



Breast Cancer Rally, p.4



ERHS girls soccer, p.15

## Unsatisfied Greenbelt City Council Responds to PGFD

by Anna Bedford-Dillow, Julie Rapp and Joan Estenson

On October 2, in an open letter to Prince George's County Fire Department (PGFD) Chief Tiffany Green, Greenbelt City Council expressed their concern over fire department and EMS response times, prioritization and communication with Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department.

Alan Doubleday attended the recent town-hall on September 12, to represent PGFD (see the September 19 issue). However, members of city staff and council were disappointed with the outcome of the meeting, stating they gained little insight, and the PGFD representative did not provide any of the commitments that were requested.

In their October 2 letter the city expressed its concern over the fact that promised periodic



Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department

PHOTO BY SANDY RODGERS

updates have not been provided and that the city has not received a response to a letter dated August 30. More concerning, they say, is that evidence points to the possibility that the PGFD may not be properly tracking calls by their priority level or meeting the standards of coverage to which PGFD has committed.

In the letter, the city also questioned the accuracy of PGFD

reporting and states that its trust and confidence in the department's temporary staffing plan and information sharing has been eroded. PGFD's response times are not meeting community standards for safety and well-being, they say, and they concluded that the temporary summer staffing plan is inadequate and that PGFD should return the career firefighters to Greenbelt Fire station immediately.

The entire letter can be read at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) and on page 12.

The city cited three incidents reported by residents as cause for serious concern. For each incident the city's reported response time is followed by what PGFD reports as their response time for each vehicle dispatched.

• September 18, 2024: "A medical emergency occurred on Gardenway, where the response time appears to have exceeded

See PGFD, page 12

## City Acquires Armory; Feasibility Study Weighs Plans for its Future

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The City of Greenbelt acquired the Armory, located at the corner of Southway and Greenbelt Road, on September 16.

On September 16 the deed to the Armory at 7100 Greenbelt Road, located at the corner of Southway and Greenbelt Road, was signed over to the City of Greenbelt. "It's been years of work," said City Manager Josué Salmerón. In fact, the News Review reported on the planned acquisition this month three years ago (see the October 27, 2021, issue). The Armory was owned by the state in conjunction with the National Guard.

The state ceased using the property for the National Guard in 2016 and the State of Maryland conveyed the property back

to the federal government as stipulated in the deed's "Reverter Clause" in January 2024. (All Greenbelt's land once belonged to the federal government.) The United States of America, "acting by and through" the Department of Housing and Urban Development then conveyed the property to Greenbelt.

The cost to Greenbelt for the property was one dollar. However, with reports of lead, mold and asbestos in the building, as well as acts of vandalism, the armory won't come cheaply. Salmerón acknowledged concern about "all

See ARMORY, page 13

## Utopia Film Festival Celebrates Its 20th Year with 40 Films

by Susan Gervasi

Greenbelt's 20th Utopia Film Festival kicks off Saturday, October 19 and runs through Monday, October 21 with 40 independent films and works of animation.

"Greenbelt was founded to improve the world," said Utopia committee member Chris Corson. "The films in this year's Festival – shorts, docs, animations and features – are 40 perspectives on the unfinished business of making the world a better place. Funny, serious, provocative and deeply human, they are worth seeing."

Utopia, primarily sponsored by Greenbelt Access Television (GATe), takes its name from the idealistic New Deal origins of Greenbelt, built during the Depression as an experimental community aimed at social harmony. Works will screen at the Greenbelt Cinema, the New Deal Café and the Municipal Building. With light-hearted animations, compelling dramas and hard-hitting films focused on environmental, political and social justice issues, this year's selections reflect the wide-ranging world of independent filmmaking. A number of filmmakers will be available to meet audiences and answer questions.



Look Down Not Up

PHOTO COURTESY ALOK TULADHAR

"The Utopia Film Festival always brings excellent independent films to Greenbelt," said Frank Gervasi, Utopia manager of operations and GATE president. "Many filmmakers come here to discuss their work, which is always exciting. The positive feedback we get from our viewers, participants and the filmmakers themselves makes this an exceptionally worthwhile event."

Several documentaries look at the historic impact of racism, including Just Another Bombing? This is Donal and Iona's Story. Donal Godfrey was 6 years old when he became the first African American student in his Florida elementary school. His family faced retaliation in the form of a 1964 Klan bombing of their home. Donal and his mother recall the horrific incident in this compelling documentary.

Get on the Bus! follows a group of Marylanders who travel by bus to Montgomery, Ala., to deliver a soil sample from the

See UTOPIA, page 13

### Election 2024

#### Early Voting Here

Early voting in Prince George's County will be from Thursday, October 24 through Thursday, October 31 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. There are 11 early voting sites in the county. The closest site to Greenbelt is College Park Community Center, 5051 Pierce Ave., College Park. The next closest are: Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center, 7120 Contee Rd., Laurel, and Kentland Community Center, 2413 Pinebrook Ave., Landover.

For complete Prince George's County voting information, visit [princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/board-elections](http://princegeorgescountymd.gov/departments-offices/board-elections).



### What Goes On

**Monday, October 14**  
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, October 16**  
7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Buddy Attick Park Draft Master Plan, Municipal Building

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

## U.S. Supreme Court Precedent Reverberates Anew in Utah

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt News Review is (perhaps) inordinately proud of its 54-year-old U.S. Supreme Court win over a local developer who sued the newspaper for reporting negative comments made about him in a public meeting. The case has been quoted in freedom of the press/First Amendment cases multiple times since.

Thus, the News Review was much interested in a recent case in rural Utah where a small local newspaper was sued by a developer for millions of dollars based on its reporting of public meetings on a development project. (See story in the September

11 issue of the New Review.) Despite the rather different local geography – butte versus Beltway – the case had an almost eerie similarity to the Bresler vs. Greenbelt Publishing Association situation. A local developer, angered by the vociferous local opposition he was receiving in his attempt to develop an unpopular project, sued the local newspaper that reported the public outcry.

#### Moral Support

The News Review contacted its fellow sufferers in Utah to make sure they knew of the

See UTAH, page 13



PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

The Millard County Chronicle Progress office, in Delta, Utah

# Letters to the Editor

## Accolades

When Choosing the Lesser of Two Evils Makes Sense was so well written with its pertinent call that I want to sing praises for Ivota Ydontu's writing. I am grateful to have read it, and will share it at the upcoming Vote Forward letter-writing event (the last before this all-important election up and down the ballot) that I've helped organize in Takoma Park at my church. I'll send it to my young adult grandsons, both quite interested in the election and living in California, to share with any of their friends who are sitting on the fence about sitting out this vote.

I urge other Greenbelters to share it widely, especially directly with young voters. It's important to vote for the city's dogcatcher if where you live you can do that. Every public office affects every aspect of our lives.

We are fortunate to still live in a country that values and holds

the right to vote in high esteem. Everyone who is entitled to vote needs to vote.

Sandra Miller

## Thanks and Please Keep It Up!

Anna Bedford-Dillow: As a loyal reader, let me congratulate you for your writing in recent News Review issues – sometimes filing most of the major pieces yourself – and for getting out the much-improved paper. Your work and dedication, all stellar.

Being editor and major coverer of stories would seem daunting, for you, to those of us out in news-consumerland, but you've managed it well.

For which, thanks much, and please keep it up.

Steve Gilbert

Anna Bedford-Dillow is the managing editor of the News Review.

## Correction

The article "When Choosing the Lesser of Two Evils Makes Sense" by Ivota Ydontu was published with the intention of urging people to vote. We regret the included examples suggested a partisan message we did not intend.

## Election 2024

### Mail-in Ballot Notice

A Greenbelt resident reported that they mailed their Presidential Election Ballot at the Greenbelt Post Office on Saturday, October 5. They received a notice by email early Tuesday morning, October 8, that their ballot had been received. Kudos to those running the state's election system.



**All About Owls, a campfire program at Greenbelt Park was presented on September 21.**

- Photos by Nick Hall

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 11th - 17th**

**Will & Harper (R) (CC) (DVS)**  
(2024) (114 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sat. 7:45 PM  
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC),  
5:00 PM \*guest speaker  
Mon. 2:00 PM  
Tues. 7:00 PM

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 5:15 PM  
Sat. 5:00 PM  
Mon. 11:30 AM  
Wed. 7:00 PM  
Thurs. 7:45 PM

**The Wild Robot (PG) (CC)**  
(DVS) (2024) (103 mins)  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Fri. 5:30 PM  
Sat. 5:15 PM  
Mon. 11:45 AM (OC)  
Wed. 7:15 PM  
Thurs. 5:00 PM

**Screen 2 - The Screening Room**  
Fri. 7:45 PM  
Sat. 7:30 PM  
Sun. 2:30 PM, 5:15 PM  
Mon. 2:00 PM  
Tues. 7:15 PM

**Jennifer's Body (R) (2009)**  
(102 mins) - Cult Classic  
Free trivia event at 7 PM!  
Hosted by @TheScreenBliss  
**Screen 1 - Main Auditorium**  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

## 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

15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770-1887  
Phone: 301-474-4131

editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com (stories, letters, photos)  
ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com (ads)  
business@greenbeltnewsreview.com (billing)  
website: www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

Presidents: Alfred M. Skolnik, 1959-1977, Elaine Skolnik, 1977-1985  
Mary Lou Williamson, Editor  
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

STAFF  
Ann Bauman, Kathryn Beard, Anna Bedford-Dillow, Judy Bell, Laura Bonkosky, Letty Bonnell, Jerry Bonnell, Alan Burt, Rasheeda Childress, Jill Connor, Maurice Crawford, Deborah Daniel, Deanna Dawson, Christine Doran, Joan Estenson, Anne Gardner, Elizabeth Gardner, Jon Gardner, Jim Giese, Ian Gleason, Patrick Gleason, Angie Gordon, Carol Griffith, Kyla Hanington, Amy Hansen, Erik Hanson, Michael Hartman, Butch Hicks, Peggy Higgins, Donna Hoffmeister, Melanie Iversen, Erica Johns, Jeff Jones, Tom Jones, Jennifer Jurling, Lesley Kash, Elisabeth Kevorkian, Amina Khalifa, Sue Krofchik, Michael Kusie, Sandra Lange, Amanda Larsen, Linda Lucas, Marc Manheimer, Charlene MacAdams, Cathie Meetre, Mary Moien, Elaine Nakash, Diane Oberg, Julie Rapp, Peter Reppert, Joe Robbins, Sandy Rodgers, Ian Blackwell Rogers, Lois Rosado, Richard Roth, Bonnie Schrack, Pat Scully, Bonnie Seaton, René Sewell-Raysor, David Shapiro, Melissa Sites, Lola Skolnik, Susan Taylor, Beth Terry, Daniel Thies, Nancy Tolzman, Jeff Travis, Mary Lou Williamson, Ray Zammuto and Michael Zeliff.

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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.

## On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

### Will & Harper

Three years ago, Will Ferrell was filming a movie when he received a most surprising email: his dear friend of nearly 30 years was coming out to him as a trans woman. That friend was Harper Steele, a writer he met on his first day at Saturday Night Live back in 1995. From that fateful first meeting in the halls of 30 Rock, Will knew he had found a match made in comedy, and their friendship and creative partnership would only continue to grow over the next three decades. In this intimate, honest and heartfelt documentary, Will and Harper hit the open road together to process this new stage of their friendship and reintroduce Harper to the country that she loves – this time, as herself. Over 16 days, the two drive from New York to L.A., visiting stops that are meaningful to them, to their friendship and to America. Through laughter, tears and many cans of Pringles, they push past their comfort zones as they re-examine their relationships to these spaces, and to each other, in this new light.

### The Wild Robot

This epic animated adventure follows the journey of a robot – ROZZUM unit 7134, Roz for short – that is shipwrecked on an uninhabited island and must learn to adapt to the harsh surroundings, gradually building relationships with the animals on the island and becoming the adoptive parent to an orphaned gosling.

### Jennifer's Body

When a demon takes possession of her, high-school hottie Jennifer (Megan Fox) turns a hungry eye on guys who never stood a chance with her before. While evil Jennifer satisfies her appetite for human flesh with the school's male population, her nerdy friend, Needy (Amanda Seyfried), learns what's happening and vows to put an end to the carnage.

# Community Events

## HUG WALK Joins Walktober

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. This year the City of Greenbelt and RUAK are partnering with the State of Maryland's Walktober program, an initiative to encourage walking, pedestrian safety, health and wellness, and migration of monarch butterflies led by the Recreation/Art Department. 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, 301-345-8755 or ruak.org.

### Una Caminata para la Bondad

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. Este año, la ciudad de Greenbelt y RUAK se asocian con el programa Walktober del estado de Maryland, una iniciativa para fomentar la caminata, la seguridad, la salud y el bienestar de los peatones y una migración de mariposas monarcas liderada por el Departamento de Recreación/Arte. La ruta de HUG WALK es la siguiente: 1 p.m., reunirse en el Puente de Indian Creek Trail en Greenbelt Station (frente a la estación Shell en Cherrywood Lane); 1:30 p.m., comienza la caminata; 2 p.m., la caminata continúa desde Springhill Lake Recreation Center; 2:30 p.m., unirse a la caminata en Buddy Attick Park; 3 p.m., unirse a la caminata en Roosevelt Center; 3:30 p.m., únase a la caminata en el Centro Comunitario Greenbriar; 4 p.m., únase a la caminata en el Centro Comunitario Windsor Green; 4:30 p.m., la caminata concluye en el Parque Schrom Hills. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Robert Goldberg-Strassler en spreadruak@gmail.com o al 301-345-8755 o ruak.org.

## 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 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.



## Greenbelt Chess Club Meetings for October

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, October 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.

## Stamp Out Hunger Close to Home

Greenbelt PORCH is continuing to collect nonperishable food in the month of October as scheduled below. Note changes to the usual schedule due to the HUG WALK on October 20.

Sunday, October 13 – by 11 a.m. for 1-8 Courts Ridge Road, 1-8 Courts Crescent Road and 1-2 Courts Westway

Saturday, October 19 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, October 27 – after 4 p.m. for the 19, 11, 12 and 13 Courts Ridge Road; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive; by 4 p.m. for Boxwood Village and P.A.L. (Porch At Large) members (including former Woodland Hills donors). Email Robert Goldberg-Strassler by noon on October 27 at spreadruak@gmail.com. He will come to any porch.



More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## Reparations Comm Hosts Forum Saturday

The Greenbelt Reparations Commission will conduct a Community Forum on Saturday, October 12 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Greenbelt Library Auditorium. Hear an update from commission members and speakers involved in local reparations efforts.

Panelists are Maxine Gross (Lakeland Heritage Project), Nancy Joy Alchin (GILA: Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Alliance, Reparations Education Task Force), Wanika B. Fisher (Prince George's County Council, District 2) and Alethia McCaskill (Maryland State Delegate, District 44B).

This event is free and open to all.

## 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.



## Birthday Celebration At The SPACE

Join us in celebrating Shaymar Higgs' birthday with Pop-Up Fundraiser Art & Game Nights at The SPACE on Friday, October 11 from 5 to 8 p.m. for Adult Game Night (21+) and Saturday, October 12 from 5 to 8 p.m. for Family Game Night for all ages.

No RSVP needed – bring friends, family and competitive spirit for a fun night of games, art and giving back. Plus, don't miss out on the raffle.

Free Art For All! We love our creative community and want to spend time together while supporting the future of The SPACE. Located in Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Rd, Suite 13, in front of the AMC Theater.



## Art Reception Sunday

An art reception will be held on Sunday, October 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the New Deal Café. The current art exhibit is the work of artist Ahmed Ibrahim. Spaces of Emotions will be on display until November 3.

## 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 pgecmls.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.

## Poetry in The Garden

The poetry group will meet Sunday, October 13, 3 to 5 p.m. at the Schrom Hills Park Clubhouse.

This is a diverse group, for all cultural backgrounds. Read a favorite poem or just listen and enjoy the power of poetry. For more information, call Effie at 443-415-1053.

## Protect from Gases

On Thursdays in October, the Greenbelt Public Safety Advisory Committee is hosting an interactive presentation on how to protect your 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.

## 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 10/10	FRI 10/11	SAT 10/12	SUN 10/13
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Gina DeSimone & The Moaners 7-9pm Eclectic, upbeat mix of music	The Still Standing Trio 7-10pm The best rockin' blues, American roots and rockabilly in the DMV	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE W/ KATY GAUGHAN, 3:30-5pm The Roustabouts 7-10pm Exciting mix of roots-blues originals and covers	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a-12pm ARTS RECEPTION, 2-4pm Eleanor's New Deal Cabaret presents HALLOWEEN! 6-8pm With D'Manda Martini

MON 10/14	TUES 10/15	WED 10/16	TH 10/17	SPECIALS!
Membership Appreciation Night 4-9pm Discounts on beer, wine & appetizers	NDC Open Mic w/ Jay Bellamy 7-9:30pm Sign-ups at 6:30pm	Pub Quiz 7-9pm Bring your own team of form one! Test your knowledge	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm SONGWRITER'S SUMMIT: Dirk Hamilton Georgie Jessup 7-9pm	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, click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

NOTICE: THE NDC WILL BE CLOSED OCT. 28-31 TO ALLOW OUR NEW VENDOR TIME TO SET UP OPERATIONS.



**Greenbelt Access Television**  
Oct 12, Sat - Oct 18, Fri  
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

**THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station**  
Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)  
**The Little Shop of Horrors (1960)**  
Part-comedy and part-horror, this is the original telling of the story of lonesome, lovesick florist Seymour, and the lengths he will go to to please his carnivorous new plant friend.

New This Month  
**Learning about Greenbelt Community Foundation with Kevin Parker**  
GATE Executive Director Sheila sits down with Kevin Parker, President of the Greenbelt Community Foundation, to learn more about the Foundation and its offerings, and where they, too, could use some help!

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](http://Greenbelt Access Television) on YouTube for new video productions.

# Advocacy Group Holds Rally For Breast Cancer Prevention

by Geraldine Adams

Breast cancer survivors, community members and local leaders joined experts from the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, along with over 40 talented local drummers to “beat the drum” for breast cancer prevention on Saturday, October 5 in acknowledgement of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Members of Drumming for Wellness, Eastern High School Drumline and Batalá D.C. delighted onlookers as they each performed at Roosevelt Center on Saturday at 11 a.m. Greenbelt resident and 17-year breast cancer survivor Geraldine Adams was the rally host with the help of a team of volunteers. Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmembers Kristen Weaver and Silke Pope were in attendance, as well as former mayor J Davis, who is a 40+-year breast-cancer survivor. Prior to the rally Jordan issued a Proclamation stating that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Greenbelt.

The event’s message was simple: Eating a plant-based diet and incorporating other lifestyle changes can be powerful preventive medicine for breast cancer.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, approximately 42,000 women and 500 men in the United States die from breast cancer each year. The disease disproportionately affects Black women, who have a higher rate of death from breast cancer than white women.



PHOTO BY INDALYN MCCASKILL

Rally bands, breast cancer survivors and the rally crowd at the Mother and Child statue

The Physicians Committee encourages people to reduce breast cancer risk by following the four-pronged approach: eat plants, exercise, limit alcohol and maintain a healthy weight.

Drum Master Katy Gaughan led the audience in repeating each of the four messages to the beat of the drums. Following Drumming for Wellness was the fabulous Eastern High School band that deftly demonstrated their musical skill and precision. Last up was Batalá D.C., an all-female drum line.

A recent study from the Journal of Clinical Oncology showed that eating less fat and more

fruits, vegetables and grains could help protect breast cancer survivors too.

Rally participants were given free educational resources, recipes and a card to sign up for the Physicians Committee’s Let’s Beat Breast Cancer challenge.

This rally was one of many organized by the Physicians Committee and held across the country to acknowledge Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



**Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988**

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church  
 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
 Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors  
 Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
 301-474-5410  
 Pastor Evelyn Romero  
 Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
 Celebrate hope with us.

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
 11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704  
 301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org)  
 Welcomes you each Sunday for  
 Worship & Sunday School  
 at 10:00 AM

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

**ST. HUGH OF 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)

**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 Greenbelt Pottery Group members have been busy making over 200 ceramic pieces. They recently sponsored two bowl-making events and RUAQ (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) provided pizza, drinks and brownies for the hard-working potters.

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.

**Community Giveaway**  
 On Saturday, October 12 at 4 p.m. the Berwyn Presbyterian Church is giving away food, new shoes, clothes, diapers, bras, underwear, socks, sanitary pads and household items, and other new and gently used items. Kids must be present to receive shoes. To receive diapers, bring baby’s birth certificate/health insurance card. Come with bags. The church is located at 6301 Greenbelt Road with a parking lot behind the church.

**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. 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](http://MishkanTorah.org).

**Obituaries**  
 The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present. You write it or we will if you prefer. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

“Prejudices of religion, race or sect destroy the foundation of humanity. All the divisions in the world, hatred, war and bloodshed, are caused by one or other of these prejudices.”  
 – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá  
**Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

**The Bible Says...**  
**The Ten Commandments**  
 #5-Honor Your Father & Your Mother  
 Exodus 20:12  
**Sunday Worship Services**  
 10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)  
**MCFcc.org**

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

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
 Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725  
 Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)  
 Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community  
 October 13, 2024 at 3:00 pm  
**All Apologies**  
 Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associates Sue Bollens and Lula Beatty  
 In the spirit of our October theme (Justice) and Indigenous Peoples Day, we’ll share a service exploring the ways in which we give & receive apologies in all our life relationships (individuals, communities, countries). Together we’ll consider the concept of apologizing as both a spiritual practice in our personal lives and an act of restorative justice in our world.  
 Streaming on PBUUC’s Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT MASS**  
 Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
 City Council Room  
 25 Crescent Rd  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**  
 OR - Join us on ZOOM!  
 For ZOOM link:  
[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).



### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Monday, October 14, 2024 at 7:30 pm

#### ORGANIZATION

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

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### Presentations

- Cooperative Month Proclamation
- Maryland Economic Development Week Proclamation
- National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

##### \* Minutes

##### - Administrative Reports

##### \* Committee Reports

\* Forest Preserve Advisory Board (FPAB) Report #2024-01: Trail reroutes and closures in the North Woods Tract of the Forest Preserve

#### LEGISLATION

- Resolution to Establish Charter Review Taskforce
- 2nd Reading and Adoption

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- Board of Elections Report #2024-04: Provisions and Proposed Amendments Regarding Council Vacancies
- Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contract for Armory Feasibility Study
- Approval of Waiver of Property Tax Lien against Charlestowne North Apartments
- Draft FY 2025-2030 Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP)
- Discussion of Budget Request from the Reparations Commission
- Reallocation of ARPA Funds
- Discussion of the Removal of Arm Rest on City Benches
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- \* Meetings
- \* Stakeholders
- \* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board
- \* 7 Hillside Road Sight Distance Issue and Parking Removal
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Traffic and Parking Control Co., Inc. (TAPCO) for LED-Enhanced Stop Signs and Sign Posts
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Control Technologies, Inc. for Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and LED-Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing Signs
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Shannon-Baum Signs & Graphics, Inc. for Static Signs and Flex Posts
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Ennis Flint by PPG Traffic Solutions for Thermoplastic Markings
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with Next Day Concrete & Masonry, Inc. for Concrete Work on Pedestrian Curb Ramps
- \* Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract with VMP Construction Company, Inc. for Installation of Raised Crosswalk

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

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV) or call (301) 474-8000.

### MEETINGS FOR OCTOBER 14 - 18

Tuesday, October 15 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 15 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, Tribes Training Reflections, Subcommittee Reports, Public Comments

Wednesday, October 16 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - BUDDY ATTICK PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

Wednesday, October 16 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, On the Agenda: Approval of Agenda/Minutes, Council Liaison Updates, Discussion: "Draft Traffic Calming Study: Greenbelt Center City"

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).

### TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY COMMUNITY MEETING & OPEN FORUM

Tuesday, October 29 / 7 - 9 pm  
Greenbelt Community Center, Room 201

This community meeting will focus on the Draft Traffic Calming Study: Greenbelt Center City. Participants can view printed posters of proposed roadway improvements and provide their feedback to staff and project consultants. The meeting will begin with a brief presentation on the study's background and the foundations of traffic calming.

Contact [planninginfo@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:planninginfo@greenbeltmd.gov).

### FEATURED PETS HANJE

Ready for Adoption?  
Call (301) 474-6124

Why would anyone still believe black cats are unlucky? We think adoptable 4-year-old Hanje looks great with her orange and black tortie-colored coat just in time for Halloween. Like lots of tortie cats with lots of tortie sass, Hanje prefers to be pet on the top of her head and doesn't like to be picked up, so she'd probably do best in a home without small children who can't resist her needs for personal space.

Hanje is also FIV+, which is a very common disease in which most infected cats can live a normal lifespan. However, since FIV can be spread to other cats via bites, we recommend she go to a home without cats (or go to a home with other FIV+ cats) to reduce the risk of transmission. (Also, if you're curious about her unique colored eyes, our vet says it's a congenital trait that doesn't affect her vision)

If you're interested in adopting Halloween-themed Hanje, call (301) 474-6124 or [animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov)!



### PUMPKIN FESTIVAL: CARVINGS & WALKS

October 12, 18, & 19

Various locations in Greenbelt. See Activity Guide Page 7 or the [City Calendar](#)

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!

See pages 24 and 31 of the fall activity guide: [www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide).

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

### OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Section 3-305(b)(1) and (3) 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 14, 2024, immediately following the Regular Meeting, 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; and 2) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

The purpose of this meeting is 1) to address personnel matters over which this public body has jurisdiction; and 2) to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto.

*\*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 14, 2024.*

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

### GREENBELT REPARATIONS COMMUNITY FORUM

Saturday, October 12 / 2 - 5 pm

Greenbelt Library Auditorium

An update from commission members and speakers involved in local reparations efforts. Panelists: Maxine Gross (Lakeland Heritage Project), Nancy Joy Alchin (GILA Reparations Education Task Force), Wanika B. Fisher (Prince George's County Council, District 2), Alethia McCaskill (Maryland State Delegate, District 44B). Presented by the Greenbelt Reparations Commission.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

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**, **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.

# Beltway Plaza Owners Update City on Development Progress

by Daniel Thies

On Wednesday, September 18, Greenbelt City Council held a worksession on Beltway Plaza to hear from the property owners, Quantum Companies, where the mall stands and what to expect from the location in the future. Speaking on behalf of Quantum were three representatives: David Sullivan, Alex Forbes and Kenny Wine.

## Past and Present

The Quantum representatives began with a brief history of Beltway Plaza. The lot started as an S. Klein department store in 1963 and in the 1970s, the mall was constructed. Since then, the property has expanded a few times to accommodate new stores. In 1992, Giant moved in and the properties were connected together and in 2000 the parking deck was added to serve the mall's second-story storefronts.

Councilmember Jenni Pompei noted that Beltway Plaza is unique for its large number of small businesses; this isn't something that Quantum intentionally curated, but its representatives said they were proud of its mom-and-pop store community identity. Sullivan acknowledged later that some redecoration could be done to the mall's interior to spruce it up, but he also didn't see a need to dedicate a lot toward that end as "the tenants that are there, I think there's a pretty good mix, and people seem to enjoy it."

## Development Status

Though Quantum believes Beltway Plaza's interior is fine as is, the real estate company has big plans for what's currently the mall's rear parking lot. Since 2006, Quantum has been planning to expand at the location, and has drawn up plans to build three new residential buildings, a five-story garage and a hotel. These plans were previously approved by the city and county councils but Quantum has had trouble getting the financial backing necessary for these new construction projects.

Quantum representatives attributed this to larger economic trends: the housing market crash, Covid pandemic and recent high interest rates have made the past decade and a half an inopportune time for expansion. Nonetheless, the recent Federal Reserve reduction in interest rates and the plans for a new FBI building in Greenbelt have given them cautious optimism for the future.

Although Quantum won't work on any new buildings until it has at least enough backing to construct the first residential building, some development is already underway. Around July 4, the garage was surveyed, and in September they began concrete pouring for the foundation but will not move ahead with construction until the first residential building financing is secured. Next spring, Quantum plans to begin work on a new ring road.

The company made a commitment as part of its conversation with the city to add new green spaces and pedestrian access. They are also considering adding electric vehicle charging stations with those new buildings. When the plans were approved by the city, Quantum committed to staying within the Bronze

LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards, so any deviation from those plans would also require approval by both city and county councils.

## Step by Step

Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruba elaborated on some of the specific deliverables the city expects with each phase of completion as stated in the original agreements. These include: with the completion of the first residential building, a trail for hikers and bikers will be established; within the first three years of housing construction, a housing market study will be conducted to evaluate interest in diverse housing; and once construction meets a building permit threshold, the area currently known as the Laugh Out Loud space will be dedicated to the city as a new public community center.

## Filling Kap's Shoes

Throughout the meeting, council, Quantum Companies representatives and members of the public remarked on how they

felt the absence of Marc "Kap" Kapastin, who died on June 30. In council's previous Beltway Plaza worksessions, Kapastin was the Quantum Companies representative. Kapastin had also been the face of Quantum in other parts of Greenbelt life for decades, being a member of groups like the Greenbelt chapter of the Rotary Club and getting involved in many community events. Michael Hartman, president emeritus of the New Deal Café, noted that Kapastin worked to build bonds among the different parts of Greenbelt, helping to found the Greenbelt Business Alliance and supporting local fundraisers and events.

Quantum's Vice President of Operations Kenny Wine, who has held the role for six months, said that in the future he'd likely be the Quantum executive who'll interface most with the public and the city. The Quantum executive team, however, expressed the view that fulfilling all Kapastin's Greenbelt roles will take all of them working together.

# Single Lane, Total Road Closure For Goddard Bridge Repair

Repair work on NASA Parkway Bridge will be impacting traffic on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Daytime single lane closures can be expected to take place during non-rush hours of 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in both the northbound and southbound lanes. Nighttime complete road closure is tentative for October 23 and 24 for northbound lanes from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. with back-up dates on October 28 to 31. Nighttime work is anticipated for removal of the concrete bridge

decking and replacement of the damaged girders.

A minimum of two weeks prior to any road closure, a temporary electronic message board will provide advance notification to motorists on the Parkway. Signage for a nighttime detour will be posted.

Demolition of the damaged bridge span on the NASA Parkway Bridge began on September 23. Tentative completion for bridge repairs is scheduled for summer of 2025.

# PG Community Credit Union Pulls Out of Maglev Event

Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union (PGFCFU) pulled its sponsorship of a September 25 resource breakfast for Minority Business Enterprises and Women Business Enterprises at Bowie State University put on by Northeast Maglev, the developer of the proposed high-speed train whose path potentially includes a section of Greenbelt's Forest Preserve. "We are committed to maintaining open communication with our members," the credit union said in a written statement, recognizing the feedback they'd received from concerned residents after Northeast Maglev advertised them as an event partner.

PGFCFU recently replaced the Greenbelt Federal Credit Union in the Greenbelt's Roosevelt Center following its acquisition of the smaller credit union.

PGFCFU said one of their

strategic initiatives is "to foster deeper relationships within the education community," citing Bowie State University as a key education partner.

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

The credit union placed an advertisement in the September 26 News Review notifying readers of their withdrawal from the event.



Small Ad  
**BIG CLOUT**  
\$32.70  
[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)



Dave Lockwood poses with the News Review in Tarragona, Spain.



Mary Murchison-Edwards, center, shares the News Review with the King and Queen at the Maryland Renaissance Festival on Labor Day in Crownsville, Md.

"Why does the Question 1 amendment matter in a state as progressive as Maryland?"

Because laws & rulings can change, and America has witnessed firsthand that a constitutional right to privacy just isn't enough. Question 1 will uphold and protect the rights Marylanders currently have for generations to come, no matter who's in office.

GREENBELT ALLIANCE FOR REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM  
GREENBELTARF@GMAIL.COM




Greenbelt Makerspace Repair Café

Saturday Oct. 19 from 10 am - 2 pm  
at the Granite Bldg, 115 Centerway

Come learn how to repair your tired or broken stuff or help repair others' items (volunteers needed as well). Bring your clothing, furniture, appliances, computers, jewelry, toys, etc. for the challenge of making them useful again. Repairs are not guaranteed.

Tool Library

Saturdays 10 am - noon,  
Sundays 11 am - 1 pm



<https://tools.greenbeltmakers.org>

**At the Library**

All county libraries will be closed Sunday and Monday, October 13 and 14, for the Native American Day holiday, and will reopen on Tuesday, October 15 at noon.

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.

**Pre-K Story Hour/**

**Hora de Cuentos de Prekinder**  
Friday, October 11, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Community Center. Enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling. Friends and family welcome. Hosted by Greenbelt Library staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585530](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585530).

**Storytimes**

Friday, October 11, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585379](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585379).

Wednesday, October 16, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585330](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585330).

Thursday, October 17, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11585308](http://pgcmls.info/event/11585308).

**Talk Health**

Friday, October 11, 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. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11663025](http://pgcmls.info/event/11663025).

**Talk Kids' Dental Health**

Friday, October 11, 11:45 a.m., all ages. Come to the Talk Health information table after the morning storytime where children and their caregivers will find education, resources and hands-on activities for children's oral health. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11665145](http://pgcmls.info/event/11665145).

**Stand Up to Bullying**

Saturday, October 12, 11 a.m., ages 8 to 14. This proactive initiative presented by The Better Place, Inc. is designed to empower young individuals with essential social and emotional skills. Through interactive presentations and engaging activities, children will explore topics such as self-image, self-esteem and strategies for building personal resilience. The program aims to equip participants with practical tools to boost their confidence and navigate challenging situations effectively, fostering a supportive environment where bullying is addressed and prevented. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11165569](http://pgcmls.info/event/11165569).

**Ride and Read**

Thursday, October 17, 11 a.m., ages 16+. Get some physical activity while at the library. Sign up for an hour ride on a stationary bike with great free apps from PGCMLS to enjoy while working out. Participants must be 16 or older, sign a waiver before beginning to ride and be wearing loose-fitting clothing and closed-toed shoes. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/11544582](http://pgcmls.info/event/11544582).

**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).



**Home Dangers of Carbon Monoxide: Awareness, Detection and Protection**

by Steven Mirsky

*This is the second of two articles on the life-threatening dangers of gases in the home. The first article, in the May 2, 2024, News Review, highlighted the dangers of radon.*

Every fall, as the weather gets cooler, incidents of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning can occur. Greenbelt Fire Department Chief Thomas Ray confirmed that CO calls always increase in the winter. Why this time of year? It's because, as cooler weather sets in, heating furnaces, fireplaces, kerosene heaters and other fossil fuel combustion machines are again in use for the first time.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that is emitted as a combustion product from burning oil, coal, natural gas, wood, kerosene, gasoline and propane. Leaking fireplace flues, a generator too close to a home, kerosene heaters inside a house, a leaking home gas heating furnace, and idling a car in an attached garage can all cause CO to enter and accumulate in the home. However, CO can be detected by a continuous electronic monitor that looks like a smoke detector and can even be combined with a smoke detector into one unit.

Monitors can be battery operated or plug into the home AC power supply and cost between \$20 and \$60 if just for CO. They are \$40 to \$80 for combined smoke and CO. They should be carefully located where CO would be expected to accumulate on multiple levels of a home. The monitors are designed to emit an alarm if the CO level reaches a value that can cause long-term health effects.

The Greenbelt Public Safety Advisory Committee is sponsoring an interactive presentation on Thursdays, October 10, 17 and 24 on how to protect residents and their families from radon and carbon monoxide and on preparation for severe weather events. See the Community Events page for the time and location of each session.



PHOTO COURTESY ALAMY.COM

**Carbon monoxide detector**

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*Steven Mirsky is a nuclear engineer with advanced knowledge of radon and carbon monoxide.*



**Campfire Programs At Greenbelt Park**

Saturday, October 12 at 7 p.m., Campfire Program: The Amazing Life of Mary McLeod Bethune. Join a historian from the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site for a talk about the great civil rights leader who lived and worked at her home in downtown Washington, D.C., only 12 miles from Greenbelt Park. The talk will focus on her life and her impact on both civil and women's rights.

Saturday, October 19 at 7 p.m., Campfire Program: One Man Irish Band. Brandon Kennedy's impressive musical talent and fun energy brings joy to the crowd. Be ready to sing along and dance.

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).

**Greenbelt Orchestra Free Concert Nov. 10**

Greenbelt Community Orchestra will give a free concert in the Community Center gym on Sunday, November 10 at 4 p.m. The program will include Dvorak's New World Symphony, as well as Fanny Mendelssohn's Overture, a tango by Carlos Gardel, Florence Price's Adoration and one of Dvorak's Slavonic Dances. All are invited. Find out more about the orchestra at [greenbeltorchestra.org](http://greenbeltorchestra.org).

School News

**Council Learns about PGCPS New Office of Integrity and Compliance**

by Matthew Arbach

At the September 25 work-session, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) District 2 representative Jonathan Briggs updated council on the new PGCPS Office of Integrity and Compliance (OIC). According to [oic@pgcps.org](mailto:oic@pgcps.org), this is an "independent unit," with a "commitment to improve compliance, rigorous monitoring and enforcement of all applicable policies, procedures and laws to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse of funds and property" within the county system. The bill PG 501-23 establishing the OIC was approved by the 2023 State General Assembly. OIC commenced work on June 1, 2024. Briggs emphasized that the OIC's ability to act independently in its efforts to evaluate the workings of PGCPS is at the center of its impetus.

Briggs shared an overview of the office's powers, duties and workings, with added information available at [princegeorghousedelegation.com](http://princegeorghousedelegation.com). According to Briggs, these include: to require the county council to appoint an OIC officer (staff is appointed by the OIC); to make "independent evaluations and recommendations" to PGCPS; to "improve effectiveness, productivity and efficiencies" of PGCPS

programs; to monitor internal control, accounting and financial management and technology; to make budgetary analyses and performance audits; to make use of any government and private agencies to gather information; and, to develop work plans.

Frank S. Turner was appointed the OIC officer. Said Briggs, Turner worked closely with the PGCPS School Board to "develop a clear work plan."

According to Briggs, several on the PGCPS Board are keen to strengthen and clarify the language around the OIC's charge. There is a concern around redundancies with existing entities with similar purviews such as the PGCPS Board Office of Fraud, Waste, Abuse and Illegal Acts – a sentiment echoed by Greenbelt Councilmember Jenni Pompei and resident Robert Goldberg-Strassler. Briggs informed council that currently, issues and concerns can be addressed through both offices.

Said Briggs, the OIC officer's salary is paid by PGCPS, with a desire by some PGCPS board members to transfer that responsibility to the county, who has authority over the OIC.

Mayor Emmett Jordan characterized the OIC as "a step in the right direction."

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# Will Maryland's Blueprint Work? Oversight Board, Officials Watch

by Lizzy Alspach and Apurva Mahajan

Maryland plans to spend \$16.6 billion dollars through 2029, along with billions more after that, to improve its public schools. But will it work? State legislators created a seven-member oversight board to ensure it would.

The Blueprint for Maryland's Future, a transformative education law passed in 2021, aims to boost student performance and education quality throughout Maryland schools. It outlines these goals in five pillars: the expansion of pre-kindergarten, the hiring and retention of high-quality and diverse teachers and leaders, college and career readiness, additional resources and accountability and governance.

Lawmakers established the Blueprint's Accountability and Implementation Board to monitor the Blueprint's progress. The board oversees funding and initiative implementation while providing guidance to school districts, all with the intention of improving academic performance in Maryland.

School leaders across the state said the Blueprint comes with complications that go beyond the financial challenges it poses to the state and its 24 public school districts. Educators said they're concerned about the Blueprint's deadlines, a lack of detailed procedural information and the plan's overall place in the educational system.

## Assessing the Blueprint

The Accountability and Implementation Board will oversee the progress of each public school system in implementing Blueprint initiatives.

The board is by law required to:

- Develop a plan to fully implement the Blueprint in public school systems, complete with timelines and deadlines.

- Monitor the progress school districts and the state are making regarding the Blueprint by reporting annually on 92 data measures, which collect information on student performance, teacher preparation and outcomes backed by Blueprint funding.

- Determine if changes need to be made to the plan to achieve the plan's original goals.

- Ensure Expert Review Teams of teachers, faculty and staff to observe schools and understand how to make recommendations about changing how the plan is implemented.

- Release about a quarter of Blueprint funds each year to school systems that are implementing initiatives properly.

- Hire an independent contractor to evaluate the Blueprint's success.

- Ensure school systems demonstrate at least 75 percent of funding received per student follows the students to their school.

Under the law, the accountability board can withhold funding from school systems that fail to implement Blueprint initiatives or to show significant student progress.

The board holds routine meetings to hear from Marylanders. It also has a series of advisory groups to gather feedback from teachers, parents, students and other stakeholders, according to

Laura Stapleton, a board member and chair of the University of Maryland's Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology.

"There's so many moving parts," Stapleton said. "Many different stakeholders are needed to implement all the various parts of the Blueprint."

## Stretching Deadlines

Every Maryland public school district is responsible for rolling out Blueprint initiatives and collecting each of the 92 different data measures for the Accountability and Implementation Board to evaluate, Stapleton said.

But school district officials said none of that is easy.

## Slow Flow of Information

Blueprint information seems to move slowly to and through the state's school districts.

"Because the implementation of the Blueprint is massive and encompasses the entire district, one of the biggest challenges is communicating with employees the ways in which their work already aligns with the Blueprint," Prince George's County school officials said.

The Accountability and Implementation Board holds regular meetings on Zoom for anyone to attend. All meetings are held online and published in an online archive for anyone to view.

Sparkle Jefferson, an assistant principal at Flintstone Elementary School in Prince George's County, stressed the need for more details about the Blueprint.

"There's a lot of information that definitely needs to be clarified," Jefferson said. "I think it needs to be disseminated in a clear, concise manner where of course our principals are able to understand – and understand the impact that it has for each school."

Members of the accountability board encourage community members to provide feedback. Principals, parents and teachers are urged to reach out about the Blueprint, Rachel Amstutz, the accountability board's policy director, said.

"We need to hear from the local level what's happening and what you need," Amstutz said. "We need to hear from our parents what's working for their kids and what isn't."

## Lingering Concerns

Implementing the Blueprint hasn't gone exactly as planned so far. Deadlines for criteria and implementation plans have been extended at least three times. In district-level Blueprint plans submitted this spring, school officials across the state expressed a variety of concerns.

"The ubiquitous challenge inherent in meeting Blueprint goals is in the fact that the Blueprint is silent on supporting all else, i.e., the arts, athletics, enrichment and after-school programming, transportation, facilities, health care, etc.," St. Mary's County school officials wrote. "These elements of school are necessary and imperative in supporting the whole child."

Amid all the concerns, Janine Bacquie, Director, Division of Blueprint for Maryland Future, said further delays may be necessary. The rush to complete

various measures in the Blueprint could render the plan to reinvent Maryland's public schools less effective than it could otherwise be, she said.

"It's not something where you just come in and say something's going to change overnight," Bacquie said. "You're changing hearts, thoughts, minds, strategies."

*Lizzy Alspach and Apurva Mahajan write for the Capital News Service. Local News Network Director Jerry Zremski contributed to this report.*

## City Notes

Economic Development hosted 70 guests for a Chamber of Commerce networking event in council chambers. Public Works and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion staff held a cookout for all city employees.

Human Resources assisted police with officer language testing. Code Enforcement issued two permits and inspected 21 rentals. After one adoption, Animal Shelter residents are five dogs, three cats and a kitten.

Public Works planted two dawn redwood trees in the lake wetlands and removed graffiti at the Armory. Environmental/Sustainability staff, 10 volunteers and four councilmembers removed invasives from the Forest Preserve. A 500-gallon oil recycling tank was received from Maryland Environmental Services.

The Community Center hosted the Greenbelt Assistance in Living program's flu shot clinic, the Arts Advisory Board and the Public Safety Advisory Committee. Staff cleaned the commercial kitchen, where CHEARS resumed Food for Life events.

Arts offered a Springhill Lake after-school craft workshop, Therapeutic Recreation hosted Active Aging events and the Museum installed vintage Halloween decorations.

CARES attended Maryland's Suicide Prevention Conference.



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# College Park Museum Awarded Grant for Black Aviation Exhibit

The College Park Aviation Museum, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Department of Parks and Recreation, has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) to fund its upcoming Columbia Air Center exhibition.



College Park Aviation Museum

PHOTO COURTESY PG PARKS & REC.

The exhibition promises to be a groundbreaking exploration of the first Black-owned and -operated airport in the United States, blending historical artifacts with cutting-edge interactive displays. The air center was in Croom, Md., operating from 1940 to 1962. Its overlooked history belongs alongside the Tuskegee Airmen, the Black mechanics at the Curtiss-Wright School of Aeronautics in Chicago and other recognized centers of early Black aviation. The exhibition will contain projected holograms of actors depicting historic members of the air center. With scripted questions, holograms will engage visitors and bring this history to life.

"Telling the story of Columbia Air Center is integral to our vision of creating more inclusive interpretation and preserving the aviation history of Prince George's County," said Museum Director Nadine Boksmati-Fatouh, Ph.D. "This grant will allow us to be the first museum to showcase the largely unrecognized history of the first Black-owned and -operated airport; and the African American aviators who were determined to fly in defiance of oppressive racial segregation. We are honored to have housed the growing Columbia Air Center collection since the 1990s."


"We are grateful to have received this grant to help fund the digital and interactive elements

of the upcoming Columbia Air Center exhibition," said Curator of Collections Luke Perez. "We are honored to be working with the descendant community of the Columbia Air Center to share this significant but overlooked history. With this grant, we will be able to combine traditional exhibition design with innovative, cutting-edge elements to make a modern and engaging exhibition that this history deserves."

Through the Columbia Air Center exhibition, the aviation museum aims to inspire curiosity, encourage dialogue and foster a deeper appreciation for early Black aviation. The support from MHAA underscores its commitment to fostering cultural enrichment and educational outreach in Prince George's County. By partnering with the museum and its Field of Firsts Foundation, MHAA reaffirms its dedication to supporting innovative projects that resonate with diverse audiences.

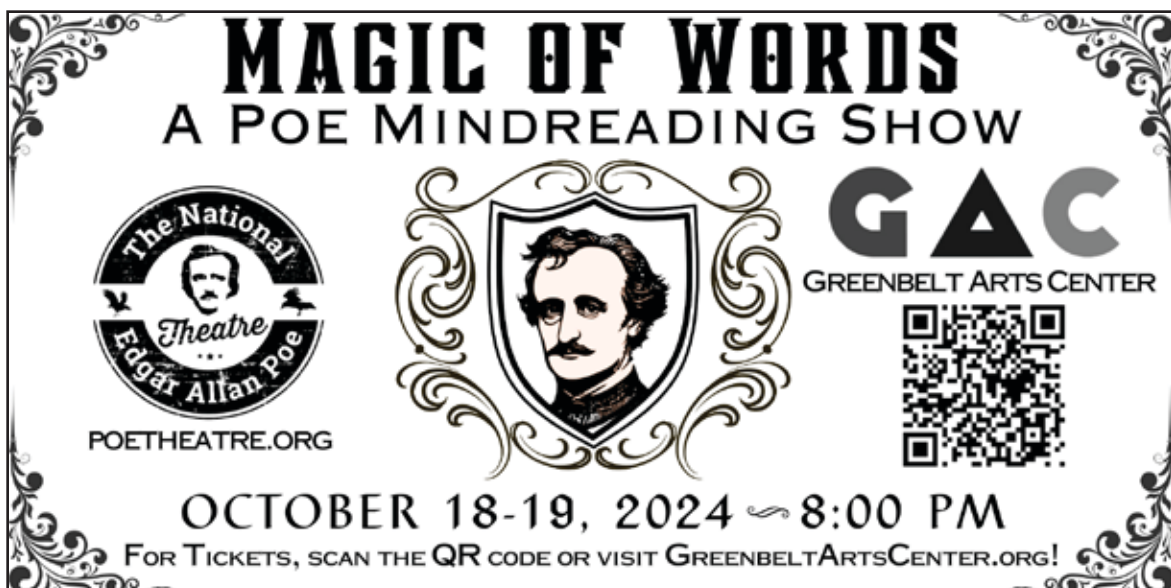
For more information about this and other museum exhibits, visit [pgparks.com/facilities](http://pgparks.com/facilities) and choose College Park Airport. Admission details, special events and educational programs related to the exhibition will be announced in summer 2025.

*This article is drawn from a press release from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Parks and Recreation.*



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# A Look at Home Prices, Changes The FBI Headquarters May Bring

by Laura Charleston and Madi Eades

Irreparable, crumbling and run down. These words have described the J. Edgar Hoover FBI Headquarters for the last decade. A change needed to be made.

“The FBI building downtown is a mess,” said Susan Gregersen, retired environmental protection specialist for the U.S. Department of Energy. “It’s falling apart. It’s not particularly secure. It doesn’t have enough space for all the people that work there.”

After years of searching and discussing where to relocate the headquarters, in November 2023 the General Services Administration gave the green light to relocate the FBI headquarters to a 61-acre plot of land in Greenbelt.

“So, they’ve talked about it for so long. I’m thinking ... close to 20 years,” said Gregersen. This decision will boost the economy, generate new employment opportunities, promote local businesses and enhance Metro’s public transportation system, say proponents. These improvements to the region will benefit generations to come, but they may also cost them, others caution.

## Rising House Prices

Greenbelt is home to one of the original and oldest-running cooperative communities, developed by former President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Green Towns program. While the FBI headquarters relocation is a great investment for Prince George’s County, it is likely to increase housing prices, among other downsides. This would conflict with Greenbelt’s history of offering affordable housing, particularly through the housing co-operative, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI).

It may “result in some gentrification where housing prices might actually go up because a lot of the workers will want to live closer,” said Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan. He acknowledges the relocation as a mixed bag of advantages and disadvantages for the community.

## Realtors’ Perspectives

The health of Greenbelt’s economy greatly impacts its housing market. According to Kim Kash, a Compass real estate agent and Greenbelt resident, the relocation of the FBI headquarters raises the question of housing affordability as prices will likely increase. “It’s going to bring more employment, probably more opportunities for other businesses ... and it’s going to make housing prices increase,” said Kash.

Kash, who grew up in Greenbelt, is actively involved in her community as a board member for the local Co-op Supermarket and co-founder of the Greenbelt Farmers Market.

She acknowledges the relocation’s many benefits and says it is a great example of smart growth – which is when developers “concentrate building around a public transportation hub.” The headquarters is next to the Greenbelt Metro station, which offers easy and efficient transportation to locals, commuters and visitors. Kash added that it will not please everyone, and is a “double-edged sword” because of the possible increase in property value.

The relocation will make Prince George’s County, as a

whole, more valuable, especially when surrounding counties have had investments in infrastructures, boosts to their economy and reinvigoration of cities. Examples include Montgomery County, where the National Institutes of Health is located, and Northern Virginia, which has seen significant federal investments as the home to the Pentagon as well as Quantico Marine Corps Base, and also competed for the FBI headquarters. In contrast, Prince George’s has not been so fortunate. “Prince George’s just sort of gets lost in the shuffle. But now, I think with all the new development that’s being focused on here, Greenbelt definitely has an opportunity to step up,” said Kash.

Speaking at a rally at Greenbelt Metro Station in November 2022, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks said, “Decisions like this one have major generational consequences,” pointing out wealth discrepancies between Prince George’s County and other counties that have received federal investments like Montgomery and Fairfax Counties (for more see the November 10, 2022, issue of the News Review).

Sarah Liska, a real estate agent for Freedom Realty, who also grew up here, believes the employees would rather commute from somewhere else, however, somewhere cheaper.

“Every generation coming into the possible age of home buying has very limited resources in terms of housing,” said Liska. “So I think our market is going to be driven by that primarily.” She is not looking forward to the “traffic pattern, road widening and development.”

“The bottom dries up,” Liska says to explain when high prices become average prices because they continue to rise. As the number of houses declines, the prices increase. Soon, what is considered too much becomes the latest average rate and the cycle continues. This may greatly affect lower-income persons who cannot keep up with or afford these increasing rates.

## A Local’s Perspective

One Greenbelt local is sure that the FBI headquarters, rising rates and infrastructure renovations will bring gentrification to lower-income areas.

“I have no doubt, [it] is not going to happen immediately, but further down the road. I think it definitely will happen,” said Lois Rosado, a Greenbelt resident and retired CEO and dean of the SUNY-Brooklyn Educational and Opportunity Center.

## Affordability

During the Great Depression, house values dropped, causing foreclosure rates to skyrocket. Thus, then President Roosevelt created the Green Towns Program to combat the housing crisis. These towns offered affordable housing to low-income workers and families.

What makes Greenbelt unique is its cooperative community. As a housing cooperative, GHI operates on the principle of shared responsibility, aiming to enhance housing affordability. Each resident contributes to the maintenance and upkeep of not only their own home but the entire community. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of ownership and aids in making decisions in the best interest of all residents.

Today, this green town co-op community, now GHI, welcomes the relocation, which it hopes will benefit the cooperative and Greenbelt as a whole. GHI currently manages 1,600 units ranging from single-bedroom units to townhouses to a few single-family homes. According to its General Manager James Claggett, through collective efforts, the cooperative has maintained a diverse environment for its residents.

“I think it’s going to be able to bring in new businesses, upgraded restaurants and stores of that magnitude,” said Bruce Mangum, GHI’s contract processor. Mangum and Claggett said they are excited to welcome new families to diversify and enhance the co-op.

However, the possible rise in property values would increase down payments. Mangum said this would not impact the cost of maintaining the co-op, but first-time homeowners would find it more difficult because they would have to come up with more money upfront.

Affordability has changed over the years due to inflation. The relocation of the FBI headquarters could further decrease the affordability of Greenbelt, which was founded with a purpose of offering affordable homes for working-class families. Jordan and the city council are working to combat the downsides and maintain the character of Greenbelt after the headquarters is established.

*Laura Charleston and Madi Eades are University of Maryland students at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism writing for the News Review.*

## Greenbelters Travel



PHOTO BY JIM MIERS

Jan Derry takes a few minutes off from a blustery day on Eysturoy Island in the Faroes to catch up on the news from back home.



PHOTO COURTESY CAROL SLATIN

Carol Slatin reads the News Review on the Glen Alps trail near Anchorage.



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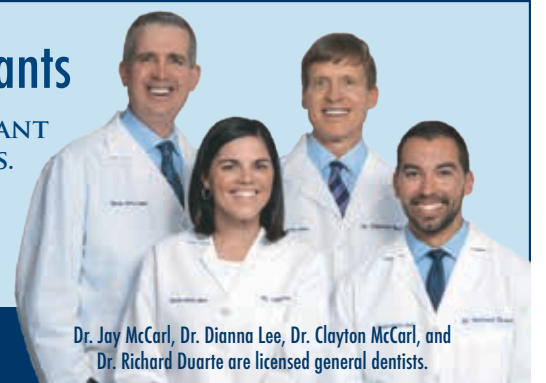
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# 16 Cars Broken Into in a Single Night; Airbags, Parts Taken

by Randy Chow

In one night, 16 cars were broken into in Greenbelt. Their windows were smashed and airbags and tires stolen. Eight cases were in Greenbelt East, five in Greenbelt West and three in Greenbelt Center, reported the Greenbelt Police Department on October 2.

"It is unknown if this is a group, multiple groups or just a single individual behind these crimes," Greenbelt Police Sgt. Charles Wooten told the News Review. "No suspects at this time."

The break-ins occurred at hotel parking lots and a car dealership, with perpetrators taking laptops, speakers and tires. In one case, multiple Honda parts were stolen, including a hood, headlight, bumper, trunk and taillight, Wooten wrote.

"These crimes usually take place during late evening and early morning hours," Wooten told the News Review. "They happen nearly every day throughout the region to some extent."

The theft of airbags and wheels of certain car models, like Hondas, has been an ongoing trend, Wooten noted.

Greenbelt Police Department's Ricardo Dennis told the News Review that the extent of the thefts from the vehicles, in addition to the number hit, was unusual for the city.

"They knew what they were doing," Dennis told the News Review. "Not everyone can remove an airbag without setting off an alarm, working at night and pretty quickly." Wheels are big and heavy and you need to plan to transport 10 to 15 of them, he noted. "It's not something we consistently have in Greenbelt; not something typical for us to deal with," he said.

The cost of repairs varies from

vehicle to vehicle, Wooten wrote. For the Hondas, officers reported about \$500 in repair costs for each damaged window. The wheels stolen from a Toyota cost about \$2,800.

Tim Barnhill, whose car was broken into at Woodspring Suites' parking lot, an extended stay hotel at Greenway Center, told DC News Now that while some valuables were left behind, perpetrators inflicted significant damage. "The damage is \$300 for the window, and this morning, it took me 45 minutes to vacuum out all the glass, and who knows how much glass is left in my seats and carpet," Barnhill said. He travels for his job, and the break-in has greatly disrupted him right before he has to cross state lines for an upcoming job. "This is at the end of a work contract for me, and I have to be at my next contract in Minneapolis, so I have to have this [dealt with] within the next day or two," Barnhill said. "This is a pinch and a burden I've been put into all [of] a sudden."

There are periodic incidents of numerous thefts like this in

the Washington, D.C., area and usually the same location isn't targeted again for several months. In June, the Greenbelt Police Department put out a warning about thieves targeting Nissan Infinitis due to thefts from those vehicles in nearby cities, though Greenbelt was not hit in that wave. Greenbelt's proximity to major highways such as Interstate 495 and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway might make it attractive to groups of thieves targeting different cities in the area.

Residents should be vigilant of their surroundings, park in well-lit areas, lock their vehicles and not leave objects of value in plain sight, Wooten advised. He added that investing in anti-theft devices, like an auto alarm, wheel lug locks and a steering wheel club can serve as deterrents.

"We ask anyone with information in reference to these crimes, or to report suspicious activity, to call us at 301-474-7200," Wooten stated.

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



PHOTO BY ERIC RAUN

Petra Sanchez, right, shows some of her amazing harvest of squash blossoms from her plot in the Henry's Hollow community garden on August 31. Fellow gardener Deanna Dawson holds one of the baskets of Sanchez's flowers.



PHOTO BY SUSAN CAHILL

Once orange all over, these short-lived fruiting bodies of a stinkhorn fungus now look like witches' fingers, as they start to decay from the top down on Hillside Road — a reminder that Halloween and cooler weather will be here soon.



PHOTO BY ERIC RAUN

This widow skimmer dragonfly was observed near Hamilton Place.

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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred September 30 - October 6, 2024. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

### Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police Department reported one domestic incident with an arrest and one sexual assault. On October 1 a young man went missing and was later located safe. On October 2 near 550 Crescent Road a man was arrested on a warrant from the Worcester County Sheriff's Office. Another man was arrested on a warrant and taken to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections after he was caught speeding in a vehicle with passenger side damage and a broken mirror hanging from the vehicle.

### Assault

On October 2 at 6:18 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man got into a physical fight with security. He was arrested and identified.

### Break-in

On September 30 at 12:56 a.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a woman secured both door locks when she left her residence, but upon returning, she discovered her front door may have been tampered with because a screw was missing from the bottom door knob.

### Disorderly

On October 1 at 1:38 p.m. near 7500 Hanover Parkway, a client refused to leave an office and was being disruptive. Officers sent him on his way without further incident.

### DUI Arrests

On October 4 at 12:09 a.m. near 6301 Ivy Lane, during a traffic stop, a driver was found under the influence of alcohol, arrested and charged with DUI.

On October 5 at 12:26 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Greenbelt Road, a driver was driving on the wrong side of the road and was found slumped over the wheel with alcoholic beverage containers in the vehicle. He was arrested and charged with DUI.

### Fraud

On September 30 near 9111 Edmonston Road, a business discovered that fraudulent checks were being sent out from their banking account.

On October 2 near 400 Ridge Road, a fraudulent Verizon account was opened.

On October 2 near 5209 South Center Drive, a check was altered and cashed. The bank is investigating.

### Shoplifting

On October 1 at 8:00 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, two men were shoplifting; at 12:06 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man placed several items into a cart and left without paying; at 12:21 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole party balloons and left in a black BMW.

On October 2 at 7:52 p.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man and woman stole items and fled.

On October 4 at 1:01 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, a man and a woman filled two bags with merchandise and fled in a dark gray four-door Infiniti with paper tags.

On October 4 at 6:20 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, three juveniles were arrested for shoplifting and banned from the location; one had a warrant through the Prince George's County Sheriff's office. Her mother was contacted.

On October 4 at 7:01 p.m.

near 7607 Greenbelt Road, two men and a woman stole items; at 8:41 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man tried to steal a cart full of groceries; his cart tipped over and he fled; at 10:18 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a woman left her phone on the counter, and when she returned it was gone; security footage showed a man in an orange hoodie take it and leave.

### Theft

On September 30 near 8227 Canning Terrace, a FedEx package was stolen from a front porch.

On October 2 near 42 Ridge Road, a lawn chair was stolen from a yard.

On October 6 at 10:04 a.m. near 9 Research Road, someone working in the building stole money from a woman.

### Threats

On October 2 near 9100 Springhill Lane, someone was calling and texting threats of harm to a woman and her family.

### Juvenile Trespassing

On October 1 at 7:47 p.m. near 420 Ridge Road, four youngsters were playing and got into an unlocked vacant unit. They were released to their parents.

### Vandalism

On September 30 at 1:11 a.m. near 6717 Springshire Way, someone wrote on the basement door with possible lipstick and threw eggs and mustard at the door.

On October 2 at 9:34 p.m. near 6220 Breezewood Drive, a bedroom window was smashed, probably part of an ongoing dispute.

### Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Five vehicles were stolen: on October 1 near Lakeside Drive, a gray 2020 Kia Sportage (Md. 2FL4064), and near 9158 Springhill Court, a black 2022 Acura TLX; on October 3 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a black 2021 Chevy Tahoe (Md. 8GD3572); on October 5 near 143 Westway, a white 2018 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 2EK9779); and on October 6 near 6208 Breezewood Court, a black 2015 Toyota Camry (Md. 3GD3255).

### Attempted Theft of Auto

On October 3 at 10:08 p.m. near 7825 Mandan Road, a man was seen breaking into and entering cars. He ran but was arrested.

On October 5 at 1:21 a.m. near 5823 Cherrywood Lane, someone was tampering with a vehicle, but ran away when lights were turned on.

### Stolen Vehicles Located

On September 30 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, officers found a damaged Hyundai Elantra that had been stolen from Montgomery County.

On October 1 near 7801 Mandan Road, an officer noticed a white Infiniti Q50 with Virginia tags belonging to a different vehicle. A VIN check showed it was stolen.

On October 1 near 9013 Breezewood Terrace, a damaged Hyundai was found blocking a dumpster, but it was not reported stolen.

On October 2 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman thought her vehicle was stolen but later found it.

### Theft from Auto

On September 30 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a wallet and glasses were taken from an unlocked vehicle.

On October 2 near 6109 Breezewood Court, airbags were stolen from three Hondas: a 2017, 2018 and a 2021 which was also missing the front bumper, hood, headlights, trunk and taillights.

On October 2 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, someone broke windows on nine vehicles and stole items.

On October 2, all four wheels were stolen from several vehicles, including a 2019 Toyota Camry near 6320 Golden Triangle Drive, vehicles near 8000 Greenbelt Station Parkway and 8200 Miner Street. Security video showed two individuals stealing wheels and tires near 6500 Capitol Drive. On October 3, wheels, tires and other items were stolen from vehicles near 219 Lakeside Drive and near 6301 Golden Triangle Drive.

Items were stolen from vehicles on October 3 near 219 Lakeside Drive and near 159 Westway; near 7536 Mandan Road, a wallet was taken from an unlocked vehicle. The owner cancelled his credit cards and no damage was done to the vehicle.

### Vandalism to Auto

On October 2 near 9108 Springhill Lane, a gray 2024 Honda had a window broken.

On October 4 at 12:53 a.m. near 155 Westway, a Maryland

State Police cruiser had a window broken and the glove compartment ransacked; near 6158 Springhill Terrace, someone damaged a vehicle.

On October 6 near 6223 Springhill Court, a rear windshield was broken; near 7808 Hanover Parkway, a sunroof was broken.



### Resident Carjacked At Gunpoint on Ridge Rd

On Monday, October 7 around 5:30 p.m., Greenbelt Police received a report of an armed carjacking in the vicinity of 51 Court Ridge Road. A resident reported their Nissan automobile was taken by two individuals, one armed with a gun. The victim was not injured. Police pursued the vehicle onto I-495 but the car got away. No further details are available.

## Motor Vehicle Thefts Down After Five-year Surge Here

by Randy Chow

The Greenbelt Police Department reported that stolen vehicle cases fell to 197 this year from 460 for the same period last year.

Law enforcement agencies nationwide saw a surge in stolen vehicle reports in past years, said Officer Ricardo Dennis, Greenbelt Police Department spokesperson.

Motor vehicle thefts in the city rose from 75 cases in 2019 to 540 by 2023, according to the police department's monthly crime reports.

Stolen Hyundai and Kia reports nationwide increased by more than 1,000 percent between the first half of 2020 and the first half of 2023, according to the Highway Loss Data Institute, a nonprofit that tracks insurance statistics. "The rise in auto thefts was not unique to the City of Greenbelt," Dennis said. "This issue was widespread throughout the country."

A viral series of TikTok videos posted in 2021 revealed a manufacturing issue that thieves exploited to break into some Hyundai and Kia models. The problem has since been patched, Dennis said.

### Auto Thefts Dropping

This year auto thefts have begun to fall. Dennis said some major contributors to the decreasing

trend were the department's actions, like identifying and apprehending individuals responsible for stealing motor vehicles, communicating with other law enforcement agencies, giving away steering-wheel locks to local drivers and focusing the department's command staff, which identifies areas with higher reports of crime and adjusts patrol units to target those areas.

A Prince George's County Police Department spokesperson cited the county police's consistent communication with its regional partners in sharing critical information as a significant contribution in the recent decreasing trend countywide.

In Prince George's County Division II, which includes Greenbelt, a county police department spokesperson said that stolen vehicle reports decreased 11.2 percent in its most recent year to date.

"We are happy that our efforts within Greenbelt have brought the numbers back down, and we will continue to work to prevent these and other types of crime," said Dennis.

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



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## ARMORY continued from page 1

kinds of contaminants.”

### Condition of the Property

Greenbelt’s City Council will tour the property this week. “I want council to have some good information, to have seen it for themselves, so they can see the conditions,” Salmerón told the News Review. “It’s one thing to tell them, ‘hey ... major copper wiring has been stripped out,’ it’s one thing to say that but another for them to see that the electrical panels, during the time that this property has been unoccupied, people have gone in there and done all kinds of stuff – stripped out the copper wiring, they started cutting copper piping from the heating system ... the electricity, basically you can’t count on any of it because it’s been tampered with, so major headaches when it comes to some of those systems,” said Salmerón.

### Future Usage

Despite the daunting condition, the Armory offers opportunities for future usage that many are excited about. The city has been conducting a feasibility study to determine the possibilities for the future of the building. The study was funded through \$150,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Among the concepts being considered and outlined are using the building for municipal services or for a new fire station. They are also

working through feedback from residents to come up with a community-led concept. From resident suggestions, there’s a contingency that wants housing, said Salmerón, and also space and services for CARES, which he sees fitting into municipal services. In 2021, when the acquisition was being planned, council was excited over the possibilities for office space and potentially a new fire station for Greenbelt. Then they were unsure if a station on the site would require demolition of the Armory but, as the News Review reported at the time, council was reluctant to demolish it. Salmerón says nothing has been ruled out yet. The feasibility study will be presented to council on October 14.

### Immediate Needs

In the meantime, money needs to be found for the basic necessities of stabilizing and securing the property. Salmerón hopes money might be reallocated from ARPA funds, “otherwise we’re going to have to use general fund money somehow because we need money this year for it,” he said. Public Works is currently using its resources to lock doors and repair windows. The city was already keeping up the grounds. “Now we’re responsible for it,” said Salmerón, who noted that money needed to be allocated and expenses tracked.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

The Armory

## UTAH continued from page 1

precedent and found that the News Review case had, in fact, been cited in oral arguments at the start of the Utah court case. The News Review offered moral support and asked to be kept apprised.

### Validation

More recently, a joyful Utah editor let us know that the case had been emphatically thrown out by the court, providing a copy of the 40+-page ruling that accompanied the case’s dismissal. The document cited a ponderous list of deficiencies and misrepresentations in the plaintiff’s case and fully upheld the newspaper’s reporting. Although the News Review’s case was not mentioned specifically in the written document, the judgment echoed the same arguments – that a newspaper was free to report the speech of others and that a statement was only defamatory if it wasn’t true.

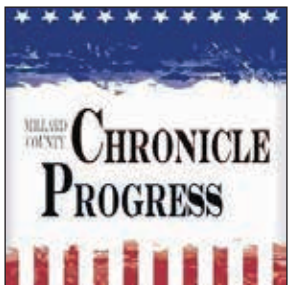


PHOTO COURTESY FACEBOOK

Millard County Chronicle Progress banner

### Down the Ages

It is pleasing to think that the heroic efforts of the News Review in the late 1960s (when the newspaper kept fighting even though two lower courts had ruled against it) are still an active force against those who would muzzle a free press from accurately reporting local news.

## UTOPIA continued from page 1

site of a 19th century lynching to the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. The film’s director, Justinian Dispenza, also made Looking Inward: Black History & the Arts, about artists who explored thousands of documents and images about Black history in the Chesapeake region to inspire their own art works.

### Sports and Music

Beisbol: The Legends of Puerto Rico recounts how African American baseball players, professionally banned in the American big leagues from the 1920s to the 1960s, were welcomed to play in Puerto Rico. Negro League Baseball Comes to Greenbelt includes interviews with original Negro League players who visited Greenbelt and shared their stories. Another sport, tennis, is the focus of Almost Heaven, about a Pittsburgh tennis club that decided to become more inclusive. The sport of powerlifting, a form of weight-lifting, is explored in the documentary Power Through, as 85-year-old powerlifter Jim Gallagher confronts obstacles, including the Covid epidemic, in his 2020 quest for a world record.

But obstacles didn’t stop Ola Belle Reed, a gifted musician from Appalachia who made her mark on country and bluegrass music as its popularity grew in the 1960s. The poignant, music-filled documentary I’ve Endured: The Music and Legacy of Ola Belle Reed tells the compelling story of a woman who devoted her life to making mountain music and helping those in need. This film will lift the heart.

### Environment

Other works focus on the environment. Saving Walden’s World documents the ethical crisis faced by an arms dealer troubled by the impact of weapons on the environment who seeks to redeem himself. Look Down Not Up follows the 2022 journey of scientists and citizen-scientists through Nepal and the Everest region to discover and document mushroom species.

### Animation

The animation Lunatic is about abandoned astronaut Antonio, left alone on the moon to grimly observe human trash floating through the atmosphere.

Another animation, I Create as I Speak, takes a playful and provocative look at the power of computer-generated – or AI – art. For the Utopia Film Festival

Committee, the quality and quantity of excellent independent films reflects the technological advances that have opened filmmaking up to thousands of creators of all ages.

### History

“In 2005, a small cadre of GATE staff and members launched the Greenbelt Utopia Film and Video Festival,” recalled Utopia Executive Director Chris Haley, noting that earliest film formats accepted by Utopia included VHS, Betamax and even a few reel-to-reel films. The festival name was shortened, and eventually DVDs took over. But today all works are submitted online, and volunteer screeners evaluate films from home or with others at the GATE television station in the Community Center. Along with numerous films from American filmmakers, this year’s selections include works from The Netherlands, China, Iran, Nepal, Kenya, Turkey, Puerto Rico and Canada.

Greenbelt resident and long-time-Utopia helper Rebecca Holoher looks forward to meeting filmmakers who often come great distances to interact with Utopia audiences.

“Being part of a film festival allows me to contribute to the celebration and appreciation of cinema and to help create a memorable experience for festival attendees,” she said.

For more information about venues, tickets and schedule, visit [utopiafilmfestival.org](http://utopiafilmfestival.org) and the ad on page 16.

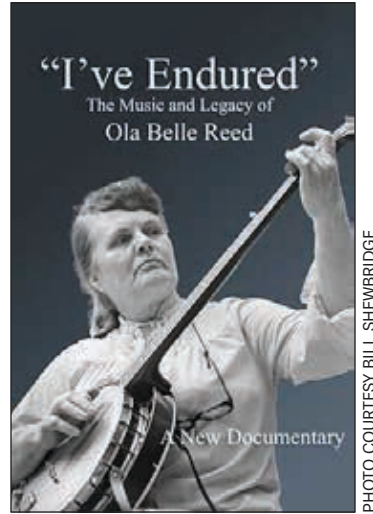


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I've Endured



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# Sports

## Fall Comes, Raiders Keep Winning

by Patrick Gleason



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SWART

**Junior centerback Esther Obisesan and the ERHS varsity soccer team are undefeated with four games left in the regular season.**

A crescent moon adorned a sunset sky behind the Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) scoreboard during the Roosevelt Girls Soccer Tournament on Saturday, October 5. The captivating gradient complemented two Roosevelt victories during the three-team tournament, which included Connelly School of the Holy Child and St. Mary's Ryken. The private schools faced off in the first game with Holy Child earning a 4-2 victory after two early goals. Roosevelt then challenged Holy Child from the first whistle. Earning a plethora of corner kicks in the first quarter of the game, a goal seemed imminent, yet halftime came with a scoreless tie. Wingers Hariette Ngwatung and Jada Savage offered constant pressure, but the Tigers' keeper stood tall. Not until midway through the second half did the Raiders strike. Leftback Alena Beckmann carried forward into the goalbox and after a defensive handball, the referee awarded an ERHS penalty kick. Senior Sadie Swart placed the shot to the left corner as the keeper dove opposite and the 1-0 lead would be all the Raiders needed as Nikki Lilja earned another clean sheet in goal.

The second game followed with St. Mary's Ryken; the Raiders used their team depth to earn a 3-2 victory after scoring a trio

of early goals, highlighted by Ngwatung's immaculate assist to Savage. She sent a diagonal cross from the right side that split Ryken's centerbacks and Savage only had to beat the keeper from there. Despite two second-half goals from Ryken, the Raiders maintained the lead, left the evening with two victories and now possess a 10-0 record with two weeks left in the regular season. By winning the remaining county games, the Raiders would play in the county championship on October 23.

### Junior Varsity

Meanwhile, the junior varsity notched two road victories on the week by besting Oxon Hill 3-0 and Oakland Mills 5-1. Freshman speedster Morgan Parks earned a hat trick while Iris Gaycken and Alima Kargbo also scored in the victory on October 4. The Raiders have proven that they have countless scoring options in a season with a stiff out-of-county schedule. Both teams hope to enjoy the immaculate fall weather during the regular season's penultimate week.

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## Kayaks at Lake Artemesia



Lake Artemesia now has a self-service kayak station. Kayakers can download an app and rent a kayak, paddle and life jacket for \$25 for two hours. Those who don't own a kayak, or who find it too tough to kayak on Greenbelt Lake, might want to know about this nearby alternative.

- Photos by Brooke Kenny



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	10 AM to 12:15 PM	12:30 PM to 2:45 PM	3 PM to 5:15 PM	10 AM to 12:15 PM	12:30 PM to 2:45 PM	3 PM to 5:15 PM	
<b>Greenbelt Cinema</b>	I Create As I Speak 6m Stand by Me 10m 3,400KG 13m Heaven on Earth 14m The Koda-Chrome (W)rapper 25m My First Breath 36m <i>*Large Theater</i>	Lunatic 16m The Big Raise 40m Look Down Not Up 52m <i>*Large Theater</i>	1001 Cuts 25m Accessing Democracy 28m Black Hair Love 45m <i>*Annex Theater</i>	<b>Greenbelt Cinema</b>	The Last Beam of Sunset 5m Las Nogas 20m Clancy Sigat: Hollywood Blacklist to "A" List 83m <i>*Large Theater</i>	Father's Mountains 11m In Search of Edgar Allan Poe 97m <i>*Annex Theater</i>	Looking Inward-Black History & the Arts 30m Get on the Bus! 69m <i>*Annex Theater</i>
<b>New Deal Cafe</b>	Black Wealth 14m Hadithi (Stories) 22m Game Over 29m Power Through 29m Mon Afrique 5m	Lakeland's Heritage: A Call for Restorative Justice 7m Pari and the Witch 13m Just Another Bombing 26m This is Donal and Iona's Story 28m The Road to Well Being 29m Exception 30m	The Tin Woods 11m Annapolis: In My Lifetime 47m "I've Endured": The Music and Legacy of Ola Belle Reed 51m	<b>New Deal Cafe</b>	SCRAP 14m Saving Walden's World 90m	Las Nogas 20m Food, Fiber, & The Female Farmer 26m The Road to Well-being 28m Unintended Consequences: Saving the Sole of Louisiana 29m	Son of a Beach 11m Negro League: Baseball Comes to Greenbelt 11m Belsbol: The Legends of Puerto Rico 60m
<b>Municipal Bldg</b>	Saturday Night 7-9pm Maria 6m, Lunatic 16m, SCRAP 14m, Just Another Bombing 26m, This is Donal and Iona's Story 28m, The Road to Well-being 28m, Festival Support for Ukraine 9m						

## Event Schedule

Tickets  
 \$8 a Block  
**ALL WEEKEND PASS**  
 \$20 Online  
 or at  
 the Door  
 (Until Sold Out!)

Utopia Film Festival is a Project of



Greenbelt Access Television

For Full Schedule and Ticket Information, Visit  
**UtopiaFilmFestival.org**  
 Or Contact Us:  
**UtopiaFilmFest20770@gmail.com**

