



Sunrise Tract, p.12



ERHS soccer, p.15

## Greenbelt City Council Meets With School Board Member

by Matthew Arbach



SCREENSHOT BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Board of Education Member Jonathan Briggs joined his worksession with council via Zoom.

District 2 Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Board of Education member Jonathan Briggs met with the Greenbelt City Council in a September 25 worksession to give a summary of the current operations, concerns and policies for Greenbelt schools in this new school year. Stephenie Arcido from the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) was also on hand to share the group's latest efforts.

This is the third year in office for Briggs, who expressed that he endeavors to create an honest partnership with all the schools in his purview and develop a bridge between students, parents and staff to improve and ensure

the best educational outcome.

Briggs explained that the Board is tasked with overseeing PGCPS' fiscal, governance and operational policies and, along with Superintendent Millard House II, is responsible for the system's day-to-day functions. House is in effect the sole employee of the Board and is subject to their evaluation.

Greenbelt includes six of District 2's 17 schools, with an overall student population of over 15,000.

### Shortages

Teacher shortages continue to be both a local and national issue, Briggs said. He stated See **SCHOOL BOARD**, p. 8

## Reparations Commission Invites Community to Forum on Oct. 12

by Gail Crichlow

The Greenbelt Reparations Commission (GRC) will hold its second public forum on Saturday, October 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Greenbelt Library auditorium. The forum will update residents on the progress of the commission and will hear thoughts on this issue from the community. The forum is open to all Greenbelt residents.

The GRC was approved by vote in 2021 by Greenbelt Resolution 2094 to make recommendations for reparations for Indigenous and African American residents of Greenbelt who have experienced harms. After the Greenbelt City Council interviewed and appointed 21 voluntary commissioners, the group began meeting in February 2023. Since then the GRC has identified its goals, organized a governing structure, established appropriate subcommittees to address its mission, interviewed local historians to gain background on the history of the area and the New Deal construction of Greenbelt, interviewed residents (ongoing), interviewed indigenous representatives and identified areas needing expert research and

development that will move the GRC into Phase II of in-depth research. Phase II will include legal reviews of codes and ordinances, genealogical examinations of those who worked on the initial construction of Greenbelt and exploring the employment history of the city.

The GRC wants to inform the community on their activities and progress and to hear from residents in order to foster dialogue and exchange ideas.

### What Are Reparations?

In relation to the work being done by the GRC: Reparations is a process of repairing and healing from the harms that have been inflicted on African Americans and Indigenous People by government laws, policies and practices of sectors that benefited from the injustices such as banks, corporations, insurers, educational institutions, health systems and religious groups.

For those who can't attend on Saturday, the commission will be hosting more public forums in the coming months. Email the commission at [myoung@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:myoung@greenbeltmd.gov) for further information.

## PGFD Investigates Delayed Response; Suspends Personnel

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On September 23, a fire alarm resulted in the dispatch of emergency vehicles to Green Ridge House on Ridge Road in Greenbelt. The equipment came from West Lanham Hills – five miles away. Firehouses in Greenbelt (0.7 miles), Berwyn Heights (2.2 mile) and College Park (3.9 miles) all considerably closer, were apparently unable to respond (perhaps because the career firefighters have been withdrawn as reported earlier). Distances are Google's "fastest" routes point to point. Prince George's Fire Department's (PGFD) Director of Public Information Alan Doubleday reports the total time from dispatch to on-scene was 14 minutes and 32 seconds, although a longer response time was reported by residents (see response-time explanation on page 6).

Doubleday informed the News Review that because of the slow response, it has launched a formal internal investigation. Meanwhile it has suspended two of the volunteer firefighters who responded to the call from the West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department but has not provided any explanation of why a closer



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Prince George's County Fire Department has launched an investigation into the delayed response to the fire alarm at Green Ridge House on September 23.

station was unable to respond.

According to Doubleday the firefighters failed to meet the turnout time requirement (the time from accepting a call to leaving) and proceeded to Green Ridge House without using emergency lights and sirens, which were turned on only when they got to Ridge Road, resulting in a

delayed response. The engines are equipped with cameras, similar to body cameras worn by police officers, but mounted on the dashboard, enabling the fire department to see what takes place on the scene and inside the vehicles, explained Doubleday. Only two

See **PGFD**, page 6

## GAFC Indoor Pool Projected To Close June to October 2025

by Daniel Thies

Major construction is slated for the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC) indoor pool in 2025, projected to last from June to October 2025, during which time the indoor pool will be closed.

This isn't the first time that the GAFC pools have been renovated, or even the first time in the 2020s. Earlier this year, the indoor pools were closed temporarily for minor repairs, and

structural remediation was done for the outdoor pools in 2022. This new renovation will be more substantial though: \$1.65 million is set aside to pay for the remediation of a large portion of the indoor pool deck, which will take several months. However, the city is taking steps to minimize the impact that the project will have on city residents.

Although the indoor pool will be inaccessible to the public for four months, the city is considering extending the seasonal opera-

tion of the outdoor pool through October so residents will continue to have access to that pool. The project contract also keeps construction equipment and material off public parking spaces to prevent Roosevelt Center's parking areas from becoming obstacle courses. Though the remediation plans include concrete demolition, the construction crew will also make sure that no debris is left and the indoor areas are in

See **POOL**, page 15

### What Goes On

- Monday, October 7**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession: Reallocation of ARPA Funds, Municipal Building
- Wednesday, October 9**  
7:30 p.m., Council Special Meeting/Closed Session: Collective Bargaining Agreement and Deployment and Status of the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services and Police, Municipal Building

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



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Greenbelt's indoor pool will close for repairs from June to October 2025.

# Letters to the Editor

## Impact of Losing Our Local Fire Department

At 10:24 a.m., a call arrived at Central Station regarding an emergency at 22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt (Green Ridge House Apts.). Central Station promptly contacted Fire Board. Fire Board dispatched at 10:26 a.m. By 10:27 a.m., Central Station contacted Community Manager Kimberly Potts about the dispatch, who confirmed it. The Fire Department arrived on the scene at 10:41 a.m., resulting in a total response time of 15 minutes. This delay has become increasingly concerning, particularly in light of the absence of a local fire department.

The loss of our local fire department has been profoundly felt within the community, especially given that this property serves seniors. Previously, we enjoyed rapid response times, often within just a few minutes, which provided a crucial sense of security for our vulnerable population. The ability to rely on nearby firefighters meant that emergencies could be addressed swiftly, reducing potential damage and safeguarding lives.

Now, with a distant fire department responding to emergencies, we face delays that can have serious consequences. The longer wait time not only puts property at risk but also jeopardizes lives, particularly those of our senior residents, who may require immediate assistance in critical situations. The unfamiliarity of distant responders with our local area can further exacerbate these delays, complicating navigation and response strategies.

Moreover, the absence of a local fire department has diminished community trust and safety perceptions. Residents no longer feel the same level of protection and support that came from having a dedicated, nearby team

ready to respond. This situation calls for urgent re-evaluation of our fire services, highlighting the importance of reinstating a local fire department to ensure that our community feels secure and prepared for emergencies. In a world where every second counts, especially for our senior residents, we must prioritize swift and effective emergency responses to protect our most vulnerable citizens and their homes.

We are fortunate that this time it was not an actual fire but a piece of equipment that failed. The equipment in question was replaced the next day, and all systems are now functioning normally. However, this incident serves as a stark reminder of the critical need for reliable local emergency services to safeguard our community.

Kimberly S. Potts, AHM  
Community Director/HUD  
Specialist  
Green Ridge House

## Different Response Times

The Green Ridge House manager reports a call time of 10:24 a.m. and an on-scene arrival of 10:41 a.m. (17 minutes later). She records a total response time of 15 minutes. The Prince George's County Fire Department reports a response time of 14 minutes and 32 seconds. Several residents have reported a longer time. To better understand the different ways time can be measured from different points see our article on page 6.

- Editor



## 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.

### Witness for the Prosecution

The affable Leonard Vole (Tyrone Power) is being tried for the murder of a wealthy woman, and legendary lawyer Sir Wilfrid Roberts (Charles Laughton) has chosen to represent him. Unfortunately, Leonard's alibi depends on the testimony of his callous wife, Christine (Marlene Dietrich), who, after the discovery of a legal loophole, makes the shocking decision to appear in court against him. To Sir Wilfrid's surprise, this is only the first in a series of puzzling revelations and reversals.

## Act of Kindness

Turtle Rescue: on Saturday, September 28, at the intersection of Crescent Road and Kenilworth Avenue, a baby turtle was crossing the road and a woman got out of her car and picked up the turtle and moved it over to the grass near the woods.

This is one of the many reasons I like Greenbelt, because people go out of their way to help wildlife.

Charlie Van Denend, age 8

## Festival Has Been Alive and Well Longer

Regarding the story September 21st Greenbelt Blues Festival Says: Blues Alive and Well in the September 19 issue:

One point in the story I'd like

See **LETTERS**, page 6

## Correction

The fire alarm at Green Ridge House on Monday, September 23 occurred at approximately 10:26 a.m. The 11:18 a.m. call recorded from Green Ridge House the same morning was a 911 call for a medical emergency that followed the fire alarm.



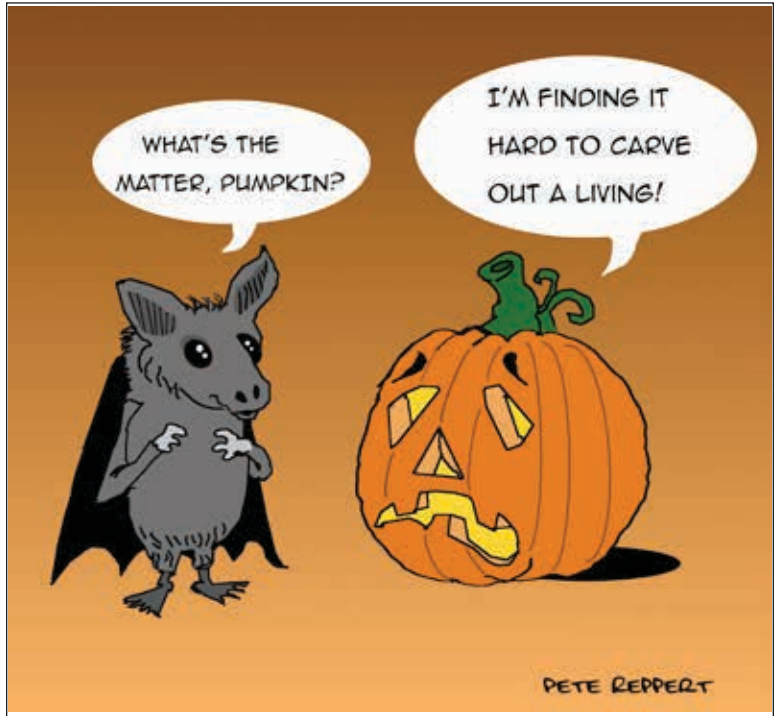
Greenbelt Cinema  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
www.greenbeltcinema.org  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5  
OC = Open Captions  
CC = Closed Captions  
DVS = Descriptive Video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

## SHOWTIMES: OCTOBER 4th - 10th

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

**Megalopolis (R) (CC)**  
(DVS) (2024) (138 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Sat. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM  
Sun. 2:00 PM (OC), 5:00 PM  
Tues. 7:00 PM  
**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM  
Mon. 3:30 PM, 6:30 PM  
Wed. 7:00 PM  
Thurs. 7:30 PM

**Witness for the Prosecution (NR) (1957) (116 mins)**  
Free Cinema Classic  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Mon. 1:00 PM  
Thurs. 8:00 PM



## Drop us a Line!

Electronically, that is.

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

## 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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CIRCULATION Circulation Coordinator: circ@greenbeltnewsreview.com  
HOA information at: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc.

## 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.

# Community Events

## At the Library

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

### Storytimes

Friday, October 4, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585378](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585378).

Wednesday, October 9, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585329](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585329).

Thursday, October 10, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585307](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585307).

### Talk Health

Friday, October 4, 11 a.m., ages 18+ (adult). Take charge of your health at free blood pressure screening sessions. Led by University of Maryland School of Nursing students, get blood pressure checked and get a personalized review of medications. Open to all. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11663024](http://pgcmls.info/event/11663024).

### Talk Health Seminar

Friday, October 4, 12:30 p.m., ages 18+ (adult). Bring a lunch for a talk on vaccinations by University of Maryland nursing students followed by a discussion, a 20-minute energetic and low-impact seated exercise class and a short mindful meditation practice. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11663103](http://pgcmls.info/event/11663103).

### Books at Bedtime

Wednesday, October 2, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the Prince George's County Public Schools Infants and Toddlers Program for early intervention students and up to 12 community families. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585503](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585503).

### Hispanic Heritage Month

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with activities for all ages. For more information, visit [pgcmls.info/hispanic-heritage](http://pgcmls.info/hispanic-heritage).

## Greenbelt Chess Club Meetings for October

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, October 8, 15 and 22. The meetings will take place at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. Email questions to [greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com).



## HUG WALK On October 20

Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) is again organizing its annual HUG WALK (Help Unite Greenbelt With A Little Kindness) to be held on Sunday, October 20, rain or shine. The HUG WALK route is as follows: 1 p.m., gather at the Indian Creek Trail bridge at Greenbelt Station (across from the Shell Station on Cherrywood Lane); 1:30 p.m., walk sets off; 2 p.m., walk continues from Springhill Lake Recreation Center; 2:30 p.m., join the walk at Buddy Attick Park; 3 p.m., join the walk at Roosevelt Center; 3:30 p.m., join the walk at Greenbriar Community Center; 4 p.m., join the walk at Windsor Green Community Center; 4:30 p.m., walk concludes at Schrom Hills Park. For further information, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com), 301-345-8755 or [ruak.org](http://ruak.org).

El 20 de octubre, Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK) vuelve a organizar la HUG WALK (Help Unite Greenbelt With A Little Kindness) anual que se celebrará el domingo 20 de octubre, llueva o haga sol. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Robert Goldberg-Strassler en [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com) o al 301-345-8755 o [ruak.org](http://ruak.org).

## Rally for Breast Cancer Prevention

Breast cancer survivor and healthcare professional Geraldine Adams, RN, of Greenbelt, will lead a breast cancer prevention rally from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, October 5, at Roosevelt Center. She and other breast cancer prevention advocates will be joined by drummers from the local group, Sound Check, who will beat the drums for breast cancer prevention for the gathered crowd. October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and this event is organized by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

The Physicians Committee encourages people to reduce breast cancer risk by following the research-backed four-pronged approach: eat a whole-food, plant-based diet; exercise regularly; limit alcohol; and maintain a healthy weight. For more information email Geraldine Adams at [ghadams58@gmail.com](mailto:ghadams58@gmail.com). This event is sponsored by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.

## Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities, including a Halloween scavenger hunt, for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. This monthly program is an introduction to reading aloud to children as a way to instill the love of literature. After the readings, the children can stay and play with balls in the gym. There will be free children's books and free healthy, nutritious snacks. Come, and spread the word to friends and family. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585530](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585530).

Los Niños Leen y Juegan El viernes 11 de octubre a las 10:30 a.m. en el Centro Recreativo de Springhill Lake, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) con el Sistema de Bibliotecas Conmemorativas del Condado de Prince George's presentarán interesantes historias y actividades divertidas (búsqueda del tesoro de Halloween) para niños pequeños y sus cuidadores, para ayudar a desarrollar las habilidades de alfabetización temprana. Este programa mensual es una introducción a la lectura en voz alta a los niños como forma de inculcar el amor por la literatura. Después de las lecturas, los niños pueden quedarse y jugar con pelotas en el gimnasio. Habrá libros infantiles gratis y aperitivos saludables y nutritivos. Como dijo un padre al irse, "Fue muy bueno!" Unete a nosotros, y corra la voz a amigos y familiares.

## Next Artful Afternoon On Sunday, October 6

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program will host an Art Studio Open House and Sale as part of an expanded format Artful Afternoon on Sunday, October 6. The event takes place from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Community Center. Tour the studios of the Center's artists in residence, and mingle with additional Greenbelt Recreation arts instructors and guests. Shop for beautiful handmade wares and fine art. Participating artists include but are not limited to the following: Chris Corson (ceramic sculpture), Rachel Cross (assemblage), Gina Denn (pottery and sculpture), Mary Gawlik (art tile), Kathy Karlson (painting), Mary Ann Lipovsky (painting), Amanda Spaid (painting and illustration), Maureen Stone (stained glass) and Vanessa Zanin (fiber arts).

Guests can also tour the Greenbelt Access Television (GATE) production studio and participate in free, hands-on activities. Visit the Art Gallery to see an exhibition of experimental fashion by Cassidy English and paintings by Cindy Mehr, open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. A free, wearable art workshop for all ages will take place in Room 201 from 1 to 3 p.m., inspired by the art of Cassidy English. Advance signup is recommended for the workshop: <https://bit.ly/4gd5O4F>. Walk-ins are also welcome on a space-available basis.



City of Greenbelt teaching artists Amanda Spaid and Chris Corson are among those featured in this Sunday's Art Studio Open House and Sale, part of an Artful Afternoon at the Greenbelt Community Center.

- Photos by Greenbelt Recreation staff

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## Next Free Makerspace Repair Café Saturday

The next free Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café is on Saturday, October 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Granite Building, 115 Centerway. Learn how to repair tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (experienced and novice volunteers needed). Bring clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. See tools. [greenbeltmakers.org](http://greenbeltmakers.org) for more information. Borrow tools and other things at the Tool Library on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Protect from Gases

On Thursdays in October, the Greenbelt Public Safety Advisory Committee is hosting an interactive presentation on how to protect the home and people from the life-threatening dangers of radon and carbon monoxide and how to prepare for severe weather events. The presentation will be given at the Greenbriar Community Center on October 10; at the Community Center, Room 200 on October 17; and at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center on October 24. Each presentation begins at 7 p.m.

## Campfire Programs At Greenbelt Park

Saturday, October 5 at 7 p.m., Campfire Program: Drumming with Katy and Friends. Come to the campfire to hear the rhythm and beats of the drums. Extra drums are available, and participation is encouraged.

Saturday, October 12 at 7 p.m., join a historian from the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site for a talk about the great civil rights leader from Washington, D.C.

For both programs, meet at 7 p.m. at the Campfire Circle in B loop of the campground. For more information, call 771-208-1588 or check the park's website, [nps.gov/gree](http://nps.gov/gree).

## This Week at the New Deal Café

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

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.



113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

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

TH 10/03	FRI 10/04	SAT 10/05	SUN 10/06	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30-10pm Big, bodacious blues jam	The Wharf Rats 7-10pm Shakin' psychedelic jam band playing tasty originals, Grateful Dead and more!	Jill Fulton Band 7-10pm Nashville artist covers and originals of country, blues and soul	Corned Beef Hash 6-8pm Join us for a Celtic Rosh Hashone with this folk-fusion band	
MON 10/07	TUES 10/08	WED 10/09	TH 10/10	SPECIALS!
The Monday Mauveness Karaoke 6-9pm Hosted by Mike Bennett	NDC Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 7-9:30pm Sign-ups at 6:15pm	Jeff Miller 7-9pm Nashville singer-songwriter with great guitar skills & a strong voice	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Gina DeSimone & The Moaners 7-9pm Electic, upbeat mix of music	HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE

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

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

THE NDC NEEDS YOUR VOLUNTEER TIME ON COMMITTEES.

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

**Greenbelt Access Television**  
Oct 5, Sat - Oct 11, Fri  
Verizon FiOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

**THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station**  
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)  
**Suppressed and Sabotaged: The Fight To Vote (2024)**  
This 30-minute documentary film focuses on the swelling wave of efforts to disenfranchise voters across the U.S., including the personal stories of folks in battleground states who represent those disproportionately affected by voter suppression.

New This Month  
**Music From the New Deal Cafe SEASON 8**  
One of our favorite original GATE Member productions, Music From the New Deal, is back for Season 8! At 2pm and 10pm, you can tune in for an hour of live music from various talented, independent musicians.

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

# Obituaries



## Thomas J. Payne



Thomas and Barbara Payne

Thomas Joseph "Tom" Payne died peacefully at his home in Greenbelt on September 20, 2024. Tom was born on January 9, 1948, and was raised in Riverdale before moving to Hyattsville. He attended St. Jerome's Catholic Parochial School through grades 1 to 8 and graduated from DeMatha Catholic High School, class of 1966. He was a computer operator for many years and worked in a security role at Leisure World before retiring.

Tom married Barbara Eshelman, who was originally from Essex, Md., on September 28, 1985. Tom and Barbara enjoyed traveling together with trips to Arizona, Maine, Nevada and Canada, as well as many local areas within Maryland. They also enjoyed participating in volkmarches in their younger years together. They shared a mutual love of the many cats they rescued during their married years and especially their last feline companions, Shieba and Frisky. They enjoyed their tight-knit community in Old Greenbelt, surrounded by many wonderful neighbors and friends, and they would often attend neighborhood celebrations and events.

Tom enjoyed traveling on ski trips and getting out on the

slopes, as well as swimming at the YMCA in his younger years and walking whenever he could get outdoors. He also had a love of history.

He was an active member of the Catholic Church, attending St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Hyattsville as well as St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church in Greenbelt. For several years, he assisted with the Meals on Wheels program, delivering food to the homebound. His family and friends will remember Tom for his kindness and sincerity, his devotion to his Catholic faith and his unending love of animals.

Tom was predeceased by his wife Barbara; his parents Howard Brent Payne and Florence Josephine Payne of Hyattsville; his older siblings, Richard B. "Dick" Payne and Margaret E. "Peggy" (Payne) McConnell. Tom is survived by his older brother, John F. Payne (Susan), of Centreville, Md.; as well as nieces, nephews, great-nieces and one great-nephew.

A mass of Christian Burial will be held on October 14, 2024, at St. Hugh of Grenoble, 135 Crescent Road at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at Gate of Heaven Catholic Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.

## Barbara Payne

Barbara Ann Payne of Greenbelt, born on January 11, 1942, died on June 23, 2024. Her husband, Thomas Payne, survived her until his death on September 20, 2024.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Heartland Hospice, 12304 Baltimore Avenue, Suite A, Beltsville, MD 20705.

## Mark Price



Mark Wayne Price

Mark Wayne Price died on September 28, 2024, in Hagerstown. Mark was a beloved husband, dedicated father, cherished son, brother, uncle and friend.

Mark dedicated many years of his life to the publishing industry before spending the last 16 years at Frederick Community College, positively impacting the lives of countless individuals along the way. His commitment to his career was just one reflection of the diligence and passion that characterized his life.

A proud graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Mark held strong connections with his family and friends. He often reminisced about the joyful summers spent visiting his sister and family in Myrtle Beach, S.C., a

place that always felt like home and where he had envisioned retirement with his wife, Leslie, and their daughter, Kelli.

Family was everything to Mark. He was preceded in death by his father Eugene Price and his brother Lenny. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Leslie Price; his daughter, Kelli Price; his mother, Elizabeth Price; and his sisters, Wanda Mooney, Sharon Price, and Donna Price. His pride and joy will forever be his beautiful daughter Kelli, whom he often spoke of with overwhelming love. She was known to all, thanks to her father's unwavering admiration and pride.

He loved to bowl with family and friends, bringing people together for friendly competition and cherished memories. An avid football fan, he remained a dedicated supporter of The Washington Commanders, often sharing his enthusiasm for the game with those around him.

Friends and family are invited to pay their respects during the viewing at Gasch's Funeral Home, on October 3, 2024, from 11 a.m. to noon, followed by the funeral service at noon. A graveside service will take place afterward at 1:45 p.m.

Condolences to the family and friends of Tom and Barbara Payne, who will be missed by their neighbors in Greenbelt and the St. Hugh's community.

Condolences, also, to the family of Mark Wayne Price, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School alumnus. He will be remembered for his love of family, passion for football and professional dedication. Services will be held this Thursday, October 3; see the obituary for details.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.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. A second Rosh Hashanah service will be held Friday, October 4 and Yom Kippur services will be held on Friday, October 11 and Saturday, October 12. Children's services will be available. Learn more and register on the website at MishkanTorah.org.



"Man must be just. We must set aside bias and prejudice. We must abandon the imitations of ancestors and forefathers. We ourselves must investigate reality and be fair in judgment." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**  
www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...

**The Ten Commandments #4-Keep Holy The Sabbath**  
Exodus 20:8-11

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

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**  
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

October 6, 2024 at 3 p.m.  
**For Such a Time as This**  
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Anne Hoover

In the spirit of our October theme (Justice), we'll share a service centered in the life, legacy, and light of Fannie Lou Hamer. Together we'll reflect upon a lifetime spent fighting for many kinds of justice (social, racial, political, environmental, economic, etc.) – and the many ways she was truly ahead of her time

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

**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

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

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
One Hillside Road

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

We are an Open and Affirming Church

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

**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

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

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

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
For ZOOM link:  
[CCG1985+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)



# 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 OCTOBER 7 - 11

Monday, October 7 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - DISCUSSION OF REALLOCATION OF ARPA FUNDS**

Monday, October 7 (Immediately Following the Work Session), **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION - CITY MANAGER'S EVALUATION PROCESS**

Wednesday, October 9 at 7:30 pm, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA) AND DEPLOYMENT AND STATUS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS), AND POLICE**

Thursday, October 10 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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/registration) required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov) or register online at <https://forms.gle/dhZUfpvysMDbGUiQKA>.

### 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).
- 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!

### FALL FEST

October 12 / 2 - 5 pm

Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway

Join us on October 12, from 2-5 pm, at Schrom Hills Park (6915 Hanover Parkway) for our annual Fall Festival!

With games, moon bounces, pumpkin decorating, a hayride, and more, you won't want to miss out on this magic!

For more information, call Greenbelt Recreation at (301) 397-2200.

### PUMPKIN FESTIVAL: CARVINGS & WALKS

October 12, 18, & 19

Various locations in Greenbelt. See Activity Guide Page 7 or the [City Calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/citycalendar)

Participate in Greenbelt's tradition of pumpkin carving, followed by a walk to enjoy the creative pumpkin trail. Email [greenbeltpumpkinfestival@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltpumpkinfestival@gmail.com).

### WILD RUMPUS HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION

Friday, October 25

Roosevelt Center, 121 Centerway

Community costume party with trick or treating, performances, and a free short film at the Greenbelt Cinema. (Free for all ages)

**Pre-Rumpus Activities: Sun, 10/13:** Make a backpack puppet to parade at the Wild Rumpus. **Sun, 10/19:** Learn a flash mob dance and make a wearable musical instrument! Register in advance for workshops!

### FEATURED PETS

#### AMETHYST

Ready for Adoption?  
Call (301) 474-6124

1-year-old Amethyst has been in foster since July and has been such a great houseguest. Her fosters say that she's potty trained, great on walks, and great with people and other dogs, but that she has separation anxiety when she's left by herself for too long. Amethyst would do best with a patient adopter who can spend quality time with her and work on her training. She might also benefit from a doggy roommate to keep her company!

If you're interested in adopting the awesome Amethyst, call (301) 474-6124 or [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).

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Monday, October 7, 2024, immediately following the Council Work Session – Discussion of Reallocation of ARPA Funds, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to discuss the appointment, performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to discuss the City Manager's Evaluation Process.

\* *The public may attend the Special Council Meeting of the City Council immediately before the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Monday, October 7, 2024.*

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

In accordance with Section 3-305(b)(9) and (10) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Municipal Building: 1) to conduct collective bargaining negotiations or consider matters that relate to the negotiations; 2) to discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including: (i) the deployment of fire and police services and staff; and (ii) the development and implementation of emergency plans

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to discuss the City and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 32 agreement regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA); and 2) to discuss the Deployment and Status of the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), and Police Services.

\* *The public may attend the Special Meeting of the City Council immediately prior to the closed session and observe the vote of the Council to move into the closed session on Wednesday, October 9, 2024.*

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

### 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.

### 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-swig 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.

### 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.

## PGFD continued from page 1

of the fire department personnel who responded have been suspended; a third entered the engine as it was leaving the station and has not been suspended, Doubleday said, when asked about the number of personnel onboard. "The volunteer driver and volunteer officer have been operationally suspended for violations of multiple Fire/EMS Department Policies," stated Doubleday.

"Since June 30, which was the start of the Summer Staffing Plan, over 943 emergency response incidents have been dispatched in Greenbelt. To date, this is the only incident in which responding Fire/EMS units have failed to meet adequate response time goals," a statement shared by Doubleday said.

The statement did not include what the response time goals are but, in a letter to City Manager Josué Salmerón on June 7 announcing the reallocation of Greenbelt's career firefighters, Fire Chief Tiffany Green stated that Greenbelt is "covered within eight minutes from the time of dispatch by surrounding stations within a five-mile radius, which meets a metric supported and recommended by our consultants, Fitch & Associates." (One of the stations identified by Green is Berwyn Heights, a station that also saw its career firefighters

removed and another is West Lanham Hills, the station that responded to this incident.) A 2022 Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover report from Fitch and Associates states, "For all fire incidents (low, moderate, high, and maximum risk), the 90th percentile of total response time for the arrival of the first due unit, staffed with a minimum of three firefighters, shall be 8 minutes and 0 seconds (urban) or 12 minutes and 0 seconds (rural)." It appears, however, that a second incident at Green Ridge House that morning also exceeded an eight minute 0 seconds response time as measured from dispatch to on scene arrival (see article below).

Though the alarm was an Automatic Fire Alarm it is treated as an emergency response because they do not know what they'll find until they get there, says Doubleday. Within emergency responses there are varying sizes of response. An Automatic Fire Alarm receives a response of one engine. Meanwhile, something classified as a Street Alarm receives two engines and a Box Alarm receives four. There are 50 firefighters per Box Alarm. When something is reported as a Two-Alarm fire, that reflects a response requirement of two boxes, explained Doubleday.

## Understanding Response Times for P.G. Fire Department Calls

Varying times have been reported for the response to the fire alarm at Green Ridge House on Monday, September 23. It must be noted that different metrics are used in calculating these times, depending on whether the beginning is set as the call time, incident creation time or engine dispatch time.

### County Fire Department

Incident details from the Prince George's County Fire Department (PGFD) show the following:

No reported call time (this is something created by Public Safety Communications rather than the Fire Department, PGFD Director of Public Information Alan Doubleday told the News Review); an incident time of 10:26:16 a.m.; a dispatch time of 10:26:53 (this is the point where the call is made over the radio and answered and when the fire department begins counting their response time); an en-route time of 10:28:48; and an on-scene time of 10:41:27. The fire department reports a response time of 14 minutes and 32 seconds. The News Review calculates their response time (measured from dispatch to on-scene arrival using their data) was 14 minutes 34 seconds.

## Letters ct'd. from p.2

to clarify: "This year marked the Festival's full return, after cancellations and social distancing requirements in prior years due to Covid."

In fact there were two post-pandemic years, notably 2022 and 2023, with full schedules of participating bands. Last year marked the Festival's 20th Anniversary and included an

exciting jam with many musicians and vocalists from past years. You could say we got lucky and that is true. Because while the pandemic may be behind us, we know Covid is still here in our community.

Barbara (B.B.) Bjanes  
Greenbelt Blues Festival  
Committee Member

# Taller Gates Cut Fare Evasion At Greenbelt Metro, Improve Safety

by Randy Chow

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) installed taller, stronger, saloon-styled fare gates at the Greenbelt Metro Station this summer. This is part of a larger initiative from WMATA to reduce fare evasion.

While the previously designed fare doors were 28 inches tall, the new 55-inch tall doors – almost half as tall as an NBA basketball hoop – are "twice as strong, and more resilient," according to a WMATA press release. The new L-shape door panel extends over the fare gate, reducing the gaps between its openings. The swing doors are polycarbonate, which is lighter and more durable than glass.

"We have already seen a reduction in fare evasion and expect the higher gates will be more of a deterrent," said Randy Clarke, WMATA general manager and chief executive officer.

Jordan Pascale, WMATA media relations manager, reported that before the installation of the new fare gates, Greenbelt station had about 400-500 instances of fare evasion per day. Now, it's down to less than 70 or so.

"We aim to further reduce the number with regular fare evasion patrols at various stations by the Metro Transit Police Department," Pascale said. "While these efforts will help deter and reduce



PHOTO BY RANDY CHOW

New taller, stronger, saloon-style fare gates were installed at Greenbelt Metro Station this summer.

fare evasion, we will never be able to fully eliminate the issue."

The public's feedback, Pascale said, has been "overwhelmingly positive" regarding the new fare gates. Fare evasion and safety are riders' most common concerns. "When we stop people for crimes in the system, they usually have fare-evaded into the system, so by raising the gates, we're addressing some of the top rider concerns at the same time," Pascale said.

The reduced number of fare evasions has led WMATA to

expect an increase in revenue, but at the time of this reporting, there is not a concrete estimate.

By the end of September, all stations are expected to be retrofitted with new fare gates.

"It is critical for Metro to collect as much fare revenue as possible and keep the system safe, so we have a transit system worthy of this great region," said Clarke.

Randy Chow is a student at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.

## Mary Poppins At MAD Theater

NASA Goddard's Music & Drama Club (MAD) presents the musical Mary Poppins for four weekends, November 1 to 23 at the Barney & Bea Recreation Center on Good Luck Road. Tickets must be bought in advance and some shows are already sold out.

The play is based on the beloved Disney movie and features songs like A Spoonful of Sugar, Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious and Chim Chim Cheree. With an 11-piece live orchestra and a cast of 52 talented actors and dancers performing in the round, the audience can expect a large and colorful spectacle.

The show is directed by Greenbelter Jon Gardner. Many of the roles are double-cast and the show features several Greenbelt residents, so check the website to find out which shows your favorite actor(s) are in.

Visit madtheater.org for more information and ticket sales.

## ACC Carpets

Retail at Wholesale prices  
We have over 10,000 yds. of carpet in stock for immediate installation.  
Vinyl Flooring, Wood, Custom cutting and binding available

10220 Southard Drive  
Beltsville, MD  
(right next to Costco)

10% discount with this Ad  
410-490-1836



**MAD**  
NASA'S MAD Theater  
presents  
Disney and  
Cameron MacIntosh's

**MARY POPPINS**

4 weekends  
November 1-23  
Tickets \$26/\$24/\$14  
[www.madtheater.org](http://www.madtheater.org)

A Musical based on the stories of P.L.Travers and the Walt Disney Film

Scan Me

Fresh Fruit Sale  
Order by November 3rd

**Eleanor Roosevelt High School Band Fundraiser**

[tinyurl.com/ERHSBandFruit](http://tinyurl.com/ERHSBandFruit)

Election 2024

# Ballot's Question F Is On Charter Amendment



On the Prince George's County ballot this November, in addition to five questions relating to bonds is an amendment to the Prince George's County Charter, which is the county's equivalent of a constitution. Question F is about county agency staffing levels, reading: "To provide that

during any fiscal year, no agency of county government may exceed the number of positions for that agency as approved in the operating budget without the prior approval of the council." The question was recommended by a Charter Review Commission in March 2022.

# Mail-in Ballot Drop Box Locations near Greenbelt

Mail-in ballots may now be deposited in drop boxes around the county. Ballots may be dropped off until 8 p.m. on election day, November 5.

Some drop box locations near Greenbelt are:

Berwyn Heights Community Center, 6200 Pontiac Street, Berwyn Heights

College Park Community Center, 5051 Pierce Avenue, College Park

Good Luck Community Center, 8601 Good Luck Road, Lanham

A complete list can be found on the Prince George's County Board of Elections website at [princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/board-elections](http://princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/board-elections).



# 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.



PHOTO BY CAROL GRIFFITH

On Tuesday, October 1 the Greenbelt Cinema hosted a free showing of the vice presidential debate to a slightly smaller and more subdued crowd than that of the presidential debate. Many attendees played a theater-sponsored game of "bingo" by noting words and topics expected to be discussed. A winner was chosen and awarded a small prize.



Election 2024

# When Choosing the Lesser Of Two Evils Makes Sense

by Ivota Yduntu

A Greenbelter was recently overheard saying she really hated one candidate and was absolutely against his winning an election. But she was also not keen on the only other choice, so she wasn't going to vote at all. She felt that would show where she stood.

Alas, however, not voting doesn't show anybody anything and leads to the wrong outcome when a race is close.

### Why Say This?

Logic! Let's suppose months of searching came up with only two viable candidates for a job, Donnie and Kammie, and a committee of nine is formed to choose between them. Of the committee:

- Five people can't stand Donnie but some of these aren't very keen on Kammie either.

- Four inexplicably think Donnie is the best thing since sliced bread.

### The Vote Is Held

Donnie's four supporters vote for him as expected. But two of the five people who can't stand Donnie (but don't much like

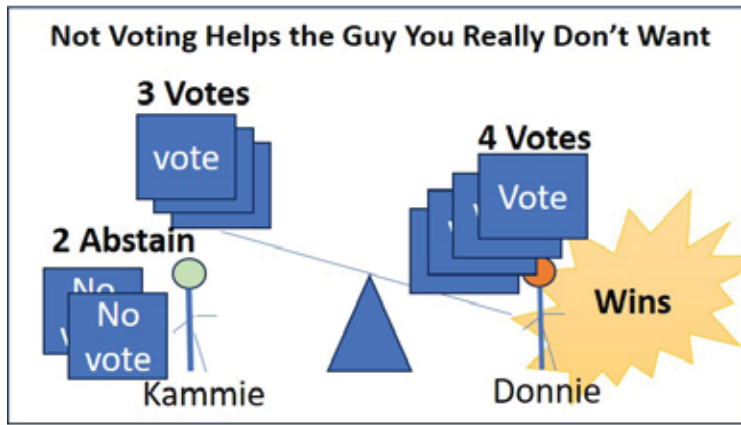
Kammie) abstain because they think a better alternative should have been available. Kammie thus gets only three of the five likely votes and Donnie wins 4 to 3 - even though the majority of the committee can't stand him. The anti-Donnie folks are shocked that he won.

### What Does This Mean?

Donnie wins because two of the nine people didn't exercise their right to vote. He wins because, in fact, the electorate was only seven of the nine possible people (the abstentions counted for absolutely nothing). Even though the majority was against Donnie, he won because not all the majority voted.

What the two abstainers failed to realize was that a vote for Kammie was, in fact, a vote against Donnie, and that not voting for Kammie favored Donnie.

In a close race where the stakes are so high, it is crucial to be counted because not voting is actually a silent vote for the side the individual is opposed to.



GRAPHIC BY IVOTA YDUNTU

# Celebrate College Park Day Saturday, October 5

College Park Day is on Saturday, October 5 from noon to 6 p.m. at the College Park Aviation Museum and Airport. This annual festival has free activities and entertainment for all ages.

There will be live entertainment on two stages, plus a community performance area. On the main stage, local bands will play live music; the family stage features fun for children and families. The new community performance area will highlight local cultural dances and traditions throughout the day.

In addition, there will be wandering performers, crafts, activities, games, races, bounce houses, obstacle courses and so much more. Aviation enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy browsing the College Park Aviation Museum's exhibits (for free on College Park Day) and a helicopter fly-in.

The event features a wide variety of food and drink vendors with local restaurants, food trucks and breweries in attendance. Free parking will be available nearby, along with a free shuttle service from select locations, and bike racks. The event site is minutes away on foot from the College Park-UMD Metro Station. For more information including parking, performance schedules and more, visit [collegeparkday.org](http://collegeparkday.org). Hosted by the City of College Park.

# Poetry, Spoken Word Programs at TheSPACE

A Poetry and Spoken Word Workshop, Coffee with Whiskey, will be offered for people age 13 and older on Saturdays, October 19 and 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. with @WhiskeyGirlDC.

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# School News

## County Schools Ask for Patience As Busing Improves for Some

by Kit Slack

Last week the News Review reported the school transportation experiences of several Greenbelt families. This article considers how the district is handling transportation.

### Still Not Enough Drivers

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has attributed problems with transportation to a national bus driver shortage. That shortage continues in the county this year, with about 200 vacancies, similar to last year.

PGCPS hired 50 of its current 860 bus drivers since last October, according to Kristi Murphy Baldwin, chief human resources officer for PGCPS. At an August 29 school board meeting, Baldwin explained that 118 drivers resigned in the past school year, including 31 who retired. She said more than 40 people were currently in the process of getting their commercial driver's license with the district's help, and that PGCPS has started paying related expenses. Another 30 candidates are in training.

Baldwin said that her department held 40 driver recruitment events last year, including 27 in person. She is shifting the season for the driver recruitment push earlier, given the time needed for candidates to acquire a commercial license.

Driver shortages in the school system aren't a new problem, though they deepened during the pandemic – the system was short 150 drivers in December 2019, according to a press release at that time. A 2016 report found a persistent driver shortage. Back in 2000, The Washington Post reported that PGCPS was short 100 drivers, the largest gap among area school districts.

Drivers have blamed the shortage on inadequate pay for new drivers. Minimum starting pay for new bus drivers is \$21.98 per hour. Starting pay in Prince George's County is lower than in neighboring Montgomery County, and much lower than starting Metrobus driver rates.

### Improvements

At the August 29 meeting, school officials asked for patience. "We're looking to make progress, but not promise perfection," said Charoscar Coleman, PGCPS chief operating officer. Coleman said they were in the first week of a three-year project to improve transportation.

At the same meeting, Keba Baldwin, transportation director, spoke about a recent reorganization of school start times that should help kids get to school on time. Now the number of schools starting early (7:30 a.m.) and starting late (9:30 a.m.) is more even, according to Baldwin, which should allow more drivers to successfully complete staggered routes. School end times are less well aligned, though those too have improved, according to Baldwin.

Baldwin also pointed to success in consolidating bus routes. The number of stops in the system has gone down from 13,900 to 10,800 compared to last fall, he said, and the buses are now



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

School buses line up outside Dora Kennedy French Immersion during the first week of school.

62 percent full instead of 53 percent.

Baldwin said that the average one-way bus ride for students has gone up by only one minute, to 63 minutes.

PGCPS has been able to achieve these successes in part because, using a new process, the families of 7,000 students have formally opted out of PGCPS transportation, according to Baldwin. [Editor's note: the number of students opting out may be related to unreliable service and frustration with the transportation system as parents, like some of those mentioned in last week's article, find alternatives such as driving and carpooling when school transportation can't get their children to and from school in a timely manner.]

However, nearly 81,000 of 124,700 enrolled students still rely on a school bus, according to an August report by the district.

Over the next three years, the system's transportation will focus on improving four key outcomes, according to an August 26 presentation to a school board committee: decreasing routes with no drivers; getting more buses to school on time; getting more families to use the StopFinder app, which helps parents track students' buses; and reducing the number of buses that go back to the same school to pick up a second load of children.

Baldwin said the district would report on these metrics every quarter, with the help of the transportation consultants

who audited the school district last year.

### What Families Say

The early mornings are difficult for students who are not getting to school on time. At the August 29 school board meeting, 7-year-old Isaiah Smith stood at the podium, hands over his mouth, as his mother played a message he had recorded: "The problem is the bus is getting me to school late, and there's no time to eat breakfast. ... I end up being hungry all day."

What's more, not all students who need buses have them. A West Hyattsville parent cited safety concerns that prevent her child and others from walking to Northwestern. Her family lives just under two miles from school, too close for a high schooler to be entitled to a bus. Other students, nearly two weeks into the school year, had a bus in the morning but no assigned afternoon bus.

At least one morning bus, to Thomas G. Pullen K-8 Creative and Performing Arts School, is scheduled to arrive well after the start of school.

Overall, the morning seems to be going more smoothly than the evening. At the school board meeting parents reported children getting home two hours after the end of school because of long bus rides home, sometimes following long waits at schools for buses to arrive.

See BUSES, page 9

## SCHOOL BOARD cont'd from page 1

that there are many initiatives in place to address this, such as hiring fairs, certification programs, professional development efforts and the recruitment of retired teachers. Establishing adequate teacher salaries is a priority.

Having enough crossing guards is another concern. This is handled mainly by the county's police department. Mayor Emmett Jordan expressed the challenges faced in this position as many are asked to monitor different areas in the course of a day. The Safe Passage Initiative, begun in the southern section of the county, has now been applied countywide, said Briggs.

### StopFinder App

PGCPS continues to use the StopFinder app to alert parents to school bus arrivals. Upgrades have been made to increase efficiency, said Briggs, but there are still some technical issues that will need to be addressed. Some routes have been consolidated, meaning fewer drivers and more students per bus.

### Recreation

Council was eager to partner the city's recreational needs with the city's schools, such as the use of fields. Briggs said that he would work to get the issue on the board's upcoming agenda, explaining that the Board's Office of General Counsel would need to weigh in as well. He understood the frustration felt by all in what Councilmember Danielle McKinney described as "a spinning conversation" for years.

### Overcrowding, Teacher Ratios

The high number of "temporaries" – classrooms placed in trailers when there is insufficient space in the main school buildings – that exist at most of the city's schools was discussed. Space shortage remains the primary factor, but Briggs said that some temporaries are being used for specialty subjects.

This led to a discussion on the need for monitoring the influx of

new students to the region. This is a major factor in the need to create new school boundaries to preserve the proper student-to-teacher ratios, said Briggs. He said that this issue is being analyzed on a regular basis. While he said that no new boundaries are planned, he could not guarantee that this necessity will not arise again. Generally, such considerations begin in October with ample notice made of any changes sent in December, he told council.

Briggs stated that all future school construction projects are contained in the Educational Facilities Master Plan. These projects are under regular review, factoring in data such as student population growth, he said. He said that no new plans are in place for Eleanor Roosevelt High School (which utilizes several temporary classrooms for space). Briggs said that funding for these capital projects comes from the county.

Briggs said that, while the recent Blueprint for Maryland's Future law contains funding for school construction, counties must often still look for alternate revenue streams. The law also seeks to cap teacher salaries at \$60,000, he said.

Jordan urged PGCPS to stay in constant conversation with the county's agencies dealing with any future developments and construction to ensure the best possible outcomes for Greenbelt. Briggs said that the Board has input on all aspects of developments. The redevelopment of Beltway Plaza was mentioned, with its likely influx of many new students to Greenbelt.

### DKFI Move

The permanent transition of Dora Kennedy French Immersion School (DKFI) to the location of Robert Goddard Montessori School on Good Luck Road was

See SCHOOL BOARD, p. 9

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# Council Approves Expenditures; Highlights Breast Cancer Rallies

by Joseph Abelardo Conaty

On Monday, September 23, Greenbelt City Council approved all-resident voting legislation (see last week's issue). In addition, council heard petitions and requests, recognized October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, argued over a city vehicle engine replacement, approved upfitting five police vehicles and more.

## Petitions and Requests

Among multiple petitions and requests, Lois Rosado joined via Zoom to ensure that the financial request submitted by the Reparations Commission was received. The commission will need a substantial budget if they are going to move into Phase II of their work and complete it shortly, said Rosado. They will need expertise that is going to come from outside individuals, she explained. Mayor Emmett Jordan affirmed they had received the request.

Resident Frankie Fritz, of Ridge Road, was excited that a Capital Bike Share station is

planned for the Greenbelt Metro that should be in operation by the end of the year. He asked the body to keep public works on that timeline, emphasizing the benefit in terms of accessibility, for those who miss the last bus, for example. "I think it would bring a lot of value to the community," said Fritz. "And I would like to see that project completed as quickly as possible!" Jordan said there will also be a station at Hanover Parkway near Eleanor Roosevelt High School by the end of the year. "We've been waiting a long, long time," said Jordan.

## Breast Cancer Awareness

The next order of business was proclaiming October to be Breast Cancer Awareness Month. After receiving the proclamation from the council, Joyce Bailey, Judy Parker and Catherine Brannan invited people to a Beat the Drum Rally at Roosevelt Center on October 5 from 11 a.m. to

1 p.m. that will include breast cancer survivors, community advocates, local experts and local band percussionists to promote breast cancer awareness. "Eat plant-based foods, exercise regularly, limit alcohol, aim for an ideal weight," advised Bailey. "We look forward to joining together for this important cause," she said.

Joining via Zoom, the manager of Cancer Prevention programs at Doctors Hospital, Mini'imah Wilson said that they will hold their annual Pink Ribbon Rally at the hospital on October 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. "At Doctors Community Hospital we have several programs that allow women to get screenings if they are uninsured or underinsured." There is transportation and assistance if they need help to get mammograms, said Wilson. The Pink Ribbon

See COUNCIL, page 13

# SCHOOL BOARD cont'd from page 8

discussed. This will occur for the 2026-2027 school year. The current DKFI building will then be used by students of Springhill Lake Elementary School (SHL), while their new school is being built. Once it's completed and the SHL students are relocated, the building will no longer be owned and maintained by PGCPSS, said Briggs, and it may be turned over to the county. Council was keen to make use of this building and would much like to be involved in any future discussions on its purpose. Providing transportation for DKFI students to the new location is under consideration, said Briggs.

## GES Internet Outage

Briggs said that House was made aware of the recent day-and-a-half internet outage at Greenbelt Elementary School (GES). The school's phone lines only work when the internet does and there is a single landline, which meant that the phones at the school didn't work. Briggs explained it as an outage in the Verizon network. Internet not only affects instruction but communication in and out of the building, said PTA President Jessica O'Roark. "When the internet is down, the phone lines are down," said O'Roark. She believes the single landline in the building can be used to call out in an emergency but isn't used to receive calls. In addition, cell phones often don't have reception in the building due to its cinder-block construction. All present were concerned with the safety implications of this and were

eager to develop new protocols to address this vital infrastructure issue and how to deal with emergencies. Briggs said he would email the superintendent about safety measures and communication protocol in those instances.

PGCPSS allows cell phones in school, said Briggs, yet they are not to be used in normal circumstances during the school day. In the case of an emergency, mass autocalls are made to parents, he said. Councilmember Amy Knesel commented that this system is quite effective in her experience.

## ESSER Funds

The possible use of the remaining approximately \$780 million of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds was raised by resident John Appiah-Duffell. The deadline for allocation is September 30. If not allocated, these funds return to the federal government. Briggs said that as the PGCPSS budget has already been ratified, that opportunity for use has likely ended.

Arcido said that ACE is eager to partner with all Greenbelt schools to provide assistance in any areas not fully addressed by PGCPSS. ACE provides grants in several areas, like winter clothing. Briggs said that he would be happy to be a conduit for such efforts.

He also emphasized that he is always available for questions and concerns. Constituents can reach him via the PGCPSS webpage and sign up to receive his newsletter.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

A doe and buck greet each other at the Lake while the fawn in front ignores their public display of affection.

# BUSES continued from page 8

## Where Are Our Kids?

PGCPSS is prioritizing continued rollout of the StopFinder app. The district has used a bus route app of some kind since at least 2019.

Parents noted that the PGCPSS StopFinder app seemed to be finally working, even in the first weeks of school. The app, introduced in August 2021, shows parents where their child's bus is on its route. Parents can set up alerts that tell them when the bus arrives at school or at their bus stop. However, some parents also reported watching in the app as their bus went back to the school or the transportation lot, skipping their child's stop.

Coleman said the school district needs StopFinder in part because of the call volume, sometimes 6,000 calls a day in the

first few weeks. Even with extra seasonal staff and an average call time of five minutes, PGCPSS can only process 2,000 calls in the morning and 2,000 calls in the afternoon. Call wait times are one hour this time of year.

School board members passed along parents' complaints that buses were not properly synced to the StopFinder app. Staff said PGCPSS is reviewing that problem twice a day with an aim to make rapid progress.

"It takes time for improvement to take root and become routine," Coleman said, citing the large number of staff participating in the StopFinder rollout.

This article first appeared in Streetcar Suburbs News (<https://streetcarsuburbs.news/>) and is reprinted here with permission.

## The SPACE: Free Art For All Fall Programs

Join in commemorating five incredible years and a host of new community partners at The SPACE: Free Art For All.

Mondays: Fiber Folks Meetup, 4 to 7 p.m.

3rd Tuesdays, Reel Inspiration, 4 to 7 p.m. Watch an art-themed movie and then create artwork inspired by the film. For those age 13 and older.

Wednesdays: Beginners Music Classes in Ukelele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Saturdays: Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m.

Sundays: Sewing Classes, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For questions call 240-244-6115.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Greenbelt Elementary School

## MYTH

Question 1 will do away with "parental rights" in Maryland.

## FACT

Voting "YES" on question 1 doesn't change current Maryland law. It protects the rights we currently have by codifying them into our state constitution. Vote YES on question 1!

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# MAGIC OF WORDS


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**City Notes**

The City Manager's Office reported addressing a downed light post on Greenbelt Station Parkway to be repaired by Pepco in two weeks, a water leak at 37 Ridge Road to be repaired October 2 and security camera installation at the Armory, and working to transfer utilities from MD/ HUD to Greenbelt, as well as a check-in with Tribesby regarding DEI Audit Phase II.

The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office held several community focus groups to gather experiences, feedback and ideas for city services.

Economic Development held a Hotel Business Roundtable, visited seven Beltway Plaza businesses, attended a Greenbelt Business Alliance networking event and met with Willdan Financial toward completing the economic development strategic plan.

The Public Information Office completed employee videos for Hispanic Heritage Month.

CARES staff completed the Stanford University Neurodiversity Summit 2024 Training.

Code Enforcement inspected several apartment and commercial properties.

Planning attended the District Council on LOL Daycare's application (which was conditionally approved), coordinated with contractors for ARPA improvements at bus stops and connected with County Department of Public Works and Transportation staff on the Draft FY 2025-2030 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program Priority Letter.

The Animal Shelter has five dogs, four adult cats, and one kitten, of which four dogs are cruelty cases. Two cats and one dog are at foster homes.

Recreation coordinated revisions to the Schrom Hills Park soccer field renovation, and the Youth Center hosted Kidz Connect and Teen Takeover youth programs.

Arts held fall classes and workshops, with special activities including a felting workshop, a ceramic wood fire workshop, an Art Share and the first of three Smart Phone Filmmaking workshops offered with GATe.



**Toastmasters Meet**

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

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# Council and Community Discuss Armory, Safety, Greenbelt Living

by Julian Dowling Ford

At the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee's annual Open Forum on Saturday, September 21, Mayor Emmett Jordan and some of the Greenbelt City Councilmembers discussed the pros and cons of day-to-day living in Greenbelt with several community members, addressing contracting issues, crime and recent acquisitions by the city.

The annual Open Forum, at the Community Center, saw Committee Chair Mary Wade and Committee Member Betty Timer write comments from the crowd on the whiteboard. The committee, which has been active in Greenbelt for over two decades, held the meeting with the stated purpose of voicing the concerns of the community to council. In attendance along with Jordan were Councilmembers Danielle McKinney, Jenni Pompei, Silke Pope and Kristen Weaver. Officer Rakibur Rahman of the Greenbelt Police Department, City Manager Josué Salmerón and Maryland Senator Alonzo Washington were also present.

"It's really encouraging to get responses from council, to know that things have actually changed, to know that somebody has listened," said Wade, addressing the importance of the annual Open Forum. "The community matters to us."

**Armory Acquisition**

Salmerón was pleased to make the announcement that the city has officially acquired from the state the Greenbelt Armory, located just west of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. This announcement, met with cheers and applause, came after complaints from the crowd that the Armory had gone unused and had been graffiti-littered for too long. The acquisition process, which began

in 2021, should mean extra space in Greenbelt for businesses, offices or recreational purposes.

"This has been a long time coming," said Jordan. "We've been trying to get ahold of it for about five years now."

**Career Firefighter Removal**

The meeting was not all good news, however. Chief among concerns was the decision by Prince George's County to remove career fire and rescue personnel from Greenbelt, which has resulted in staffing and response-time concerns. One member of the crowd called the decision "criminal" and asked the mayor to sue. Jordan, along with Salmerón, confirmed that the legal process was in motion.

"The county filed to dismiss," said Salmerón, "but the good news is that the new judge denied the motion. Of course, this still doesn't fix the issue."

**Crime**

Crime was another big concern during the meeting, prompting Officer Rahman to address the crowd directly. Responding to concerns regarding crime rates around Beltway Plaza, he said that the police department is currently doing everything it can to monitor the area.

"Crime rates are up and down," said Rahman. "We always try to get patrol officers out there.... We're a few short right now, but we have four to five officers in field training and three in the academy."

**Schools**

Rahman also discussed fears regarding high school truancy rates along with general safety concerns. He affirmed that the high schools in Greenbelt all have metal detectors, but had less to say on truancy.

"We try our best with attendance. We can't force them to go back to school if they aren't committing crimes. We can only tell the administration."

This was met with a few murmurs of disappointment from the crowd. One audience member suggested that officers just put truant students in jail, but discussion on the matter concluded there.

*Julian Dowling Ford is a graduate student at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.*



**Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon**

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

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

**CARES Needs Fund Donations**

For the past three years, Greenbelt CARES has used federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to help prevent evictions brought on by Covid. The ARPA money ran out in October. Once again, it is up to Greenbelt residents to help our neighbors. Evictions have decreased since the pandemic but families still face eviction because of increases in rent, illness, death of a family member or a financial crisis such as expensive medical care or car repairs.

A recent poll shows that many persons do not have financial stability due to a lack of job security, no health insurance and decreased ability to save for a financial crisis.

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be that safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to [GreenbeltMD.gov](http://GreenbeltMD.gov), click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

**Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge**

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Tuesday through Saturday. Sessions start at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. October's theme is Spiders.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5760 or visit [fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center](http://fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center) for more information.

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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred September 23 to 29, 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@greenbeltnmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltnmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

### Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police Department reported two deaths; one incident involving Child Protective Services; six domestic incidents, two with arrests, one with a warrant served and one involving a mental health diversion; four additional mental health diversions, two involving attempted suicide and one involving assault; and one sexual assault. Two people were reported missing this week, a girl and a woman with mental health issues, who were both located safe. A resident turned in a shotgun for disposal.

### Robbery

On September 28 at 9:43 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman was getting out of her vehicle behind the mall when four women approached her and struck her in the head multiple times. They stole her purse which contained her wallet and cell phone. When officers canvassed the area, they found the purse and cell phone near the mall, but the wallet was still missing.

### Attempted Robbery

On September 23 at 3:36 p.m. near Greenbelt Road and Southway, two boys tried to take another boy's sneakers. They were held and released to their guardians.

### Fights/Assault

On September 26 at 12:38 p.m. near 7429 Greenbelt Road, two men were in an argument that turned physical. One man struck the other in the face, then fled.

On September 28 at 10:18 p.m. near 6198 Greenbelt Road, a man under the influence of drugs attacked another man. Officers arrived and subdued the first man and he was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

### DUI Arrest

On September 29 at 2:41 a.m. near 9106 Springhill Lane, a vehicle in the roadway was found with the driver passed out behind the wheel. He was arrested and charged with DUI.

### Theft/Shoplifting

On September 23 at 12:33 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man stole a large amount of food.

On September 24 at 12:33 p.m. near 7495 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole items.

On September 25 at 2:10 p.m. near 7573 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole items and got into a black vehicle. Officers stopped the vehicle as it was trying to leave. All the stolen items were returned to the store, and the

woman is now banned from the property.

On September 25 at 4:57 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, four juveniles were taken into custody for shoplifting. The merchandise was recovered and they were banned from the property.

On September 26 at 3:29 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a security camera noted a man loading items into a bag and walking out without paying.

On September 27 at 9:40 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone took several items without paying.

On September 29 at 3:46 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, someone stole detergent.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Six vehicles were stolen: on September 23 near 6225 Springhill Court, a white Hyundai Sonata (Fla. 52BQQE); on September 25 near 5310 North Center Drive, a gray 2017 Lexus IS 300 (Md. 8EK1762); on September 26 near 5813 Cherrywood Lane, a gray 2007 Ford van (Md. 4EF4636), and near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a black Honda Civic which was left running outside a store (N.C. 6426787); on September 27 near 9210 Springhill Lane, a black 2012 Hyundai Sonata (temporary T1886209); and on September 29 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, a black 2018 Toyota Camry (Md. 6DK7872).

### Stolen Vehicles Found

On September 23 near 7814 Hanover Parkway, a woman purchased a used vehicle and when she tried to get it registered, it came back as stolen. Police confirmed that the vehicle had been stolen from Philadelphia.

On September 23 near 6101 Brezewood Court, officers located an abandoned vehicle, confirmed stolen from Prince George's County.

On September 23 near 7809 Mandan Road, a woman reported her vehicle stolen. Later that day, officers located it.

On September 26 near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive, New Jersey police located a rental vehicle stolen from Greenbelt.

On September 27 near 7400 Greenway Center Drive, a man reported his vehicle stolen but later admitted he had parked at a different location.

### Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On September 23 near 9126 Edmonston Court, a car door handle and ignition were damaged. On September 27 near

7214 South Ora Court, a vehicle had a window broken and ignition damage.

### Theft from Auto

Windows were broken and items taken on September 23 near 6640 Lake Park Drive; on September 27 near 7501 Greenway Center Drive (the ignition was also tampered with); and on September 28 near 7810 Walker Drive.

On September 27 near 5915 Cherrywood Lane, a license plate was stolen.

### Vandalism to Auto

On September 23 near 701 Northway, someone threw a rock which broke the window of a city vehicle. Vehicle windows were also broken on September 25 near 7900 Kara Court and near 7915 Greenbury Drive; on September 27 near 5809 Cherrywood Lane; and on September 29 near 6002 Springhill Drive.

# Leaf Blower Bans Gain Traction

by Melissa Sites

Voters are banning gas-powered leaf blowers in areas across Maryland, including Hyattsville, University Park, Takoma Park, Montgomery County and Annapolis, following a nationwide trend of banning the implement. Reasons voters have banned these devices include noise pollution, air pollution and detrimental effects leaf blowers have on the ecosystem.

Organizations that advise against gas-powered leaf blowers include the American Lung Association, which said in a 2023 press release, "Running a standard leaf blower for one hour generates the approximate emissions equivalent of driving from Denver to Los Angeles." Blowers emit exhaust from burned and unburned fuel, containing toxins and carcinogens, and send fine particulate matter airborne, including mold and fecal matter.

Noise levels of gas-powered leaf blowers hover around 80 decibels at 50 feet and higher for those closer to the machine. A 2022 article in the Sierra Club's

Sierra magazine mentions how the noise "overwhelms all other sounds ... including music, conversation, the wind through the trees, or the songs of birds." The sound from one leaf blower travels several blocks.

The National Audubon Society argues that those who want manicured lawns should use electric blowers. However, the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, whose goal is to protect native bees and other arthropods, points out that leaving a thin layer of mulched leaves enriches the soil. Leaves also provide habitat for tinier neighbors, including chipmunks and squirrels.

Maintaining a lawn without the use of leaf blowers saves money and time. Waiting until leaves have fallen, and raking once or twice, is more efficient than constantly blowing leaves around. Tolerating a few leaves, except when leaf fall is heaviest, is better for the environment, the peace and quiet of the neighborhood and the wallet.

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## Golden Age Club October Schedule

The Golden Age Club meets every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon. The programs for October meetings are as follows:

October 9, speaker Sheila Maffay-Tuthill, education and volunteer coordinator at the Greenbelt Museum

October 16, birthday celebration (everyone is asked to bring a snack)

October 23, Bingo

October 30, speaker J. Davis on My Experience on the Council. Visitors are welcome.

# Should a Hiking Trail Be Built In Greenbelt East's Sunrise Tract?

by Bonnie Schrack

On Saturday, September 7, a small group of intrepid members of city council, the Forest Preserve Advisory Board and interested citizens ventured into and explored one of the least-known parts of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve, the Sunrise Tract, which lies between the Greenbelt Dog Park and the Beltway. Their purpose was to assess the feasibility and advisability of building a public trail there.

Fierce tangles of thorny greenbrier vines, treacherous muddy slopes, discarded objects and a very high level of highway noise were encountered in the forest, which gave some participants pause when considering a trail.

The trail's advocates say that a trail could be routed around many of the ground-level obstructions, and others could be cleared. A trail through these woods would provide an opportunity for residents of Greenbelt East and nearby areas, as well as users of the dog park, to experience nature in a wilder form than in the managed parkland at Schrom Hills.

Greenbelt East resident Jessica Stewart says, "I've tried to hike the tract a couple of times but it is very muddy in places and

there is no clear trail." One side of the tract borders the Hanover Apartments, which are outside the city limits though surrounded by Greenbelt on both sides. Stewart says that where these apartments come near the tract, "I can see that residents try to walk through the woods and in some spots made their own trail ... I think that if there were a trail that people would appreciate it."

Councilmember Kristen Weaver participated in the hike. She said that while she enjoyed having the chance to explore the out-of-the-way place, it is "very impacted by being next to the Beltway." She noted that "there are other areas of the forest preserve that have more advantages, such as being less intruded on by noise." She said safety aspects would also have to be weighed, since the tract is rather isolated. At the same time, she said, "there is value in providing the opportunity for people to have wooded trails they can easily walk to from their homes."

The next steps will be taken by the Forest Preserve Advisory Board, whose members will review the feedback they received from the walk and present some

options to council. Council, says Weaver, will "consider the resources required to create a path there, and balance that with the potential for use of a trail by visitors, whether a trail there even makes sense from a broader perspective, and the opportunity cost of using those resources for this project rather than something else."

The degree of interest in having a trail through the Sunrise Tract is a significant factor in the decisions to be made. The most likely users of the trail are thought to be the residents of the neighboring apartments and users of the dog park. Dogs on leash would be permitted on the trail. Discussions of how to gauge interest among these potential trail users are still in the early stages.

Knowing that from its historic beginnings, Greenbelt has put a high value on having green spaces around us, Weaver sees "both organized sports fields and places where you can immerse yourself in the woods" as important. "We just have to consider whether this is the right place for a new trail, given the circumstances of the Sunrise Tract specifically."



Front to back, Bonnie Schrack, Silke Pope and Matthew Inzeo, followed by, not fully visible, Alec Armstrong and Emmett Jordan walk through the Sunrise Tract.



From left Bryan Bruns, Bonnie Schrack (face partially obscured), Silke Pope, Matthew Inzeo, Emmett Jordan, Melissa Ehrenreich, Alec Armstrong and Donna Hoffmeister explore the Sunrise Tract.

- Photos by Kristen Weaver

## Renovations at Ora Glen Pond



PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

Renovations to the stormwater management pond at the intersection of Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive are nearing completion.

## Empty Bowls Event Nov. 17 at St. Hugh's

The Greenbelt Pottery Group led by Julie Boynton and Gina Mai Denn and St. Hugh's Church (Ladies of Charity and Knights of Columbus) will host the Empty Bowls Event on Sunday, November 17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The last Empty Bowls event was in 2019.

This year the event will benefit the St. Hugh's Food Pantry, which provides food weekly to over 60 families.

Participants can purchase a ticket for \$30 (200 tickets will be sold), select a unique hand-crafted ceramic bowl and enjoy a cup of soup, bread, drinks and dessert with others in the community. Kids 6 and under eat free. Tickets can be purchased by emailing Mary Ann Tretler at [mary\\_tretler@yahoo.com](mailto:mary_tretler@yahoo.com) or by calling 240-517-7559.

The focus of this event is community and assisting those in need. Coming together to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry, sharing a meal and enjoying local Greenbelt music groups. There will be additional pottery pieces available at the event for purchase for perhaps holiday gift giving.

## 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)



COUNCIL continued from page 9

Rally will be “a big party,” she said, with vendors, free food, free mammograms, free clinical breast exams, bra-fittings, dancing and lots of fun activities. If anyone is unable to make the event to get the walk-up services they can call 301-552-7724 to get assistance to come in another time, said Wilson. That number is for the breast and cervical cancer program, which will help uninsured people get qualified for free screenings and help for insurance benefits.

**Hispanic Heritage**

Next, Jordan read the proclamation for National Hispanic Heritage Month. The proclamation took the theme of Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together, and praised the rich history and significant contributions of people of Hispanic heritage to Greenbelt’s culture.

**Engine Replacement**

Jordan read a request to replace the engine of a 2018 Chevy Tahoe assigned to the K-9 Unit at a cost of \$14,753.17. The request was brought back to council after requests for further information, in particular from Councilmember Rodney Roberts at an August meeting.

Brian Townsend, assistant director of Public Works, described ongoing issues with the vehicle’s engine that mechanics hadn’t been able to solve.

Roberts asked a series of questions about the engine and advocated learning to fix it. Roberts cited his 50 years of experience as a mechanic and was interrupted by Jordan. “Mr. Roberts, we have professional staff ... the city manager, the assistant city manager, Mr. Townsend – they’re very capable,” said Jordan. “Stop cutting me off,” said Roberts, who continued to talk to Townsend over further objec-

tions from Jordan, who told Roberts he was insulting staff. “We need our employees to be able to learn and grow, and grow in their job,” said Roberts. Jordan tried to curtail his questioning and suggestions to fix the engine and Councilmember Kristen Weaver told Roberts he was being disrespectful. Roberts said he was not disrespectful and had a right and responsibility to speak.

“I think that you have been very disrespectful of our staff,” said Weaver. “Replacing an engine doesn’t seem like it is actually in their job description; maintaining it is,” Weaver continued, effectively ending the bickering with a motion to approve the request, which, she said, should have occurred at the August meeting. The motion passed 5 to 1, with Roberts opposed and Councilmember Silke Pope absent.

**Upfitting Police Vehicles**

Council approved the upfitting of five police vehicles by Frontline Mobile Tech, an approved city vendor, in the amount of \$95,145. American Rescue Plan funding in that amount was already approved for the purpose. Chief of Police Richard Bowers explained that usually this amount is included in the purchase requirement of vehicles but was overlooked in the initial documents. The vehicles have been delivered and all that’s left is adding “lights, computers, internal equipment and all the other parts that go in the cars to make them emergency vehicles,” he said. The motion carried without opposition.

*Joseph Abelardo Conaty is a student at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.*

**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).

**Doctors Hospital Pink Ribbon Rally**

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Luminis Health Doctors Community Medical Center is hosting its annual Pink Ribbon Rally on Saturday, October 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Lanham campus.

In addition to mammograms, the Pink Ribbon Rally will offer resources and guidance from local organizations, support groups and healthcare professionals. There will also be inspirational stories from breast cancer survivors, bra fittings, live music, food and games. This event is free and open to the public. The hospital is located at 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham.

**Donate Sneakers For People in Need**

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers to keep sneakers out of landfills.

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

**Moore Administration Sponsors Request For More Funding for SCMaglev Project**

by Vicki Reynolds

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) posted on its Federal Discretionary Grants webpage under Pending MDOT Applications Under Active Consideration a grant application requesting funding of \$7 million to further study the extension of the SCMaglev through Baltimore and up to New York City. The proposal, Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev Project – NEC Ridership Study and Environmental Benefit Review, was submitted May 24, 2024, in response to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2023 to Fiscal Year 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program FR Doc. 2024-06710.

The funding request describes the scope of work proposed as Baltimore-Washington SCMaglev Project – SCMaglev EIS Completion; the requested funds would be spent “reviewing ridership projections and conceptualizations for a right of way proposed between Washington, D.C., and New York City.” It lists the congressional districts that would be impacted. The scope of work would also include “a post-pandemic review of metrics for the Baltimore to Washington leg of the project, and would update the needs and opportunities taking into account the systemic changes in transportation challenges and opportunities post-Covid while developing the system as a whole.”

The requested \$7 million for the study would be matched by \$1,750,000 of non-federal funds. The proposal lists all previous federal funding grants or appropriations awarded to the SCMaglev project, which include awards to MDOT, with Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) as the Project Sponsor, of \$27.8 million in 2015, \$24,027,500 in 2020, and \$2,000,000 additionally from 2020 appropriations. BWRR provided approximately \$7 million in matching funds for the 2015 grant.

Previous Governor Larry Hogan’s administration initiated the ongoing Environmental Impact Study (EIS) of the SCMaglev Washington-Baltimore segment and sponsored all previous grant requests. The Draft EIS (DEIS) was released for public comment in January 2021. Many government agencies from Washington, D.C., and throughout Maryland submitted comments expressing concerns and identifying deficiencies concerning a range of issues related to the project. Elected officials in two major jurisdictions along the proposed routes, Prince George’s County and Baltimore City, requested the “No Build” option, as did the City of Greenbelt. The FRA paused further work on the DEIS in August 2021, and it remains on pause.

Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul Wiedefeld, appointed by Governor Wes Moore, met with Greenbelt citizens on May 2, 2023. When asked about the status of the SCMaglev project, this newspaper reported his response as the SCMaglev will either proceed or be canceled, but nothing will be known until after the review of the DEIS is finished. The request for additional grant funding from the Moore Administration does state “the update will be completely outside the bounds of and have no interaction with the ongoing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) work for that segment. (Washington, D.C. – Baltimore).” This funding request from MDOT is one of the first indications that the Moore administration intends to continue to support the allocation of federal funds to the SCMaglev project, despite the many deficiencies and concerns raised by government agencies and communities that remain unaddressed.

The request for funding can be located at [mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/Baltimore\\_Washington\\_SCMaglev\\_Project\\_Narrative.pdf](https://mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/Baltimore_Washington_SCMaglev_Project_Narrative.pdf).



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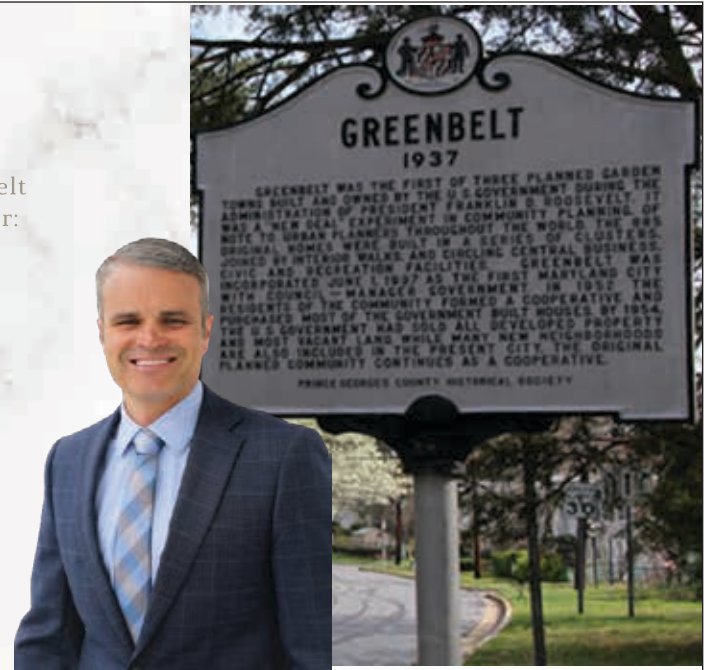
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#1 in Sales for Greenbelt from 2017-2023



# Sports

## ERHS Soccer Teams Navigate Rain, Bulldogs for Rival Victories

by Patrick Gleason

On a misty Wednesday afternoon in Bowie, the only thing more persistent than the precipitation was the onslaught of Eleanor Roosevelt High School girls' junior varsity goals, seven in total. Sophomore Alima Kargbo led the charge on September 25, tallying four goals, as the Raiders scored early and often. However, freshman Morgan Parks catalyzed Kargbo's performance, starting the scoring less than 10 minutes into the game. After firing a shot from near the top of the box, Parks followed the rebound – and reloaded – resulting in a well-placed shot past the outstretched arms of the keeper. The damp field did nothing to dampen the junior varsity's play, as Parks would later notch another goal, while sophomore Nora Marx joined the fun as well. The Raiders dominated from start to finish, using their depth to control possession, unfazed by the elements and the opponents.

### Varsity

Afterward, the varsity squad yielded a similar result, though the method required more patience. From the outset, Roosevelt dictated the game's pace, rarely conceding possession; however, the goals did not come as quickly as JV's. A potent Roosevelt attack, spearheaded by senior Jada Savage, threatened the Bowie keeper throughout the damp first half. But after senior Sadie Swart missed a penalty kick for the Raiders, Bowie appeared to have new life. A scoreless first half

seemed quite possible – that is, until senior forward Gabriella Martinez created something out of nothing. Martinez followed a harmless pass from teammate Claudia van der Have toward the goal as a Bowie centerback shielded the ball toward her keeper. But with a communication lapse, neither defender secured the ball and Martinez slipped in between the two at the last moment, toe-poking the ball into the back of the net, cueing an enthused celebration amid the early autumn humidity.

With a 1-0 lead, the Raiders refused to relent after the halftime whistle. Senior Alyssa Casey added danger to the wing opposite of Savage, continuing to tire the Bulldog defense throughout the second half. The Raiders struck again after freshman Emery Gregory sent a lofted cross into the box off yet another Roosevelt corner. Junior Autumn Freeman lay waiting to head it home; after nearly scoring in the same fashion earlier, Freeman made no doubt this time. Later, Savage capped the scoring for the Raiders, punishing a shot underneath the crossbar from the left wing. The final count: Raiders 3, Bulldogs 0. The cumulative 10-0 victory between the two teams provided the light that an overcast evening could not.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SWART

Junior Leilah Eggleston and the ERHS varsity squad are off to an undefeated start halfway through their regular season.

## POOL continued from page 1

pristine condition.

### Funding Renovations

Despite the price tag, the cost is not set to break the city's budget. The lion's share of it is covered through Maryland's Program Open Space (POS), which matches local funding for public space projects with state funding by a factor of 10. In this case, the city puts forward \$150,000 and Maryland will provide the remaining \$1.5 million. \$150,000 is still a significant investment, but it's small compared to other parts of the city's Fiscal Year 2025 budget: for example, the projected revenue from GAFC's daily admissions alone is greater, with \$171,000 projected revenue from daily admissions for 2025.

### POS Funding

The city has previously used POS funding to repave the parking lot for Buddy Attick Park as well as to renovate Greenbelt's tennis courts. In FY 2025, however, there are considerably fewer POS funds to go around in Prince George's County – \$4.7

million as opposed to the \$13.3 million the county had allocated for 2024. As a result, earlier this year there was an added rush to get "shovel-ready" projects approved while there were still funds available.

During its June 17 meeting, the Greenbelt City Council supported the use of POS funds on the pool renovation project, though not without some criticism. Councilmember Silke Pope wished that the plans kept the addition of a splash pad, which was in an earlier version of the plan, though she didn't see its absence as a reason to delay its approval. Councilmember Rodney Roberts took greater umbrage with the funding itself, saying that this use of the POS funds "is pretty pathetic." For Roberts, this construction project, like the parking lot and tennis courts before it, doesn't meet the original POS goal: to purchase and protect land. Still, because this project will be for public spaces, it meets Maryland's POS requirements.

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# News Review Travels the World with Greenbelters



PHOTO BY DAN WARNER

Andrew Durso and Kendal Morris read the News Review in Tanjung Puting National Park in Borneo, Indonesia.



PHOTO BY ERIC DAHLEN

Ashley and Anna Dahlen pose with the News Review in front of Dynjandi Waterfall in Iceland in August.



PHOTO COURTESY JOHN CAMPANILE

John Campanile finds the News Review relaxing in Ocean City, New Jersey.



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

Hank Meyer in Qaqortoq, Greenland



PHOTO BY TERESA CRISMAN

Greenbelter Nicey Johnson took her News Review along to National Harbor when she went to participate in the Fox 5 Zip Trip. The Zip Trip is part of Fox 5 DC's weekly series in the summer highlighting places to visit in the D.C. region. Teresa Crisman snapped a photo of Nicey waving her News Review behind Governor Moore as he was being interviewed by Fox 5.



PHOTO BY DEB TINSLEY

Greenbelt Recreation staff member Paige Tinsley recently visited Punta Gorda, Florida, to see her uncle. He is former Greenbelter, two-time All Star Little Leaguer for the Pepsi-Cola Athletics, Tommy Groht.



PHOTO COURTESY SARAH HEADLEY

Sarah Headley reads the Greenbelt News Review in Westminster Abbey in London before the noonday services.



PHOTO COURTESY THE CROWLEYS

Abby and Ed Crowley catch up on news from home while vacationing in Chincoteague, Va.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KENNY

Riley and Maya Kenny recently brought the News Review with them to Dutch Village in Holland, Michigan.