plan for

economic development over the next five years. Jordan noted that Greenbelt is surrounded by “economic drivers” such as Goddard Space Flight Center, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the University of Maryland and Luminis Healthcare, not to mention the proposed new FBI headquarters. After objections by resident Bill Orleans that city staff can do this work, and after resident Michael Hartman pointed out to McKay that Greenbelt has three very different kinds of shopping enclaves, council voted 6-1, with Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed, to fund this study at not more than \$75,000. On a related front, Jordan introduced Mason, the new economic development manager. Having worked in Prince George’s County since 2014 and, before that, five years on the Eastern Shore, Mason defined one goal as being to make Greenbelt more healthy, wealthy and wise. Councilmember Danielle McKinney asked that Mason encourage businesses to participate in the Learn 2 Earn program that prepares high school students for working.

## Waiving Bidding Procedures

Council passed a resolution 7-0 allowing staff “to waive bidding procedures and to authorize by resolution a negotiated purchase or contract whenever it is in the best interests of the city.” Whereas council must approve of purchases made by the city that exceed \$10,000, this amendment will allow waivers, for example in some cases where the cost of multiple purchases from the same vendor exceed that amount during a fiscal year. City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon assured council that vendors included here have established good relations with the city by proving themselves capable.

## Land Use Authority

Council discussed legislation under consideration in the state assembly that will grant municipalities within Prince George’s County the right to make land use decisions so long as they use a certified planner, while county council retains authority over zoning. Based in part on his experience as the former city manager of Yellow Springs, Ohio, Salmerón explained that this legislation will give Greenbelt the option of making land use decisions more quickly and cheaply for itself or of deferring to the county when decisions require more research and expertise. Whereas Roberts dismissed this legislation as worthless because it has failed to advance within the state assembly before, Jordan and Councilmember Kristen Weaver felt that some possible progress is better than none. Council voted 6-1 in support, with Roberts opposed.

## Police Database

Council approved 6-1 spending \$15,737 for a three-year contract to provide Greenbelt’s police department with the CLEAR Investigative Database. This sum includes nearly \$5,000 already allocated for a trial run during the first year, which has quickly proven its value in compiling public information not already consolidated about, for example, crime suspects. While council supported this expenditure, Weaver, McKinney and Jordan asked Lieutenant Michael Parsley about transparency in how the data are collected, used and stored. Residents Amanda Jennings and Bill Orleans expressed doubts.

## Road Resurfacing

Council also approved 7-0 spending \$527,000 on road See **COUNCIL**, page 10

# Peace Month Talk on Moving To Climate-Centered Economy

by Donna Hoffmeister

A group of 716 scientists wrote an open letter to President Biden and Congress on July 8, 2024, arguing against building a new land-based intercontinental ballistic missile system. Replacing the Minuteman III ICBMs will cost at least \$131 billion. However, cost isn’t their only concern. These scientists assert that land-based nuclear weapons are obsolete, as nuclear-armed submarines and bomber jets provide more than adequate security. They argue that expanding the U.S. arsenal will not enhance safety. This year alone, \$34 billion is invested in nuclear weapons.

President Biden’s 2025 budget allocates over \$1 trillion to military funding. Out of every \$100 in federal spending, \$69 goes toward military spending, leaving just \$31 for everything else – from housing programs to public education, public health and environmental protection. This raises an important question: Are there ways to reduce the military budget?

Miriam Pemberton, Ph.D., an expert on transitioning to a peace economy, has studied the connections between climate change and militarism for decades. She first served as director of the National Commission for Economic Conversion and Disarmament, then as a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, where she led the Peace Economy Transitions Project.

Collaborating with Lawrence Korb at the Center for American Progress, Pemberton headed the team that produced the annual Unified Security Budget for the United States. She also co-edited *Lessons from Iraq: Avoiding the Next War* (Paradigm, 2008) with William Hartung. Her recent book, *Six Stops on the National Security Tour: Rethinking Warfare Economies* (Routledge, 2023),



PHOTO COURTESY INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES

**Miriam Pemberton will speak at the Community Center on Saturday, September 28.**

offers a unique perspective on how national security policies impact six different areas of the U.S.

To learn more about Pemberton’s insights, attend her talk titled *Shifting Gears: From a Militarized to a Climate-Centered Economy* on Saturday, September 28 at 2 p.m. in the Community Center, Room 201. The talk is also available on Zoom. Registration is required at [tinyurl.com/PembertonTalk](https://tinyurl.com/PembertonTalk).



## New Greenbelt Listings



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# Meals on Wheels-College Park Celebrates 50 Years of Service

by Karen Yoho

Celebrating 50 years of service is a momentous event, but to have NBC4's Molette Green spend the morning with you telling your story on live television, bringing you cake and a big check, takes it to another level. Meals on Wheels of College Park (MOWCP) celebrated on Friday, September 13 with dozens of volunteers, College Park Mayor Fazlul Kabir and District 1 County Council Member Thomas Dernoga. All of the party attendees arrived at the Prince George's County Elks Lodge well before the NBC4 Washington broadcast kicked off at 6 a.m. Before the sun was up, everyone went into full-on Meals on Wheels mode, slicing, cooking, bagging and sorting while cheering on the big birthday with cowbells and pompoms.

Green presented MOWCP with a \$4,500 check from the Food4Families fund. The amount represented the cost to feed their clients for one day. "We need money because funding we relied on is drying up, we need volunteers and we need fresh produce. We appreciate all the support of the community," said Lisa Ealley, MOWCP president.

Green encouraged volunteers and viewers, "This is a celebration and a call to action. You are the extraordinary people making a difference in so many lives." Immediately following the first broadcast, MOWCP received more than a dozen inquiries from potential volunteers on their website.

Formed in 1974 to feed a small number of elderly and homebound people in College Park facing hunger and social isolation, MOWCP now provides meal delivery to approximately 170 seniors and persons with disabilities five days a week. MOWCP also serves Greenbelt, Adelphi, Berwyn Heights, Hyattsville, Beltsville and Riverdale Park. "Clients receive a hot nutritious lunch/dinner, plus healthy options for breakfast, a light lunch or dinner meal, and one half-gallon of milk (weekly)," explained Ealley. "More importantly, in addition to ensuring nutritional needs, our caring volunteers perform a wellness check and provide a social link to the isolation they may face."

MOWCP volunteers serve in a wide variety of roles from food preparation and meal packaging, to delivering food to homes, managing the deliveries and ensuring dietary requirements are



Volunteers receive a check from NBC4's Molette Green (second from left). Front row from left, Sharon Wilkins, Molette Green, Carmen Alvarez, Lisa Ealley and Fran Sutphen



Carmen Alvarez prepares a hot and nutritious meal for Meals on Wheels of College Park clients.

- Photos by Karen Yoho

met for those on restricted diets. Volunteers are always needed to fill in for an assortment of tasks with monthly, weekly or daily schedules. Anyone who would like to volunteer for the program

or wants more information can visit [mealsonwheelsofcollegepark.org](http://mealsonwheelsofcollegepark.org).



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rentals or requests begin with a phone call and one-time renters for events like birthdays are requested to come in to see the facilities. Recognition groups and city functions generally have priority.

### Larger Spaces

Weaver asked about groups that need larger or more frequent facilities. Varda responded that so far they had been able to accommodate them but added that, in theory, recognition groups are limited to one free room a month. If a group's meetings all take place in a single month, an exception can be made based on community value. Phelan said they would much rather have groups less restricted and put the space to use than to be strict and have the space go unused. Weaver was alert to the possibility that this might cost the city more – or perhaps result in less rental income. Varda concurred.

Another similar example of flexibility is that although the gym is not free to recognition groups, there are exceptions, such as a concert band performance. The team is working on updating the written policies to match reality and to promote consistency.

During the discussion, it was mentioned that only the commercial kitchen is substantially underutilized – often the problem is permitting by state or county authorities. In addition, there is no dedicated performance space. Varda mentioned that the stadium seating used in the gym for performances helped but was not ideal and also brought up the potential use of community schools after hours – noting that so far, that county initiative has gone nowhere.

In closing, Jordan noted that the city has more recreational/community infrastructure than any other place in the county.

## COUNCIL continued from page 9


resurfacing and concrete projects negotiated at lower cost by the county and scheduled to occur during Fiscal Year 2025. Beyond this work planned in four Greenbelt locations, council discussed making improvements that will discourage motorists from driving in the wrong direction on Centerway, a one-way street, after Hartman during Petitions and Requests said that a neighbor had recounted to him nearly being hit by a speeding car that had ignored signage and entered Centerway the wrong way.

### Healthcare Voucher

Council also approved 6-1 a proposal to spend \$25,000 on a healthcare voucher program previously funded by ARPA that "was highly successful assisting over 440 individuals with medical, dental and/or behavioral health care services." Councilmember Amy Knesel voiced her support and yet also asked about long-term funding within a tight budget.



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred September 16-22, 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.

### Notes

Greenbelt Police Department reported five domestic incidents, one death and one incident involving Child Protective Services. A legally owned firearm was turned in by a family member who did not want it in the home. On September 20, near 6122 Breezewood Drive, a driver's license and credit card were found and turned in to police by a maintenance worker. On September 17 near 6208 Breezewood Court, a parent reported her son missing.

### Illegal Discharge of a Firearm

On September 18 at 4:54 p.m. near 9168 Edmonston Road, shots were fired. Witnesses saw people outside picking up shell casings and going back into an apartment. Police set up a perimeter, and one person came to the door and was arrested. Another two were arrested after the residence was cleared.

### Burglary

On September 22 at 9:20 a.m. near 109 Centerway, an employee said someone broke into the store and took the cash from the register.

### DUI Arrests

On September 21 at 3:21 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Hanover Parkway, an officer saw a pickup truck parked at the traffic light facing the wrong way. The driver was intoxicated and arrested for DUI. A stolen license plate and numerous credit cards belonging to different persons were found inside the vehicle. Additional charges will be filed pending investigation.

On September 22 at 4:36 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and the Beltway, officers saw a vehicle run a red light and strike another vehicle. The driver was under the influence of alcohol, and was arrested and charged.

### Hit and Run

On September 19 at 12:08 a.m. near 9001 Edmonston Road, a driver struck a parked car and fled from the vehicle. Officers investigated and identified the driver, who will be charged.

### Strong-armed Robbery

On September 19 at 10:27 a.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, an ERHS student at the bus stop was approached by a group who assaulted him and took his shoes.

### Theft

Packages were stolen on September 17 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, and on September 19 near 207 Lakeside Drive.

On September 16 at 11:35 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, officers arrested a shoplifter.

On September 17 at 3:40 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, someone stole multiple items and fled prior to police arrival; at 7:31 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone stole items earlier in the week.

On September 18 at 9:46 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two persons were found trying to steal items and were banned from the property; at 2:34 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise; and at 5:08 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, three women gathered multiple items, concealed them on their persons and left.

On September 20 at 6:53 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifter stole items and was captured at the bus stop; while he was being arrested, he threw something which struck the officer; at 9:39 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a repeat offender was captured after stealing several items, and was arrested and charged.

### Vandalism

On September 21 at 4:07 p.m. near 6122 Breezewood Drive, someone threw a rock at an apartment window and damaged it; at 11:00 p.m. near 8007 Greenbelt Station Parkway, a vehicle knocked down a traffic light pole.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Three vehicles were stolen: on September 16, near 7704 Hanover Parkway, a red 2016 Toyota Sienna (Md. 4CK7024), and near 7702 Hanover Parkway, a silver 2017 Toyota RAV4 (Md. 9CZ1843); and on September 18 near 9142 Edmonston Court, a blue Hyundai Sonata (N.C. TMJ3788).

### Recovered Stolen Vehicle

On September 16 near 7552 Mandan Road, someone called about a suspicious vehicle which had been stolen in Prince George's County and used in a robbery.

### Theft from Auto

On September 16 near 9152 Edmonston Road, items were stolen.

On September 18 near 7200 Hanover Drive, a window was broken and the stereo stolen; near 7801 Mandan Road, items were stolen; and near 7200 Hanover Drive, multiple vehicles had broken windows and one had tires and wheels stolen.

On September 20 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a rear tag was stolen.

On September 21 near 7200 Hanover Drive, a Hyundai was found with tags belonging to a different vehicle (a Dodge). The tags were confiscated.

On September 21 near 6005 Springhill Drive, a wallet was stolen from a vehicle and the credit card was used.

### Vandalism to Auto

On September 16 near 7706 Hanover Parkway, a vehicle's sunroof was broken.

On September 17 near 9152 Edmonston Road, a windshield was smashed and a rock was found lying nearby.

On September 22 near 14 Empire Place, a vehicle was struck by a suspected pellet gun, shattering the rear window.

On September 22 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a vehicle's sunroof was damaged.

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## GREEN RIDGE continued from page 1

outside, not even allowed on the property," she said. Those able to leave the building had to go across the street, she said. "People were terrified ... Had it been a fire there would have been many deaths."

The truck that finally arrived was from West Lanham Hills Engine #28, said resident Charlene Backstrom. "Even though it was not an actual call for fire, a 23-minute delay could have been life or death," she told the News Review.

Kathie Scriven is one of the Green Ridge residents with mobility issues who is supposed to wait in her apartment for the fire department to get her out. One of the residents in Scriven's wing of the complex is an amputee, she said. "There are several residents who were very concerned. The fire alarm just kept going and going and going. If it was a drill it goes for about three minutes," she said.

Scriven said steps are hard for her and she has two flights of stairs to make it to an exit. She wanted to follow the procedures but no one showed up, she said. "It was a very long time ... You do get nervous." Scriven was able to get her wheeled walker and make her way down the corridor to a stairwell. "I figured if I saw smoke down the hall at least I was near the stairs," she said. "I felt a little bit more comfortable being near the stairs but of course [the fire] could have been in the stairs." Elevators are disabled during fire alarms. From the hallway she could watch

people outside.

One engine was not a sufficient response for a call from Green Ridge House, says Scriven. "There's no way they would be able to get all the people out who need to be transferred ... It's a very dangerous situation." Should a fire alarm sound at 5:30 p.m. rush hour instead of 11 a.m., Scriven believes it may take twice as long to get a response.

"There are a lot of safety concerns here at Green Ridge House," said Backstrom. "Twenty-three minutes is too long for a firetruck to get here."

"We're outraged," said Mayor Emmett Jordan. "Twenty-three minutes is unacceptable." It's what they feared may happen, he told the News Review. Jordan said the council will be demanding a meeting with Prince George's County Fire Department Chief Tiffany Green about the incident at Green Ridge House and demanding Greenbelt's career firefighters back. It was very fortunate that there was no fire on Monday or lives could have been lost, he said.

Troyer concurred. "They need to fight for the people and not for the dollar!" she said of those responsible for the county fire department staffing decision. "We love our firemen and we want them back!"

The Prince George's County Fire Department had not provided information or comment on the incident by the time of press.

## City Notes

The city manager toured the newly acquired Armory building with Public Works. He also attended neighborhood functions at Charlestowne Village, Franklin Park and Greenbelt Station.

The Public Information Officer (PIO) met with other Four Cities PIOs. Code Enforcement inspected the Nursery School. Animal Shelter residents are five dogs, four cats and a kitten.

Facilities Maintenance installed a rooftop HVAC unit at Springhill Lake Recreation Center and LED lights in the Schrom Hills Park meeting room. Environmental/Sustainability offered a birding event.

The Youth Center hosted Kidz Connect and Teen Takeover, and the Community Center hosted Prince George's County Peace & Justice Coalition's Peace Month event.

Public Works turned on indoor pool boilers, and fall swim team practice season started.

Arts staff offered Parent's Night Out and a Springhill Lake Artful Afternoon. Sparkle Mart vendor slots are full with a waitlist.

Rangers supported the Greenbelt Blues Festival and tested new equipment for outdoor movies. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living program welcomed two more Bowie State University student nurses.



### PRELIMINARY AGENDA Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors on October 3, 2024

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

- a) Approval of Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on June 13, 2024
- b) 2024 Contract for Underground Utility Repairs
- c) Financial Matters
- d) Legal Matters

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

- a) Approval of Minutes of the Closed Meeting held on February 15, 2024
- b) GDC Laundry Machine Contract

#### GHI Open Meeting – starts at 7:30 p.m. - open to members and visitors

- a) Statement of Closed Meeting to be held on October 3, 2024
- b) Approval of Minutes of the Open Meeting held on June 13, 2024
- c) Town Hall Meeting Agenda for December 12, 2024
- d) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on October 17, 2024

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

[https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwtduuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP\\_N9LZj33gbi9r](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwtduuqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r)

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



## Help Us Help You Help Greenbelt



Are you a local nonprofit that could use \$500-5000 in seed money for a project or endeavor? If so, the Greenbelt Community Foundation is here for you. Our fall grant cycle is going on right now (deadline October 15), and we're looking to give out money to worthy causes. Contact us at [greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltcommunityfoundation@gmail.com) or visit <https://greenbeltfoundation.org> for information on how to apply.



## CHARTER continued from page 1

ballot as an advisory question. 59 percent of voters responded yes, 30 percent responded no, and 11 percent did not respond.

The vast majority of the attendees at the council meeting on Monday were supporters of all-resident voting, including representatives from CASA, elected officials from surrounding areas, and supportive Greenbelt residents. The first speaker from CASA, a Maryland-based Latino and immigration advocacy-and-assistance organization, emphasized approximately 30 percent of Greenbelt residents are born outside the United States, higher than the national average of 13.5 percent and this kind of measure is “not radical or unprecedented.” [Editor’s Note: Country of birth does not necessarily correlate to country of citizenship.]

In Prince George’s County, Hyattsville, Mount Rainier, Colmar Manor and Cheverly have all adopted all-resident voting, as has Takoma Park in Montgomery County, which enabled noncitizen voting 30 years ago, and the town of Frederick, which amended their charter just last week. Likewise, the Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022 allows noncitizens who are D.C. residents to vote in local elections beginning this year.

Mount Rainier’s mayor, Celine Benitez, said that their city passed noncitizen voting in 2017 and urged Greenbelt to join the “cool” group of cities who have done so.

Speakers who took the podium at the meeting were universally in favor of the amendment. “I think it’s going to make our community stronger. I think it’s going to make our community more inclusive. I think when we listen to and include everyone it’s better for our entire community,” said John Appiah-Duffell of Gardenway. Residents and guests spoke of immigrants’ contributions to the community and the tax base. “Taxation without representation is fundamentally unjust,” said Chris Herman of Southway.

Resident Bill Orleans said the change was long overdue since it was first asked of and supported by residents in 2021 and again in the election 10 months ago. He suggested he would not be alive and perhaps members of the Youth Advisory Committee may not be alive when the council next amends the charter with other good suggestions they’ve received, such as electing council by district.

Frankie Fritz of Ridge Road pointed to recent marginalization of immigrant communities in national rhetoric and that “people are easy targets when they don’t have a voice in their political



process.” The threats of violence against immigrants in Springfield, Ohio, reminded him of the bombings in Birmingham, Ala. to prevent people from having the right to vote. “All of these things are connected. All of these choreographies of violence that we see time and time and time again in our history rooted in the idea that we can’t let other people into our political process ... we know are wrong,” he said. “We know that it will advance racial equity to do these things.”

Resident Michael Hartman asked what kind of outreach had been done to the noncitizen community and if interpretive services had been offered. He urged the council going forward to communicate to the noncitizen community in ways that will reach them, such as announcements home to parents through schools, via influencers in those communities, posters in shopping centers and houses of worship and in other ways they receive information.

Rick Ransom, chair of the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB), said CRAB enthusiastically supports the proposal. “I was born and raised here. I’ve been in Greenbelt almost all my life ... I can speak with experience about what Old Greenbelt was like ... Does that mean that I’m better qualified to speak about what’s good for Greenbelt in 2024 than someone who was not born here, did not grow up here? And I think the answer’s no,” said Ransom. He reminded council of the city’s community pledge to be a community that is open, accessible, safe and fair to all. He urged the amendment in

the interest of being fair to all.

### Lone Opposition

Resident Bob Rudd, who joined the meeting online, was the sole voice in opposition to the change to the city’s charter. Voting is a right of citizenship, reserved for those who go through the citizenship process, he told council. He pointed to the example of foreign-born Councilmember Silke Pope. He also cautioned council that the validity of future elections would be called into question and lawsuits may follow if they allow noncitizens to vote.

Pope, who has in the past spoken against noncitizens voting in local elections, was absent from the meeting. Mayor Emmett Jordan said Pope was unable to attend due to a follow-up from surgery. She had not responded to the News Review’s request for comment by the time of press.

Jordan pushed back on the idea that the measure has taken a long time. Since the advisory question on last year’s ballot an ordinance had to be drafted and code amendments made, he stressed.

### Registration Requirements

Steve Gilbert of the city Board of Elections said he had suggested before noncitizens register to vote they should live in Greenbelt for a period of six months to a year and demonstrate some involvement in the city. However, the rest of the committee shot down those suggestions, he said. Consequently the only additional requirement is that noncitizens register 21 days before an election to allow the city clerk time to add their names. Before the next election there will probably be a need to employ staff to aid in the process, he said.

Noncitizens will be required to show proof of residence or sign an affidavit, noted Gilbert. Proof might include a driver’s license, a document from the University of Maryland, the State of Maryland or somewhere similar with your address in Greenbelt. Without a paper someone could take an oath and sign an affidavit, said Gilbert. “My main concern

is that people actually have to live here,” said Councilmember Rodney Roberts, who asked if a homeless person could use the affidavit. Gilbert responded that it was arguable if they did not have a formal address and they would have to consider that. “I think it should be considered now,” said Roberts. Roberts said he wanted everyone to be treated fairly and go through the same process to register to vote.

“An affidavit is not a trivial document. You are stating under oath the contents of the affidavit ... It’s the same as testifying in court,” said Gilbert, who is a retired lawyer. Roberts asked if there would be a penalty for falsifying an affidavit. Gilbert said with a false affidavit the decision to prosecute would be a state’s attorney decision, not a city decision. Councilmember Kristen Weaver said there’s a similar process to register in Maryland.

The council voted unanimously to amend the City Code and the City Charter to allow all-resident voting. The vote was 6-0, with Pope absent.

“Today Greenbelt takes a historic step forward in inclusive governance with the passage of

all-resident voting. So it’s a reflection of our community’s commitment to ensuring that every resident has an opportunity to participate in the process. So by extending these voting rights to all adult residents regardless of citizenship status we recognize the vital contributions of our diverse population, where nearly 30 percent are foreign-born. As we move forward, joining neighboring municipalities in this progressive move, we reaffirm that in Greenbelt every resident counts,” said Jordan on the legislation’s passage.

Councilmember Jenni Pompei, who had introduced the resolution at the September 9 meeting, acknowledged the late councilmember Ric Gordon for whom this was a real passion, she said. “I’m sad he wasn’t here to see it today but I know he’d be really proud of his city,” said Pompei.



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## WANTED: Volunteer Board Treasurer for Greenbelt Farmers Market

Dear Greenbelt Community,

This October marks 8 years that Carissa Ralbovsky, our current Treasurer, has served on the board of directors of the Greenbelt Farmers Market. This community treasure is near and dear to her heart and she has loved working with a tireless team of volunteers and our outstanding market manager to help the market happen each week.

In 2025, Carissa is looking to support GFM in a smaller capacity. As such, **we are looking for someone who can join the board as our new Treasurer** and shadow her for the rest of this season, so she can provide training on how to manage the market’s finances.

Experience with Quickbooks or accounting is not required, though some experience with finance and/or budgeting helps. Treasurer-specific duties **only take an hour or two a month**, and Carissa is committed to being an on-going resource for training and questions. If you are interested, please e-mail us at [info@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org](mailto:info@greenbeltfarmersmarket.org).

Your neighbors,

Scott Fifield, Terry Kucera, Greg Rusk, Carissa Ralbovsky and  
 Suzette Agans (The Board of Directors of the Greenbelt Farmers Market)



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# BALLOT continued from page 1

## How Did We Get Here?

The 1973 U. S. Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade held, "A person may choose to have an abortion until a fetus becomes viable," affording the right nationwide, based on the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment privacy right. Maryland legislation passed in 1991 and confirmed by voters in 1992 went further, making abortion legal in Maryland up to viability, and after viability to protect the mother's health or in cases of serious fetal deformity.

In March 2022 the Maryland House of Delegates approved a state Right to Reproductive Liberty Amendment, which did not exit the General Assembly in that legislative session. Three months later in June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision, writing that there is no constitutional right to abortion, overturning Roe v. Wade's national coverage and returning the decision to the states. In March 2023, Maryland's General Assembly approved the amendment and this 2024 referendum asks Maryland voters to decide for or against it.

## Why an Amendment?

If the 1991 legislation made abortion legal, why does this amendment matter? An amendment would guarantee the existing right as a constitutional right for Marylanders. Passing the amendment will secure the right against future legislative repeal or court cases. Not passing the amendment means the existing right could be removed by future legislation or court cases.

One may wonder why the proposed amendment includes the phrase "including but not limited to ... pregnancy." Jakeya Johnson, executive director of the pro-choice nonprofit organization Reproductive Justice Maryland, said the phrase gives flexibility to address other reproductive rights if challenged in the future, such as contraception and fertility treatments.

## Local Perspectives

The News Review contacted Greenbelt Baptist, Catholic, Jewish, Methodist and United Church of Christ faith communities for their perspectives. St. Hugh's Catholic Church and Mishkan Torah Synagogue representatives responded.

Father Walter Tappe of St. Hugh's wrote, "The Catholic Church in Maryland opposes this amendment since it contradicts the fundamental principles of respect for human dignity and the inherent right to life ... and urges voters and all people of good will to reject this ballot initiative. The Catholic Church stands in solidarity with women and children and rejects the notion that abortion is a solution to the challenges faced

by women in crisis situations. It is essential to pursue solutions that include compassionate support, resources and alternatives to abortion for women facing difficult circumstances."

Mishkan Torah's Phyllis Oresky referred readers to an article on the website My Jewish Life ([tinyurl.com/45j26j7e](http://tinyurl.com/45j26j7e)). It says that Judaism "takes a far less stringent approach to abortion than many Christian denominations" and describes varying opinions within Judaism. For instance, it said that while Conservative and Reform Judaism take more lenient positions than Orthodox Judaism, many Orthodox rabbis are "... cautious about laying down firm standards, insisting instead that cases be judged individually."

Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom (GARF) member Nancy Newton wrote that GARF sees reproductive freedom "as an issue that touches almost everyone, everywhere. Of course, it's about personal autonomy and basic human rights. The proposed amendment is clearly a key issue because it will protect the right to reproductive freedom into the future, regardless of attempts to restrict access to abortion. We're finding that, even though many Greenbelters support the right to abortion, they are not aware of Ballot Question #1. That's why we're working with other organizations to ensure Maryland voters know about this measure and incorporate this right into the state constitution."

Greenbelt's delegates and state senator (Anne Healey, Ashanti Martinez, Nicole Williams and Alonzo Washington) voted in 2023 to put the 2024 referendum before voters, and Williams co-sponsored it. Maryland U.S. Senate candidates Angela Alsobrooks and Larry Hogan told the Bowie Sun they plan to vote for the amendment. Maryland is one of 10 states with reproductive rights measures on the ballot this fall, along with Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York and South Dakota.



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Greenbelt Alliance for Reproductive Freedom

## Election2024

# Prince George's County Ballot Asks Voters' Advice on Bonds

### Question A:

#### County Buildings Bonds

To let the county borrow up to \$96,720,000 for the construction, renovation, improvement or repair of county government buildings, and to acquire the sites where they will be built.

### Question B:

#### Library Facilities Bonds

To let the county borrow up to \$17,284,000 for the construction, renovation, improvement or repair of public library facilities, and to acquire the sites where they will be built.

### Question C:

#### Community College Facilities Bonds

To let the county borrow up to \$194,380,000 for the construction, renovation, improvement or repair

of community college facilities, and to acquire the sites where they will be built.

### Question D:

#### Public Works and

#### Transportation Facilities Bonds

To let the county borrow up to \$311,873,000 for the construction, renovation, improvement or repair of Public Works and Transportation facilities, including roads, bridges, parking lots and maintenance facilities, and to acquire the sites where they will be built.

### Question E:

#### Public Safety Facilities Bonds

To let the county borrow up to \$40,205,000 for the the construction, renovation, improvement or repair of public safety facilities, including Fire Department facilities, and to acquire the sites where they will be built.

## Election 2024

# Voting by Mail-in Ballot

Mail-in ballots can be submitted at a ballot drop box or by mail, but either is officially called a mail-in ballot. Any registered voter may request a mail-in ballot.

To check whether one is registered to vote, whether a request for a mail-in ballot has been received, get information on one's voting district and more, visit [voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch](http://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch).

This site from the State of Maryland allows one to register to vote or to request a mail-in ballot: [voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration](http://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration).

When applying to receive a mail-in ballot via the internet, the

online request must be received by 11:59 p.m. on November 1.

An application for a mail-in ballot can be printed and mailed. To download the application, go to [princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/board-elections/voter-information/mail-ballots](http://princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/board-elections/voter-information/mail-ballots).

Requests for a mail-in ballot by postal mail must be received by the Prince George's County Board of Elections by October 29.

Ballots received via the internet must be printed and returned physically by mail, at a drop box or directly at the Board of Elections, 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115, Largo, MD 20774.

## Voter Registration Deadline Is Oct. 15

Tuesday, October 15 is the deadline for registering to vote in the 2024 presidential election.

Registrations must be received by the Prince George's County Board of Elections at 1100 Mercantile Lane, Suite 115A, in Largo, no later than 4:30 p.m.

Changes to a name or address on an existing registration have the same deadline.

Call 301-341-7300 with questions.



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## STATEMENT REGARDING MAGLEV PROJECT

As the premier credit union serving Prince George's County since 1967, we are committed to maintaining open communication with our members. Recently, we received feedback regarding our planned participation in an upcoming event at Bowie State University, which will discuss the MAGLEV project.

MAGLEV is a high-speed train rail system that former Governor Larry Hogan proposed several years ago. One of the credit union's strategic initiatives is to foster deeper relationships within the education community, and Bowie State University is one of our key education partners. This partnership has allowed us the opportunity to participate in a variety of events and programs.

We understand that many of our members, particularly those in Greenbelt, have concerns about this high-speed train initiative. While our intention was to engage with the educational community and share information about the benefits of credit union membership, we recognize that our involvement could be misinterpreted as support for the MAGLEV project.

**After careful consideration, we have decided to rescind our sponsorship and participation in the event. We appreciate the concerns expressed by our members and remain dedicated to representing your interests.**

Thank you for your continued trust in us. We will always strive to uphold our mission of providing quality financial products, services, and insights to our community.

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BOXED: \$10.90/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$16.35). 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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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at [zellepay.com](http://zellepay.com). Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

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# Sports

## MEDAL continued from page 1

got a pretty good idea of when his head's going to hit," said Shattuck. "When Abbas touched, I was chasing down the Chinese swimmer [in the third leg in order] to give Ellie her best chance." With very little practice as a team, Zach's reaction time off the wall was one-tenth of a second in the final, down from three-tenths in the preliminaries. The Chinese competitor Shattuck was racing was Jiang Yuyan, who lost an arm and leg in an accident at age 4, and who won seven gold medals in Paris. "In the water with Leanne, watching the screen, I realized, 'Holy smokes! We're about to win a silver medal!'" Zach remembers.

### Close Race for 200 M

Shattuck's first race of the Paralympics was the 200-meter individual medley (IM) preliminary in which he almost qualified for the 200 IM. He made the finals when another swimmer was disqualified. But just minutes later, the swimmer successfully appealed and the disqualification was overturned. However, Shattuck took the opportunity to focus on the positive and on the relay. If he'd made the finals for the 200 IM he would have had to swim the finals of the relay one hour later. "To be honest, the 200 IM is a challenge for me. It takes a lot out of my body. I was stoked to swim the time I swam – the third fastest I'd ever done. But I also wanted to be as fresh as I could be for the relay [the same day], which was the best chance of medaling. So, when I heard about the disqualification being overturned, I thought, 'you guys go do your thing, I'll do mine [in the relay].'" Zach recalls.

### Atmosphere

When asked about how Paris responded to the Paralympians, Shattuck said, "The Parisians did an unbelievable job of creating an atmosphere that was unique to the Olympics. In the pool, no matter who it was, the crowd cheered loudly for every single race. To have 14,000 people cheering you on is just incredible."

Shattuck's previous Paralympic experience was in Tokyo in 2021. Due to Covid the 2020 Games were delayed one year, and family, friends and the public were not allowed into the various venues to watch the competitions. "It was an immense difference [from Tokyo], where maybe the stands had a couple of hundred people, mostly other athletes and staff, that were eerily quiet. At the Paris Paralympics I

got to have an authentic Olympic experience, and that's what it's all about. The reception was surprising but not unexpected. Europeans and other cultures around the world do a really good job of embracing athletes with disabilities, and it showed," Shattuck said.

The Paris experience has given him access to new coaches and friends he'll have for a very long time. Winning a medal also opens up a lot of opportunities. Shattuck's family (22 of whom were cheering in the stands at the Paris La Defense Arena) has supported him at every level, from T-ball in Greenbelt to high school varsity soccer and basketball in Carroll County. The assumption by many was that each level probably represented the last one where Zach could be competitive. But Shattuck has continually set his sights on the next level.

"The Olympics and Paralympics is pretty much the gold standard of athletics, and to be able to place my name in that company is something that 10-year-old me would never think I could've done," says Shattuck. "I remember writing as a young teen that I wanted to be the best dwarf athlete of all time. Being an athlete has carried me to where I am, and that's what made me the swimmer I am."

### What's Next?

When asked what's next, Shattuck said, "I've got a couple of opportunities to continue coaching at the college level or to get back into club coaching. I also want to explore outdoor education and the nature center areas."

As far as plans for a possible run at the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles are concerned, "I want to get back into the gym. I want to buy a bike, swim two-three times a week, a couple thousand yards to keep my body ready. I want to stay close to the water as I decide."

In the near term, "We have a Team USA visit at the White House this weekend," shared Shattuck. He'll ponder his life choices beginning Monday.

*Jack Downs lives in Florida and is one of Zach Shattuck's uncles.*



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Zach Shattuck's cheering squad in Paris included current Greenbelters David and Isabel Downs and their children Mia, Annabelle and Josh, all of whom are on the Swim Team.

## Raiders Remain Savage In Early Season Victories

by Patrick Gleason



Claire Aloga and Sadie Swart celebrate after another Raider goal on September 19 against Suitland.

Senior Jada Savage wasted no time in accruing a hat trick against the Wise Pumas on September 23, and not much later she scored her fourth en route to a 7-0 triumph that punctuated the first third of the Raiders schedule where they have outscored opponents 36-0. Savage highlights the exacting Raider attack that has efficiently navigated county opponents thus far. Junior Claudia van der Have capped the first half scoring against the Pumas with a strong shot from the right side of the goal. In the second half, senior Sadie Swart, in her second game back after an ACL tear last November, placed a penalty kick in the side netting, while striker Gabriella Martinez mirrored van der Have's goal with a well-placed shot in the final minutes.

The victory followed another lopsided win against the Suitland Rams on September 19. Savage netted three more goals in

that contest, while Swart, Yadira Reyes Carranza and Claire Aloga also scored. Roosevelt anticipates a stiffer test against the Bowie Bulldogs on September 25.

### Junior Varsity

Meanwhile, the junior varsity's schedule continues to test a squad full of promise. The Raiders fought back to gain a 5-3 win at St. Mary's Ryken on September 17. After trailing 2-0 at halftime, Morgan Parks halved the deficit before the Raiders conceded again. Then, sophomore Treasure Wogu netted a second-half hat trick to put Roosevelt ahead. Forward Alima Kargbo capped the scoring in an eventful second half. Though the Raiders fell to Elizabeth Seton in a tightly contested 1-0 defeat two days later, they continue to grow as they look toward a September 30 home game with Our Lady of Good Counsel.



Senior Alyssa Casey takes aim as teammate Claudia van der Have looks on during the Raider victory.

- Photos by Vanessa van der Have

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# Art Studio Open House and Sale

On Sunday, October 6 from 1 to 4 p.m., tour the studios of the Community Center's eight artists in residence in the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program's semiannual Art Studio Open House and Sale. Meet additional art instructors and see their personal work and visit the production studio of Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) and enjoy free drop-in activities. See the current exhibition of paintings by Cindy Mehr and experimental rave fashion by Cassidy English in the Art Gallery.

Sign up to participate in a free wearable art workshop happening during the Open House from 1 to 3 p.m. at bit.ly/3XTsr5V.

These activities are all part of an Artful Afternoon, sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program. For more arts program information, visit [greenbeltmd.gov/arts](http://greenbeltmd.gov/arts) or call 301-397-2208. Greenbelt Arts programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

- Photos courtesy Greenbelt Recreation Arts



Rachel Kerwin, Artist in Residence



Mary Gawlik, Artist in Residence

# John Mason Joins City as New Economic Development Manager

The Greenbelt City Council welcomed John Mason as the city's new economic development manager. A 25-year economic development veteran, Mason brings a wealth of experience from state, county and local levels.



John Mason

PHOTO BY CHONDRIA ANDREWS

projects and working with aspiring entrepreneurs and startup companies to fulfill the dream of owning and operating a successful enterprise.

Originally from Norfolk, Va., Mason has now lived and worked in Maryland for over 30 years, spending 10 years in Bowie and nearly a decade at his current residence in Hanover.

Mason earned a bachelor's degree in business administration/marketing from Southeastern University in Washington, D.C., and a master's degree in business administration from Wilmington University in Delaware.

As a former standout college athlete, Mason is an avid golfer who enjoys competitive tennis and cycling. He is also active within his church, serving in community outreach ministries.

Mason is a self-proclaimed technology buff who loves testing and implementing the newest technological innovations to serve clients better.

"Economic development is truly a team sport. It takes seamless partnerships between public, private and nonprofit economic-development professionals, the commercial real estate brokerage and development community, and so much more," said Mason. "I feel blessed to lead the economic development initiatives for a city with such a vibrant history, and I am very excited to continue building upon the incredible accomplishments of the City of Greenbelt."

City of Greenbelt News Release

# Annual Pooch Plunge

On Saturday, September 7, the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center sponsored the annual Pooch Plunge. The fundraiser for the Greenbelt Animal Shelter was a rare opportunity for the pooches of Greenbelt to take a turn in the outdoor pool before it closes for the summer. Dogs of all kinds turned out to plunge, paddle, run around or spectate.

You can see more photos on the News Review Facebook page.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow

