



Empty Bowls, p.16



Generous Joe's, p.8

Teen Charged in Skip Day Shooting Acquitted; Second Teen Awaits Trial

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

One of the teenagers charged with shooting five other teens at a “Senior Skip Day” event at Schrom Hills Park in April has been acquitted. The second awaits trial this month.

The Senior Skip Day event on April 19 drew a crowd of hundreds of Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) students, from a variety of schools, who gathered at Schrom Hills. It ended with five students ranging in age from 16 to 18 taken to a hospital suffering from gunshot wounds, one in critical condition. All five recovered. (For more on the shooting see the April 25 issue.)

Ten days after the shooting, Greenbelt’s Chief of Police Rich-



Greenbelt Police cars block the entrance of Schrom Hills Park on the evening of April 19.

PHOTO BY CATHERINE HOLLINGSWORTH/THE BOWIE SUN

and announced the teenagers would be tried as adults for attempted homicide and gun-related charges. However, this fall their cases were both transferred to juvenile court. They were held without bond since their arrests cited public safety concerns.

Last week, the first of the two teens stood trial and was acquitted.

The Associated Press (AP) reports the acquitted 16-year-old’s attorney, Tom Mooney, said police placed undue focus on the teenager, who has not been named because he is a juvenile, and failed to pursue other viable leads. Complaining of “investigative tunnel vision” and professing his client’s innocence, Mooney said, “The presence of reasonable doubt played a crucial role in the verdict,” reports AP.

The Greenbelt Police Department stood by their investigation. See **SKIP DAY**, page 11

Consultant Presents Draft Traffic Calming Study to City Council

by Matthew Arbach

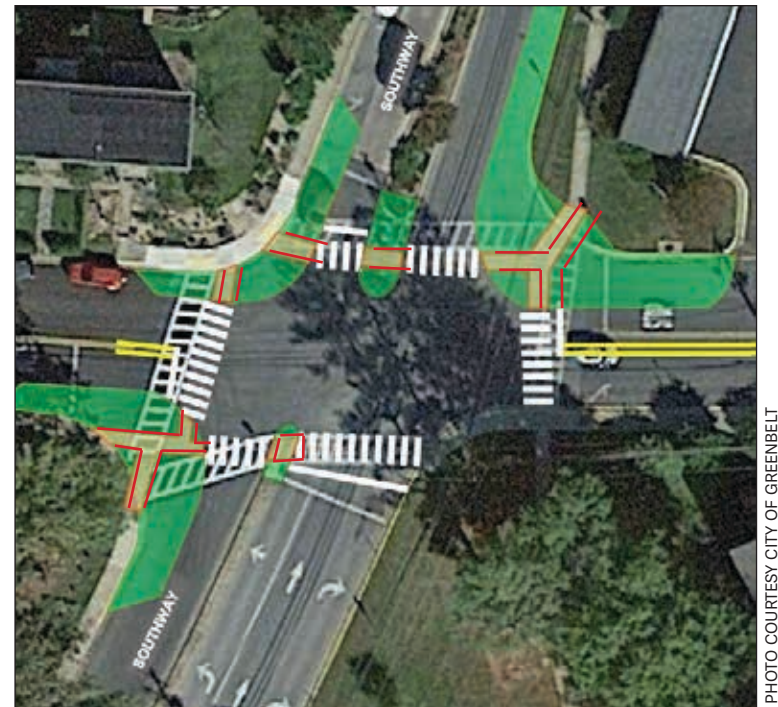


PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

A redesigned intersection of Southway and Ridge Road. Green indicates the previous area around the roadway and red-outlined parts indicate sidewalks and ramps.

Consultant Greenman-Pederson, Inc. (GPI) presented the Greenbelt City Council with the current draft of a traffic calming study of Greenbelt Center at the worksession on November 20. Two of GPI’s representatives, Angie Strevig

and Alan Wang, shared the draft. Also present were Terri Hruby and Jaime Fearer, director and assistant director of Planning and Community Development, respectively. As stated by the

See **COUNCIL**, page 10

Venturing Crew 746 Holds Annual Winter Wonderland

by Liz Murray

Venturing Crew 746, a co-ed Boy Scouts of America program for youth aged 14 to 20, is hosting the Fourth Annual Winter Wonderland on Saturday, December 7. In 2023, the event featured Santa and his firetruck, a lighted woodland walk, community groups’ winter-themed displays with activities and giveaways, model trains and hot cocoa with treats. This quickly growing annual tradition is an important fundraiser as well as a community event. The crew uses all proceeds to directly impact local teens by investing in equipment and youth leadership training opportunities and funding

a crew scholarship to allow every youth to participate regardless of financial ability. The 2023 event saw over 300 guests enjoy live performances, friends around the campfire, visiting with Greenbelt fire and police personnel, Santa and the woodland lights. The 2024 event will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at 40 Ridge Road and is supported by the Greenbelt Rotary and Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church. Entry donations are requested. For additional information, contact Liz Murray, crew advisor at venturecrew746@gmail.com or visit the crew website at venturecrew746.org.



PHOTO BY LIZ MURRAY

A bicycle is festooned with lights at a previous year’s Winter Wonderland.

The SPACE Free Art For All Reaches Sixth Anniversary

by Lois Rosado

Shaymar Higgs’ goal was to arrange a three-week pop-up art space and to determine if it spurred any real interest in the community. With the support and assistance of Quantum Companies and its then liaison at Beltway Plaza, Kap Kapastin, Higgs gained free access to a vacant space. The demand was instantaneous, and the artistic resources and services expanded exponentially. For Higgs, The SPACE – (Sharing Positive, Artistic and Creative Energies), Free Art For All, is a creative place where the community can unite, heal and share, leading to self-discovery

and transformation.

The concept for The SPACE Free Art For All evolved from the Peerless Creative Arts and Resources Center that Higgs and friends started in Clinton, Md. When he moved to Franklin Park and walked through Beltway Plaza, he saw individuals

sketching and others just hanging around and realized that there was a need for a creative outlet in Greenbelt West. Most of the Greenbelt art and creative programs were centered in Old Greenbelt and many individuals lacked the financial means and/or

See **THE SPACE**, page 12

What Goes On

Monday, December 9
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, December 11
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Traffic Ordinance, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for more information.



PHOTO BY JOSEPH ABELARDO

People gather at the final regular Farmers Market of the season, where a sign advertises the annual Holiday Market on December 8. See article on page 7.

Editorial

Carriers Bear Greetings

With a December issue, the Greenbelt News Review distributes an envelope that requests gifts for carriers. Envelopes are addressed to the carrier who delivers your newspaper. The return address is the News Review at 15 Crescent Road, Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD, 20770.

Write checks to the name shown on the envelope. We advise against putting cash in the envelopes given recent mail thefts, and against taping envelopes to your door for carrier pickup.

Envelopes can be delivered to the carriers three ways.

1. Hand them to your carrier.
2. Put a stamp on them and send them through the mail. To prevent mailbox theft, we encourage you to mail them inside a post office.
3. Drop the envelope at the News Review office at the address above.

Though carriers receive nominal pay each week, this extra token means a lot. Pay teaches them about money and the work ethic, and gifts show the additional rewards that come from taking pride in being prompt, organized and careful. Families with multiple routes find the income helpful. This is a first job for many carriers, and your gifts are positive feedback that helps them become productive adults.

All those distributing the paper have faithfully helped us get the paper out every week. Our circulation manager, Elizabeth Gardner, helps keep the whole process on track. Alan Burt is a key link who delivers newspapers to carriers and fills boxes and racks.

The holiday season allows all of us to appreciate and encourage our young carriers, and show understanding for any minor delivery problems that may have happened during the year. The News Review thanks everybody involved for doing a great job, caring about the community and braving hot, cold and wet conditions to bring residents their papers.



Letters to the Editor

Roberts' Response

I am writing in response to an article in the November 7 News Review, "City's JEDI Team Calls for Action Over Council Member's Behavior."

First of all, if my comments about saving our taxpayers some money and educating our workforce offended some people, I sincerely apologize, as that is never my aim. However, as a councilmember, I have a job to do, and sometimes some people are not going to like your position, or what you have to say. With all due respect, the JEDI Team's claim that I acted in a "disrespectful, demeaning and abusive manner to Deputy Chief

Tim White and about the city's Public Works Department" is absolutely false.

Anyone who reads the meeting transcript or watches the meeting video will see that all I did was ask questions and engage in a normal conversation, just as I would do with one of my customers or anyone else who has an interest in mechanical things! In fact, at one point I can be heard saying that "I am sure that our employees can do the job."

A memo from city staff asking for \$16,000 to replace an engine because of a check engine light stated in part: "Upon initial inspection by our shop supervisor

See **LETTERS**, page 13



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:
DECEMBER 6th - 12th

Flow (PG) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (85 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM
Sun. 3:00 PM (OC), 5:30 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 8:00 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 7:15 PM

Wicked (PG) (CC) (DVS)
(2024) (161 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 7:30 PM
Mon. 1:30 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 3:15 PM, 6:30 PM
Sat. 4:40 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM, 5:45 PM
Mon. 12:15 PM, 2:45 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
(NR) (1966) (26 mins)
Free. Sponsored by the
Greenbelt Rec. Department
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:00 PM ~ After the
Roosevelt Center
Christmas tree lighting

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Flow

This animated feature is a wondrous journey through realms natural and mystical as it follows a courageous cat after his home is devastated by a great flood. Teaming up with a capybara, a lemur, a bird and a dog to navigate a boat in search of dry land, they must rely on trust, courage and wits to survive the perils of a newly aquatic planet. From the boundless imagination of the award-winning Latvian filmmaker Gints Zilbalodis (*Away*) comes a thrilling animated spectacle as well as a profound meditation on the fragility of the environment and the spirit of friendship and community. Steeped in the soaring possibilities of visual storytelling, *Flow* is a feast for the senses and a treasure for the heart.

Wicked

Directed by Jon M. Chu, this film is the story of the two witches of Oz. Elphaba, played by Emmy-, Grammy- and Tony-winning powerhouse Cynthia Erivo (*Harriet*, Broadway's *The Color Purple*), is a young woman, misunderstood because of her unusual green skin, who has yet to discover her true power. Grammy-winning, multi-platinum recording artist and global superstar Ariana Grande plays Glinda, a popular young woman gilded by privilege and ambition, who has yet to discover her true heart. The two meet as students at Shiz University in the fantastical Land of Oz and forge an unlikely but profound friendship. Following an encounter with *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, their friendship reaches a crossroads and their lives take very different paths. Glinda's unflinching desire for popularity sees her seduced by power, while Elphaba's determination to remain true to herself, and to those around her, will have unexpected and shocking consequences for her future. Their extraordinary adventures in Oz will ultimately see them fulfill their destinies as Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas

This made-for-TV Christmas special is a classic. Based on a Dr. Seuss book, it is about a Christmas-hating Grinch (voiced by Boris Karloff) who wants to make everyone as miserable on Christmas as he is. The poor, small-hearted Scrooge learns the true meaning of Christmas through the loving Whos in Whoville. As critic Jamie Righetti of IndieWire said, "The story might be familiar, but watching *The Grinch* tiptoe around to *You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch* always brings a surge of fuzzy nostalgia every Christmas season that never seems to get old."



Letters Policy

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

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

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



Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Community Events

At the Library

Greenbelt Library's regular hours are Mondays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m.

Storytimes

Friday, December 6, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12055797.

Wednesday, December 11, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12055756.

Thursday, December 12, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12055785.

News Suite

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) hosts News Suite (pgcmls.info/news-suite), which offers quick and easy access to many national and international newspapers and magazines, including digital editions of the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, plus the Baltimore Sun and USA Today via PressReader.

Upcoming Virtual Events

PGCMLS continues to offer virtual events for the public. A full schedule of upcoming programs may be accessed at pgcmls.info/events, selecting Virtual Event as the Event Type.

GAC Invites Proposals

Calling all actors, directors, dancers, singers, musicians, poets and artists of all kinds: the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) is seeking proposals for productions for the 2025-2026 season. For those with a project in mind that might be a good fit for the GAC stage, click through to the submission form and give the details. Visit GreenbeltArtsCenter.org to access the submission form. Proposal submissions will be accepted until Sunday, January 5.



District 2 Holiday Party And Toy Giveaway

Senator Alonzo T. Washington will host his sixth Annual Holiday Party and Toy Giveaway on Wednesday, December 11 at 6 p.m. Join in to celebrate the holiday season and partake in the Toy Giveaway. Register for the giveaway at wfk.ms/3CWvhjy. Further details regarding the event will be provided upon registration. Senator Washington looks forward to celebrating the holidays with all.

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills. 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.

Los Niños Leen y Juegan

El viernes 13 de diciembre 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 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. Habrán 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.



Golden Age Club December Plans

The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. Because of the December holidays, the schedule for this month is different. Greenbelt seniors are welcome to come as a guest, then pay dues and join the club.

Remember, the club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes the Prince George's County Public Schools.

December meetings:

11 – Bingo

18 – Holiday Luncheon (members only), each member attending must bring a food to share

25 – Christmas/Hanukkah, no meeting

Sparkle Mart Art & Craft Fair

More than 70 vendors will sell unique art and crafts on three floors of the Community Center between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday and between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday.

There will be food trucks outside the Ground Floor East entrance on both days, with indoor seating in the first floor dining room, and customers can enjoy live music both afternoons between 1 and 3 p.m. A youth craft fair will take place in Room 113 on Sunday only. For more information, visit greenbeltdm.gov/arts.



On Friday Santa Lights The Community Tree

All are invited to Roosevelt Center on Friday, December 6 at 7 p.m. to welcome Santa, who will arrive on a fire truck to light the community tree. A musical performance by the Greenbelt Concert Band Brass Choir will herald Santa's grand entrance. Complimentary treats and hot chocolate will be provided by Greenbelt Recreation. Immediately following the tree lighting, the Greenbelt Cinema will offer a free screening of How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966).

A bit of Greenbelt history: The first tree-lighting ceremony in Greenbelt was held in Roosevelt Center in 1938.



Greenbelt Museum Holiday Open House

This Friday, December 6 is the Greenbelt Museum's annual evening open house, Deco the Halls. Stop by 10-B Crescent Road to take a quick tour of the Museum's historic house all aglow with vintage holiday decorations. The house will be open from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Admission is free and no pre-registration is necessary. If Friday won't do, come by Sundays through December for a tour.

Greenbelt Chess Club December Meetings

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesdays, December 10 and 17. 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. Direct questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com. To be added to the mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/yzy2nz4m.



Mahjongg Now Played Wednesday Afternoons

Want to learn how to play American mahjongg? Abby Crowley will offer a free four-week class beginning Wednesday, January 8 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Note that the Winter Recreation Guide lists an incorrect starting time.)

Those with some experience with American mahjongg are welcome to come play on Wednesdays from 1 (or sometimes earlier) to 4 p.m. (or whatever part of that time fits each player's schedule) in Room 109 in the Community Center.

Register for either the class or to play at the Recreation Department office in the Community Center. Both are free.

Poetry in the Garden

The community is invited to join the poetry reading group on Sunday, December 8 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the clubhouse at Schrom Hills Park.

The topic will be poems for the holiday season and festivals. All are welcome.

Bring a personal poem to read or come to listen and enjoy the power of poetry. For questions, call Effie at 443-415-1053.

Breakfast with Santa

Greenbelt friends, neighbors, and children: come to the Greenbelt American Legion, 6900 Greenbelt Road, on Sunday, December 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a special breakfast with Santa. On the menu for breakfast are pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, muffins and a beverage. Children will have their picture taken with Santa and participate in an art and craft project. There is a small fee per ticket and children under 5 are free. Tickets are limited to the first 100 and may be purchased at the door. Both auxiliaries of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Greenbelt American Legion are proud sponsors of the first joint annual event.

Concert Band Hosts Holiday Spectacular

On Friday, December 6 at 7 p.m., enjoy the Brass Choir at the city's Tree Lighting Ceremony at Roosevelt Center. And on Monday, December 9, the band will be performing at 7 p.m. at the Mormon Temple Visitors' Center at 9900 Stoneybrook Drive in Kensington.

The Greenbelt Concert Band is a volunteer adult musical organization dedicated to providing quality musical performances for the citizens of Greenbelt, Prince George's County and the surrounding areas. Learn more at greenbeltconcertband.org.

This Week at the New Deal Café

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

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.



113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

*** Monday 5pm-10pm; Tuesday-Thursday 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday 8am - 12midnight; Sunday 9am - 9pm, UNLESS NOTED***

TH 12/05	FRI 12/06	SAT 12/07	SUN 12/08	
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30-10pm Big, bodacious boogie jam	THE NDC ANNUAL UGLY SWEATER PARTY! with The Wharf Rats 8-11pm	La Unica 8:15-11pm (SPECIAL TIME) A pan-genre party band with melting pot grooves.	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12noon Patsy's Honky Tonk Torch and Twang w/ The Hall Brothers 6-8pm HOLIDAY SHOW!	
MON 12/09	TUES 12/10	WED 12/11	TH 12/12	New Deal Cafe
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT 5-9pm Discounts for NDC members!	Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason 7-9:30pm Sign-ups at 615pm. Express yourself!	The Gliders 7-9pm Harmonica-driven Americana with a heart full of soul	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm DRAG BINGO with D'Manda Martini 7-9pm Unlimited Bingo!	We want to hear from you! NewDealCafe.com ; Click on ABOUT, then CONTACT THE CAFE

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

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS PROVIDED BY A GENEROUS DONOR.

HOURS SUBJECT TO CHANGE DURING TRANSITION

Thank you for your understanding - NDC Board



Greenbelt Access Television
Dec 7, Sat - Dec 13, Fri
Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)
Streaming on www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Santa Claus Conquers the Martians (1964)
This film regularly appears on lists for "worst films of all time." Here at GATE, we think it's so bad it's good; and one of our personal, cult-classic movie picks for the holidays!

New This Month
We Meet Again with Eli Lev!
Global Ambassador of Good Vibes, Eli Lev, returns for another exclusive interview with Greenbelt Access Television as he prepares to embark on another tour!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit GreenbeltAccessTelevision.com on YouTube for new video productions.

In Loving Memory of Regina Murphy October 12, 1962 – November 12, 2024

A celebration of the life of Regina K. Murphy will be held on Monday, December 9 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the American Legion of Greenbelt, Post 136 at 6900 Greenbelt Road.

Donations of food and drinks are welcome.



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Regina K. Murphy

Patuxent Refuge Winter Films Start Friday

The Patuxent Research Refuge Film and Speaker Series brings the research and conservation of the refuge to the screen on the first Friday of the next four months, from 5 to 7 p.m. Each date will involve a free movie screening and a speaker talking about the practices and research conducted at the refuge.

Each event has a different theme with different speakers or films, making no two events the same. On Friday, December 6, Thinking Like a Watershed, a film addressing stream and watershed stewardship, will run.

On Friday, January 3, Whooping Crane Recovery Efforts.

The themes for February 7 and March 7 are yet to be determined.

For more information, visit fws.gov/event/patuxent-wildlife-research-refuge-film-speaker-series. Or contact the refuge staff: William O'Boyle, william_oboyle@fws.gov or 301-497-5772 (Wed.-Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.).

The Refuge Visitor Center is located at 10901 Scarlet Tanager Loop, off Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Md. Route 197.

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
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

Obituaries
The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present. You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

NR The road to heaven is paved with good advertising.
Nonprofits \$11.55
www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com

"The mind and spirit of man advance when he is tried by suffering. The more the ground is ploughed the better the seed will grow, the better the harvest will be."
- 'Abdu'l-Bahá
Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

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

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road
We are an Open and Affirming Church
Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School
www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
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

GCC Concert, Bake Sale on Dec. 15

Greenbelt Community Church will hold a Christmas concert and bake sale on Sunday, December 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. The church is located at 1 Hillside Road. The concert will feature Christmas classics as well as the more rickling music of The Relics.

The concert is free but donations will be accepted. Money from both the donations and the bake sale will go to Help By Phone and College Park Meals on Wheels.

Mishkan Torah Holds Hanukkah Concert

Plan now for the Sunday, December 8 Hanukkah Concert and Celebration at Mishkan Torah. Doors open at 2 p.m., and there will be crafts, nosh and the incredibly talented singers of Kol Sasson. Learn more and register on the website at MishkanTorah.org.

Advent Retreat December 14

All are welcome to join the Catholic Community of Greenbelt for an Advent Day of Recollection on Saturday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The topic is "Maintaining the peace of God in a world of chaos and violence," led by Father Ted Keating. The event will take place in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, 2nd floor, and also on Zoom. Coffee and tea will be available for those attending in person. Bring a snack or sandwich for the lunch break. For more information, visit cathcomgreenbelt.org or contact cathcommgreenbelt@gmail.com.



Condolences to the family and friends of Regina (Gina) Murphy. Gina had lived in Greenbelt since she was 4, when her parents, Charles and Gudrun (Gudi) Mills, moved to the city in 1966. Many Greenbelters were fortunate to interact with Gina regularly during her years working at the Co-op Grocery Store.

Sharp Greenbelt eyes spotted the photo of Greenbelt's first dentist, Dr. James McCarl, in last Tuesday's (November 26) Washington Post. The caption read, "A Maryland dentist treats a patient in the 1940s, when U.S. cities first put fluoride in drink-

ing water." The photo was taken by Marjory Collins, who photographed everyday life in the early years of Greenbelt. The article was a brief history of fluoride, the discovery of its help in preventing tooth decay in children and efforts over the years to ban its use in municipal water supplies.

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



Dr. James W. McCarl treats a patient in his Greenbelt office in 1942.



The Bible Says...
And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.
Luke 1:31
Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School (66 Ridge Rd.)
MCFcc.org

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

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
December 8, 2024 at 3:00 pm
Eight is Enough
Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Jim Flaherty
In the spirit of our December theme (Pluralism), we'll shine some contemplative light on the Jewish Festival of Lights (Hanukkah). Together we'll consider some ways in which Hanukkah's themes of religious tolerance, resilience, and rededication can be an inspiration to all.
Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
Find us on facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-5410
Mowatt Memorial UMC will offer a "Blue Christmas" worship service
Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 7 p.m.
This special service offers hope and healing for those who find Advent and Christmas difficult. While the overall tone is one of meditation and reflection, it is not somber. The sanctuary is often softly lit, and participants are invited to light a candle in remembrance, honoring the life and memory of a loved one. All are welcome.
Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Celebrate hope with us.



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.



GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING Monday, December 9, 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

- Human Rights Day Proclamation
- * Minutes
- Regular Meeting - January 8, 2024
- Regular Meeting - March 11, 2024
- Regular Meeting - March 25, 2024
- * Statement of Record - Closed Session, June 27, 2024
- * Statement of Record - Closed Session, July 8, 2024
- * Statement of Record - Closed Session, October 28, 2024
- Administrative Reports
- * Committee Reports
- * City Council Referral - Multilingual Welcome Sign at City

LEGISLATION

- A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt Adopted Pursuant to the Authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and Section 13 of Article 23A of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition as Amended), Title, "Corporation-Municipal," Subtitle "Home Rule" to Amend the Charter of the City of Greenbelt Found, in Whole or in Part, in the Compilation of Municipal Charters of Maryland (1983 Edition as Amended), as Prepared by the Department of Legislative Services Pursuant to Chapter 77 of the Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1983, by Amending Section 32, titled "Vacancies on Council"

OTHER BUSINESS

- Legislative Issue Tracking
- Addressing Unbecoming Conduct of a Councilmember per Council Standing Rules
- Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contract for Website Redesign and Services
- Authorize City Manager to Approve Purchase of IRIS Mainline Camera from Insight Vision
- Authorizing City Manager to Execute Contract for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Charging at the Community Center Parking
- Authorizing City Manager to Execute Purchase of Basketball Court Solar Lights
- ARPA Status Update
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- * New Recognition Group Basic Certification Request - Greenbelt Ultimate Frisbee
- * Meetings
- * Stakeholders
- * Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board

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.

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

MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 9 - 13

Wednesday, December 11 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - TRAFFIC ORDINANCE**

Wednesday, December 11, **SPECIAL MEETING/CLOSED SESSION - CITY MANAGER'S EVALUATION (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORK SESSION)**

Thursday, December 12 at 5:30 pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Thursday, December 12 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**

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

VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN 2025-2030 PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR INPUT TODAY!

Prince George's County is seeking residents to share their perspectives and concerns about traffic safety in the County. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8QGKV72>.

LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE Fall 2024-2025

Week	Location	Holiday
December 9-13	Boxwood	
December 16-20	Woodland Hills	
December 23-27	Lakeside	Christmas December 25
December 30 - January 3	Lakewood Greensprings I & II	New Years Day January 1

OFFICIAL NOTICE

By Section 3-305(b)(1) of the General Provisions Article of the Annotated Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland, a closed session of the Greenbelt City Council will be held on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, immediately following the Council Work Session – Traffic Ordinance, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to discuss the appointment, performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

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

* 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 Wednesday, December 11, 2024.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

SHOP WITH A COP FUNDRAISER

Thank you for being so supportive and generous!

The Greenbelt "Shop with a Cop" fundraiser challenge coin is now available for \$20.

Each year, the Greenbelt Police Department proudly participates in "Shop With a Cop," fostering community spirit and support. To raise funds for this heartwarming event, a challenge coin has been created in the shape of an ornament, showcasing the Greenbelt Police Department badge adorned with lights on one side and the year of the event on the back.

We welcome donations and all proceeds go directly to the Greenbelt Police Department's "Shop with a Cop" program which supports families in the Greenbelt community. We couldn't do this without your support. Donations can be made online by visiting <https://ow.ly/mg6h50Tz6P> or by emailing rdennis@greenbeltmd.gov.

SANTA PAWS

Saturday, December 14 / 11 am - 1 pm
Schrom Hills Park, 6915 Hanover Parkway

PLEASE JOIN US FOR PHOTOS WITH SANTA PAWS!

Bring your pets to get a digital photo with Santa! All photos are \$10 each. All proceeds benefit the City of Greenbelt Animal Shelter. *Police K9 are free of charge*



PUBLIC ART PROJECT For Braden Athletic Complex

Public Art for the Braden Athletic Complex Community members who use the Braden courts, fields and pedestrian/bike path.

Participate in an Active Stakeholder Survey to help guide a new public art project! <https://bit.ly/3OgTcQ>.

Read more about the project: <https://bit.ly/3UTjrgj>.

Sign-up to attend a virtual public meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, 12/17 with artists under consideration at <https://bit.ly/40TI7h3>.



Sculpture at Motiva

PROPOSED COUNCIL VACANCY PROCESS

The proposed Council Vacancy Process legislation will be introduced for a first reading on **December 9**. A public hearing on the proposed Council Vacancy Process will be held on **January 13, 2025**.

The Greenbelt Board of Elections has proposed two options for the Council to consider in the event of a vacancy on City Council. If "Option 1" is chosen, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the Election Code. Alternatively, if "Option 2" is selected, legislation will need to be drafted to amend the City Charter. Both options will follow the proposed timeline for filling the vacancy as follows:

1. VACANCY OCCURS (REASON: DEATH, RESIGNATION, INCAPACITY, OR FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE):

- Determine the timing of the vacancy in relation to the next election

2. MORE THAN 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

Special Mail-in Election:

- Candidates must file nomination papers.
- Ballots are mailed to voters.
- Voters have 30 days to respond.

3. BETWEEN 60 AND 180 DAYS BEFORE NEXT ELECTION:

Council Majority Vote:

- Seat filled by majority vote after a public hearing.

4. Within 60 Days of Next Election:

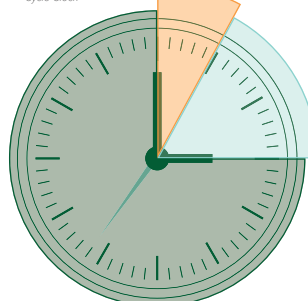
Council Discretion:

- The seat may remain vacant or may be filled at the Council's discretion.

5. SIMULTANEOUS VACANCIES:

- If three or more vacancies occur simultaneously, a special election is required.

Two (2) Year City Election Cycle Clock



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/elections

OR scan the QR code below



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

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

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

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
(301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
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.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!
Call (301) 474-8000.

DANCE PERFORMANCE: THE SNOW QUEEN December 14 at 2 pm December 15 at 11 am & 2 pm Greenbelt Community Center

Greenbelt Recreation's Dance Performance Club presents an imaginative telling of the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale. Enjoy ballet, jazz, contemporary, ballroom and tap performances by dancers ages 6 to adult. Tickets on sale now at the Greenbelt Community Center business office: (301) 397-2208 (\$5).



Election Delays Spur Board of Ed “Power Grabs” and Legal Filings

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

The Prince George’s County Board of Education Annual Meeting was held on Monday, December 2. Maryland’s Educational Code stipulates that new board members’ terms begin the first Monday of December and at that meeting, the election of a new chair and vice chair takes place. However, the Board of Elections is still counting provisional ballots. In the District 8 race the difference between the two leading candidates in the unofficial results is 0.11 percent. While new members could not be sworn in, a disagreement erupted over whether or not to vote on chair and vice chair. Current Chair Lolita E. Walker (District 9) and Board Member Shayla Adams-Stafford (District 4) went head-to-head, each accusing the other of attempting a power grab.

Earlier Monday, three elected board members and three leading candidates filed a civil case in circuit court for a declaratory judgment against the Prince George’s County Board of Election Supervisors, Board of Education Chair Lolita Walker and the Prince George’s County Board of Education. Plaintiffs are board members Adams-Stafford, Brandon Jackson (District 6) and Jonathan Briggs (District 2, which includes Greenbelt) and candidates (vote tallies unofficial) Tiffini Andorful (65 percent of District 1 votes), Phelton Moss (52 percent in District 7 compared to 48 percent for incumbent Kenneth Harris) and Zakyia Goins-McCants (who has a slim margin over candidate Angela Jones). The plaintiffs also filed a motion for a temporary restraining order.

At the meeting Adams-Stafford made a motion to postpone voting on officers of the board until the new members were sworn in. Walker noted there was no date for the new board members to be sworn in and so the postponement would be indefinite.

Briggs supported the motion to postpone in order to avoid disenfranchising new members. He noted that as Walker kept pointing to the law, the law also states the swearing in of new members should take place that day as well as the vote on leadership. Briggs believed the intent of the law was to have the new members vote on the leadership. He also noted precedent, saying the vote was taken later in 2022. (In fact, two years ago the board was gridlocked and unable to elect their chair until January 12; see the December 22, 2022 issue).

Student member Jamal Jongu wondered if the board even had a quorum, given new members had not been sworn in. “They’re not members of our Board of Education,” responded Walker. “They will be soon. However they’re not as of today, okay? They’re not ... we have members of our Board of Education that are sitting around today ... the law states that they will ... until the member’s successor is elected and qualified. This is following the law. That’s it. It just is. It’s not Lolita, it’s not any of that. This is the law, OK?”

“We’re really taking advantage of the fact that the Board of Elections is still counting bal-

lots,” argued Adams-Stafford. “I’m very passionate about this because board members lobbied so hard to have the opportunity to vote for our own leadership because we all represent tens of thousands of people,” she said. “Our country prides itself on the peaceful transfer of power and really this is truly a repugnant power grab that spits in the face of democratic processes,” said Adams-Stafford.

“What is unfortunate is that we leverage this platform in front of our 133,000 scholars and 22,000 employees, [and to have it a] site of division that is totally unnecessary.... Unfortunately the words that we continue to spew is that we have elected members who are not able to vote and that is simply not true,” responded Walker, who cited the outgoing members around the table as fulfilling their duties until their successors are elected. “We are following the law contrary to what anyone wants to believe or what anyone wants to spew. This is the elected body that is here until we have elected and qualified people in place. That could be Thursday, that could be after such time. Until then we will continue to do the work of the Board of Education of which there is a lot of work to do,” said Walker. “I want folks to recognize where is the power that’s being grabbed,” she said.

The board eventually voted unanimously to adjourn until Thursday, December 5 at 5 p.m., before their next regularly scheduled meeting that same evening.

Briggs told the News Review that the Board of Education had previously planned to elect officers at the Thursday meeting but the board’s lawyers got involved when some discussed a legal injunction. The lawyers believed the annual meeting had to be held on Monday. Briggs lamented the fact that the lawyers hadn’t offered alternatives if necessary, in case the swearing in couldn’t take place. He firmly believes the intent of the law is to have the newly elected body vote on their chair and vice chair for the next two years (members serve a four year term with staggered elections every two years).

The restraining order is to prevent the chair from moving forward with a vote, if an agreement

CARES Needs Fund Donations

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

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

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations.

to wait for new members can’t be reached in a “reasonable way,” explained Briggs. A judge has not yet ruled on the injunction, but it could be applied retroactively when they do, invalidating any election of officers that might take place in the meantime. The Board of Elections is named as a defendant in the case because they are in violation of the timeline and have caused the process to be delayed for the Board of Education, says Briggs. They’d like to bring attention to the consequences of the Board of Elections’ delay, he said.

Given the advice of the board’s lawyers to hold the meeting and vote, the News Review asked Briggs if he believes the move to do so was a power grab by Walker, as Adams-Stafford alleges. Briggs said that while he can’t speak to intent, he knows the chair to be a “rule follower.” However, the board’s attorneys don’t have authority over procedures but answer questions and provide advice, he stressed. Therefore he wouldn’t “put it on attorneys,” saying we all have deductive reasoning and critical thinking skills. He lamented the chair’s inability to think innovatively and consider all aspects, including past precedents so they could do things differently. “When I think of a leader I think of them making hard decisions and steering us ... I don’t think that’s what we saw,” said Briggs.

Briggs believes the Board of Elections will meet Thursday afternoon. It’s unclear how the divided Board of Education will proceed if new members can’t be seated at the second session of the Annual Meeting that evening.



A Greenbelt Artist Paints Greenbelt as He Sees It

by Penny Martin

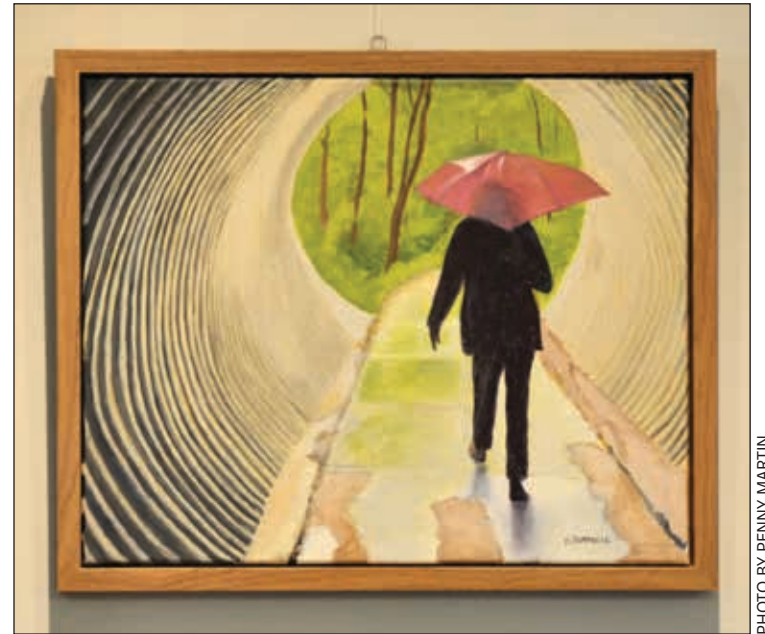


PHOTO BY PENNY MARTIN

A painting by Dave Campbell of a well-known Greenbelt spot is currently on display in the lobby of the Greenbelt Arts Center.

Dave Campbell, an artist and Greenbelt resident, is currently displaying some of his paintings in the lobby of the Greenbelt Arts Center. When Dave and his wife, Joyce, moved to Greenbelt seven years ago they found much to love besides good neighbors. With its woods, skies, houses, trees, sheds, gardens, parks, playgrounds and residents walking dogs, talking with neighbors or riding bicycles, he found his neighborhood to be a rich store of visual interest and meaning.

“As a landscape painter, I am more interested in portraying the ordinary, what I see every day on my walks, than I am in traveling to distant, exotic places to paint. I find that the same tree or house or street near home when seen often and at different times of the day or year can be a completely different sight. What is mundane or boring one time may be mysterious or beautiful in different light or from a new angle. I try

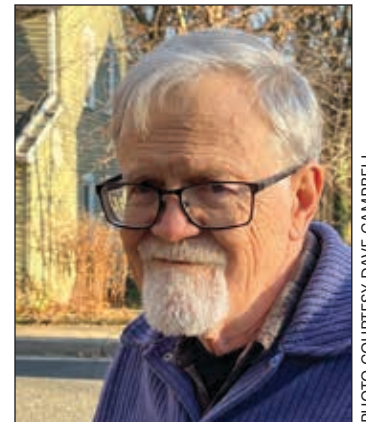


PHOTO COURTESY DAVE CAMPBELL

Artist Dave Campbell

to capture that subtlety in paintings and want to learn how to do it better.”

You too may have walked or driven past these views more than once. Come see how Dave Campbell sees them. The lobby at the Greenbelt Arts Center will be open before 8 p.m. performances on Saturdays December 7, 14 and 21.

AT GREENBELT CINEMA

We're Building Community

HELP US KEEP BRINGING YOU THE PROGRAMMING YOU ENJOY:

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- FREE CLASSIC MOVIES
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BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR TODAY,
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SCAN TO SIGN UP

greenbelt CINEMA

Alsobrooks Heads to Senate; Candidates for County Exec Emerge

by Joan Estenson and Lesley Kash

As Angela Alsobrooks prepares to become a U.S. Senator from Maryland, she resigned as Prince George's County Executive at 10 a.m. on Monday, December 2, barely beating the noon deadline allowing her to select the interim county executive. Chief Administrative Officer Tara H. Jackson will now step in as the acting county executive until a special election is held.



Angela Alsobrooks

County leaders are expected to pick a date for the special election soon, at least before December 12. The special election process is expected to take several months. The winner of the special election will serve out the remainder of Alsobrooks' term – about two years.

In a news release Alsobrooks said, "Thank you for your trust and partnership as we worked to build a stronger, united Prince George's." She added, "Serving the residents of this county has been the honor of my lifetime, and I am deeply proud of all we have accomplished together."

Three candidates have announced their intention to run for the position and a fourth is expected to announce soon.

Candidates

Rushern Baker III
Former county executive Rushern Baker III is strongly considering running for the post he held from 2010 to 2018. He served as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1994 to 2003. Baker took office when Prince George's County was struggling in many ways and succeeded in creating jobs, reducing crime and increasing property values. His achievements led his peers to elect him to two terms as the chair of the County Executives of America organization. He unsuccessfully ran for governor of Maryland in 2018 and 2022.

Since leaving office Baker has launched a national leadership institute for local government chief executives in consultation with the University of Maryland School of Public Policy and the County Executives of America. Baker is currently the president and chief executive officer of the Baker Strategy Group, a consulting firm providing strategic operational solutions to public, private sector and nonprofit clients through the Washington, D.C., region.

Aisha Braveboy

Aisha Braveboy has been elected twice to the post of Prince George's County State's Attorney. Prior to that she was government affairs manager for Children's National Health Sys-



Rushern Baker III



Aisha Braveboy

tem, following four years in private practice. Braveboy's first foray into politics was eight years in the Maryland General Assembly. She earned a juris doctor from Howard University Law School and a bachelor's degree in political science and government from the University of Maryland.

Among her accomplishments as Prince George's County State's Attorney she created a Conviction and Sentencing Integrity Unit, the first of its kind in Maryland, and launched new countywide initiatives including the Prince George's County Carjacking Task Force and Our Streets, Our Future. Should Braveboy win, a judge would appoint a replacement to serve out the remainder of her term.

Calvin S. Hawkins II

Calvin S. Hawkins II, is currently one of two At-Large Prince George's County Council Members. He was elected in 2018 and reelected in 2022. He served as council chair in 2021 and 2022 and currently chairs the General Assembly Committee. Hawkins was a senior advisor to former Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker from 2013-2017. Should Hawkins become county executive his election would trigger a second countywide special



Calvin Hawkins II



Jolene Ivey

election for his at-large county council seat.

Jolene Ivey

Last month, Jolene Ivey won election to the at-large Prince George's County Council seat vacated by the resignation of Mel Franklin. Ivey already chaired the county council and before becoming the at-large member, she was the District 5 County Council Member, elected in 2018 and reelected in 2022. She previously represented District 47 in the Maryland House of Delegates from 2007 to 2015. Ivey is vice-chair of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee. A former broadcast journalist, Ivey is married to U.S. Representative Glenn F. Ivey (MD-4). If Ivey is elected, as with Hawkins, another countywide special election would be held to fill her at-large seat on the county council.

Ad revenue is what keeps us alive. Help us at the ad desk. www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

GFM Holiday Market
Sun Dec. 8 | 10a-2p
Southway and Centerway

All of Your Favorite Vendors and Lots of Holiday Cheer - Last Market of the Year!

GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org

Farmers Market Season Closes; Final Holiday Hoorah Sunday

by Joseph Abelardo Conaty

As Farmers Market season comes to a close, vendors from a variety of businesses all came to the conclusion that this season was a success.

Sunday, November 24 marked one of the last opportunities to shop and mingle with vendors at Green-



Sunflowers at the Farmers Market

belt's Farmers Market, and, to Rodney Russell of Simple Pleasures, it meant the tail end of a 16th successful year at the market.

"Business is steady and I love being a part of the community," said Russell, who expects Simple Pleasures to be back at next year's Farmers Market. Russell noted that he fared a bit better during the summer markets, probably since his business sells mainly ice cream.

Another business that expects to return next season is Roy's Kitchen, an Indonesian cuisine vendor that has been in business for seven years. According to Delia, who recently arrived from Indonesia to help with the family business, the Greenbelt community is friendly and loves stopping by.

Lynne Ferguson of Ferguson Family Farm described business at the Farmers Market as awesome. Ferguson Family Farm specializes in grass-fed beef and pasture-raised pork that tastes better and is more nutritious than standard grain-fed beef, according to Ferguson. "What you put out into the universe creates your future," she said. "So if you say that business is doing well that's what you'll see if you put the work in."

For some vendors, like Tae Gu Kimchi, which is a Black and Asian woman-owned business, this is one of many farmers markets they visit year round to promote their business. Tae Gu Kimchi can be found at 12 different markets in D.C. and three in Maryland, but they plan to return to the warmth and kindness of Greenbelt.

For others, Greenbelt Farmers Market is a place to test and expand their business models for

the future. Melanie Parker, of Mel's Munchies, is no stranger to farmers markets, at times going to a different one five days a week. However, Parker hopes to eventually evolve her business into a brick and mortar store. "If there's a will there's a way," said Parker, who also said she is absolutely going to come back next year.

This year's holiday market will take place on Sunday, December 8, which will mark the final market until next May. This last market will accompany the annual Sparkle Mart art and craft show held in the Community Center. Scott Fifield, president of the Farmers Market's board of directors, told the News Review that they appreciate the synergy with Sparkle Mart. The Farmers Market fills their Holiday Market with their regular vendors rather than looking for others, glad to offer them a chance to reach a larger crowd, said Fifield. One exception is Ferdinand Loves Flowers, which is not a regular vendor but will be present at the Holiday Market selling wreaths, holiday arrangements and so forth. Amazingly, it is forecast to be close to 60 degrees on Sunday, notes Fifield, who hopes the market will benefit from the unseasonably warm weather in which people will be happy to walk around.

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



CHRISTMAS CONCERT & BAKE SALE
SUNDAY
15 DECEMBER | 4-6 PM

Join us for a festive night of live music, holiday classics, and rockin' vibes with The Relics! Plus a tasty bakesale.

Greenbelt Community Church UCC
One Hillside Road

Donations received will go to Help by Phone & College Park Meals on Wheels

Greenbelt Eats

“Here, Kindness Is a Strength”: Generous Joe’s One Year On

by Randy Chow

As Roosevelt Center welcomes a new vendor at the New Deal Café, eagerly awaits the opening of Sunrise Caribbean in the space that was Beijing Restaurant for three decades and the Co-op Supermarket expands its offerings with smoothies, deli meals and café tables, two popular Greenbelt eateries continue: Cedars of Lebanon and the long-standing Generous Joe’s.

Generous Joe’s, originally named Greenbelt Carry-out, opened in 1966 and rebranded as Generous Joe’s in 1987. The “Generous” moniker was a reference to the size of the restaurant’s sandwiches. The “Joe’s” part was named after original owner, Joe Natoli Sr. (For more on the history of Generous Joes, see the July 6, 2023 and July 13, 2023 issues.) Last year, Aaron Mengel, who worked at Generous Joe’s for years, bought the restaurant, fulfilling his dream to own his own restaurant (see the July 20, 2023 issue). But the restaurant means more to Mengel than a place of business. It’s a place for community and togetherness.

“The reason why Generous Joe’s works is because of the community,” Mengel said. “There’s the kids that have grown up in Greenbelt... I’ve tried to help them. ‘How’s school, how are your grades?’”

The 32-year-old added that he’s given kids free meals for honor roll grades. If he sees a child is struggling, Mengel will talk their problems out, whether it’s about their homework or home life.

Mengel, who came from a difficult upbringing in Baltimore City, said that in a tough neighborhood, kindness can be seen as a weakness. “Here, kindness is a strength,” Mengel said.

Linden Dirksen, 19, an employee at Generous Joe’s, said the restaurant supports families who bring children. “Aaron loves kids,” Dirksen said. “There’s an arcade machine in there. There’s a whole corner for kids to draw and color... There’s so many friendly, fun things in there that really make it a family diner.” Mengel has also introduced Saturday morning cartoons.

Dirksen added that the restaurant’s environment is really personal and familial. “The vibe of Joe’s is very much like [a] small town, close community, but not closed off and unfriendly,” Dirksen said. “[It’s] very friendly and kind and warm and welcoming.”

Dirksen recommends asking for the white pizza, which isn’t on the menu. “You can get a white pizza, which is oil and oregano and salt and pepper and cheese,” Dirksen said. “It’s good. It’s really good.”



PHOTO COURTESY THE NATOLI FAMILY

Joe Natoli Jr., right, passes Generous Joe's to Aaron Mengel, left, in June 2023.

Mengel said an important part of his business philosophy is treating the staff and customers like they’re family.

Part of taking care of his family includes costly repairs. Mengel has spent tens of thousands of dollars upgrading and maintaining the restaurant since purchasing it. “I do that because if we’re not operating efficiently, we can’t give the best service to our customers,” he said.

A major challenge in owning and operating a restaurant, Mengel said, is dealing with inflation. The cost of ingredients has skyrocketed. “The food prices are incredibly high,” Mengel said. “There were times [when] you could get chicken breasts for \$40, and it’d doubled to \$80, tripled to \$120.”

To contend with inflation, Mengel negotiated prices with food suppliers. By ordering less at a time from suppliers, the restaurant can cut down on waste, keep the menu price low and have fresher ingredients.

“All of the dough is freshly made every day, sometimes more than once a day,” Dirksen said. “Now that business is really picking up. It’s twice, or sometimes three or four times.”

The recent increase in Maryland’s minimum wage implemented one year ahead of schedule was especially difficult to manage, Mengel said.

In order to keep his fixed costs low, he saves money in other areas, such as preparing their own ingredients and not purchasing pre-made ingredients.

“We do everything we possibly can in-house, which saves us a lot of money,” he said.

No matter the financial challenges that are inherent in operat-

ing a small business, by prioritizing customer satisfaction and having a dedicated and hardworking staff, Generous Joe’s hosts a spot in the city where anyone is welcomed. “I’m so happy that we’re making it work,” Mengel said.

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

Maglev Opposition Continues

by Susan McCutchen

The Maryland Coalition for Responsible Transit (MCRT) has had an active year of volunteerism, providing information about the proposed Superconducting Magnetic Levitation (SC-Maglev) transportation project at

events throughout Prince George’s and Anne Arundel counties. Learn more at stophthistrain.org and mcr-t-action.org.

Susan McCutchen is a board member of *Bladensburg Citizens Against the SCMaglev*.



MCRT volunteers Susan McCutchen, Patricia Jackman, Bill Boone, Susan Barnett and Kathy Bartolomeo at the Green Man Festival

- Photos courtesy MCRT, Kathleen Bartolomeo



MCRT provides information about its cause at the Green Man Festival.

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Found a Spotted Lanternfly? Photograph, Report, Kill Eggs

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

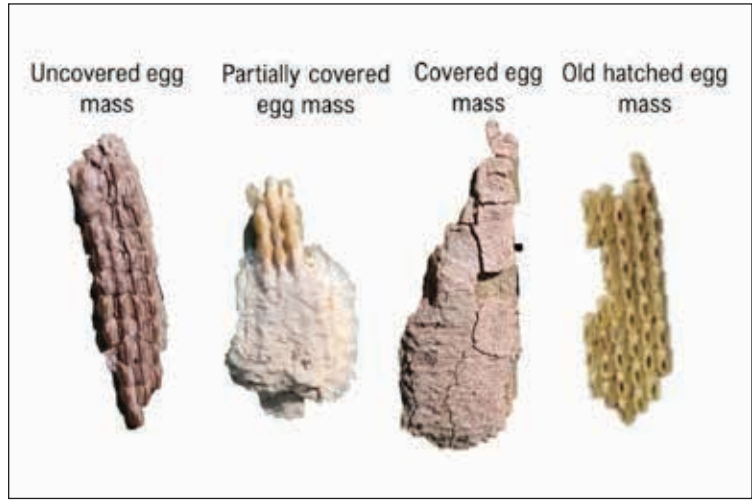


PHOTO BY HEATHER LEACH, PENN STATE EXTENSION

Lanternfly egg masses

A member of the News Review has recently spotted four spotted lanternflies in her yard and saw dozens of them at the base of Maryland Trade Center III (7501 Greenway Center Drive) in Greenbelt East on October 24. The State of Maryland asks the public to report such sightings but also requires a photograph so don't forget to snap a picture.

Killing Egg Masses

The spotted lanternfly lay their eggs in the fall and early winter. Though the adults will freeze to death during the winter, their eggs will survive and begin to hatch in the spring. Each egg mass contains 30-50 eggs and can be found on trees, fences, rocks, flat surfaces of outdoor furniture or equipment and wherever you spot the lanternfly. In order to destroy the egg masses, use a plastic card, like a credit card, or a putty knife and either apply pressure to pop them or scrape them off and drop them into rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer.

About the Spotted Lanternfly

The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is a plant hopper native to eastern Asia. It was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2014 and has since been confirmed in Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia. It was discovered in Maryland in 2018, in Cecil County. It has spread to Allegany, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Caroline, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Kent, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Wicomico and Washington counties and Baltimore city.

Report Sightings

Report sightings of lanternflies at <https://tinyurl.com/yjs3bmuf> including a photograph with the sighting report. These data are important for tracking phenology and population levels.

From the University of Maryland Extension Service:

Don't panic. Spotted lanternflies are a nuisance pest in home landscapes. They do not bite or sting people or pets, they do not chew leaves and they are not wood-boring pests of homes or other structures. They do not



PHOTO BY CLAUDE AUBERT

Over 50 spotted lanternflies and their egg masses cover a tree behind the mulch pile at Northway Field on November 9.

kill trees but can cause stress on them, so best management practices in water management, soil health and correct mulching will go far to help keep plants healthy.

In residential yards and gardens, the recommended approach is to kill any spotted lanternflies that are safely reachable or to leave them for predators to feed on. Insecticide and other chemicals can harm non-target animals including pollinators and beneficial insects and will not effectively reach and kill all of the spotted lanternflies that are on the move. The insect is not harming landscape or garden plants enough to justify the risks of using insecticidal sprays. Do not spray home remedies such as white vinegar or dish soap because these items can harm other animals and plants.



PHOTO BY DEANNA DAWSON

A spotted lanternfly, one of dozens seen at the base of Maryland Trade Center III in Greenbelt East on October 24

County Council Votes for School Cellphone Ban; PGCPS Considers

By Anna Belford-Dillow

Last month Prince George's County Council passed a resolution encouraging the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) to institute procedures to ban cellphone use by children in the public schools during school hours.

Calls for restrictions on cellphone usage in schools come in response to classroom distractions and concerns about student mental health, but also bullying and cyber bullying and the recording and sharing of school fights on social media.

The county's resolution, introduced by Wanika Fisher, follows similar legislative measures in other counties and states. In July this year Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin issued Executive Order 33 establishing cellphone-free education in public schools in the state. Youngkin pointed to "concern over the alarming mental health crisis and chronic health conditions affecting adolescents, such as depression and anxiety, driven in part by extensive social media usage and widespread cellphone possession among children" and also the need to reduce students' time on phones without adult supervision.

"According to a survey conducted by the Capital News Service this fall, at least a third of Maryland school districts have tightened their cellphone regulations this school year alone," reported Sasha Allen and Audrey Keefe of Capital News Service.

Currently, PGCPS has a cellphone policy that is "very flexible" and allows administrators and teachers to implement it as it best fits their schools, said PGCPS School Board Member Jonathan Briggs, who represents District 2, including Greenbelt. In an email to the community on November 21, Superintendent Millard House II said, "Across the country and within our own community, cellphone use in classrooms has become a topic of significant discussion." Opinions vary widely, he wrote, and PGCPS will approach the issue collaboratively "with the well-being of our students and staff as our guiding principle." Eight middle schools and four high schools in the district are piloting "structured cellphone management strategies" that will help the system understand the impact of different approaches, House said in his email.

The district is now gathering input from the community and stakeholders on how they feel about cellphones in schools, revealed Briggs, who is chair of the policy and governance committee. He hopes the superintendent will then provide a report to the board on the insights gathered from stakeholders.

"It may look very different for a high school and an elementary," suggests Briggs. Teachers may want to use cellphones to complete exit polls from a class in high schools, for example, he suggested. Briggs also pointed to the need to consider enforcement and disciplinary measures that will come with new more restrictive policies or bans. "Policies are policies but what does that look like enforcement-wise?" he asked.

For PGCPS, action on cellphones will be based on what comes out of the report and the goal is to start with collecting information, said Briggs. The stakeholders from whom feedback is being solicited are principals, teachers, community members like parents, students and anyone else impacted, like paraprofessionals, school psychologists and counselors, he told the News Review. "I don't know if he's going to take a research-based approach," said Briggs, who suggested the superintendent may also want to include recent studies. Whatever changes the superintendent makes to administrative policy will need to be reflected in board policies, said Briggs, so there may be concurrent changes to those.

With regard to the county council's recent resolution, "This is really a values vote from the county council," said Briggs. The resolution calls on the school district to turn its attention to this issue, he explained. "One of the things that we really are calling for from our elected officials during this legislative season is board autonomy and the ability to steer the school district

the way that fits best for Prince George's County, because every county's going to be different," says Briggs. "What we're really hoping for is that legislators will always allow us to kind of lead in that way because... I don't think we want to be restrictive but we want to be responsive to what the data says and new insights that are coming out that are related to public health or overall what's effective in our schools."

Briggs also says they don't want to take away the flexibility that schools have under the current policy. "Where they can say this is something that will work for our teachers [or] student body," he notes, "that we want to continue to see as an opportunity for student academic performance or student engagement."

"There are so many unknowns because we haven't actually collected the information so it's too soon to say what it will look like and what's the right approach," he concludes. To the elected officials who have passed resolutions or executive orders, he says, "we hear them and we want to make sure that we're being responsive to this moment in time."

Eleanor Roosevelt High School journalists Haylie Martin and Melany Mejia Ibanez wrote in their recent report on the issue: "As students, we believe phones can be a distraction sometimes, but it all depends on how much we allow phones and social media to influence our lives, education and future. Though the cellphone ban can face much opposition from students and some parents, it is a step in the right direction for students' learning."



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COUNCIL continued from page 1

Federal Highway Administration (FHA), traffic calming concerns the “livability and vitality of residential areas and commercial areas through improvements in non-motorist safety, mobility and comfort.” American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for pedestrian and bike improvements were used to pay for the study, and staff and the Advisory Planning Board (APB) worked closely with GPI on the study.

Specifically, the study focuses on the following roadways: Ridge Road from Lastner Lane to Westway, Lakeside Drive from Lakecrest Drive to Crescent Road, Lastner Lane from Ridge Road to Crescent Road, Greenhill Road from Crescent Road to Research Road and Hillside Road from Crescent Road to Research Road. The draft assesses 22 individual locations within these focus areas.

The metrics used in the study were: vehicle volume, vehicle speed and collision data. Using a point system for the range of data, an assignment of low, medium and high priority was assigned to each of the locations.

According to APB chair Ben Friedman, the impetus of the study began two years ago with an APB discussion concerning some serious accidents on both Lakeside Drive and Ridge Road, among other neighboring areas. Preceding this worksession, there had been an APB meeting and a community/public meeting in October (see the November 7 issue), where input was gathered for further iterations of the draft.

Council, staff and GPI all stressed that the study is still at the conceptual stage, with no firm details laid out as yet on actual construction or work schedule. The study outlines both short-term and long-term improvements with estimated costs. Hruby and Fearer pointed out that pilot projects will be the first steps, the effectiveness of which can be applied to other areas. Hruby stated that each improvement will engender its own engineering study.

The recommendations of the study include the following measures, in various configurations: removal of parking, additional sidewalks, curb bump-outs, raised and perpendicular crosswalks, new striping, speed bumps and rectangular rapid flashing beacons instead of traffic signals. Strevig pointed out that the lowering of speed limits is less effective for traffic calming than reorientation of the roads themselves and that road narrowing causes a more significant decrease in vehicle speeds. Strevig also said that public comment revealed a concern for areas of frequent road crossing without any traffic infrastructure. Measures like per-

pendicular crosswalks and bump-outs decrease the amount of time that pedestrians spend in the road crossing.

Hruby said that this is the first traffic calming study done for Greenbelt Center in 30 years. Other areas, such as Hanover Parkway, are still to be assessed, just not in this specific study, and staff continues to address traffic concerns as they arise.

Mayor Emmett Jordan stated that each location will need to be prioritized, based on factors like accident occurrence. Hruby said that much of the work will be done in tandem with other asphalt and concrete projects by the Public Works Department.

APB member Isabelle Gournay hoped for more connectivity within the city’s internal pedestrian network, providing more pedestrian safety.

Jordan and Councilmember Jenni Pompei expressed a need to factor in topography such as steep inclines and landscaping, as they affect line of sight and safety.

Jordan thanked GPI for its rigorous efforts. Using input from council, staff, APB and the community, GPI will prepare a final draft that can be presented to council for adoption. Jordan said that much is still “up in the air,” but that the draft was an “excellent overview” and that these improvements “could save people’s lives.”

City Notes

Community Center and Recreation staff processed a large volume of in-person and online registrants at the opening bell of winter recreation program registration.

Arts staff (and many other department colleagues) prepared for numerous holiday events including the Community Tree Lighting, Sparkle Mart, Snow Queen performance and the Winter Youth Musical.

Public Works installed holiday decor and equipment at Roosevelt Center and, at the Community Center, provided improvements and maintenance in Ground Floor East to facilitate the Sparkle Mart. Both the freezer and refrigerator in the commercial kitchen received service.

Code Enforcement inspected two medical offices and 17 rentals.

At the Aquatic & Fitness Center, staff completed cybersecurity training and collected Toys for Tots. Public Works repaired and replaced damaged ceiling tiles.

Park Rangers and Recreation staff supported the annual Gobble Wobble event.

CARES presented a holiday financial literacy class for 10 participants. The food distribution at Springhill Lake Recreation Center was attended by Diversity, Equity and Inclusion representatives.



Council Again Debates How To Fill Vacant Council Seats

by Michael Zelfiff

At the November 18 Greenbelt City Council meeting, members continued discussing procedures for filling vacancies on council. (For coverage of recent discussion, see the October 31 issue.)

The proposal under consideration was that the city’s charter refer to its election code for details on the procedures for filling a vacancy on council. Section 32 of Greenbelt’s election code stipulates, for example, that:

If three (3) or more council seats are vacant at the same time, the board of elections shall call at the earliest date a special election to fill said vacancies for the unexpired terms.

If the vacancy [of a single seat] occurs during the period after a regular election until 181 days before the next election, then it shall be filled by special election, by mail-in voting.

If the vacancy occurs more than 60 and up to 180 days before the next regular election, then councilmembers must fill it by majority vote, within 45 days.

In response to members of the Board of Elections and also to other councilmembers, Councilmember Rodney Roberts opposed placing the entire procedure in the city’s election code, arguing

instead that placing it fully in the charter will more securely protect the right of Greenbelt citizens to petition for a referendum regarding changes to the rules governing elections.

Steven Gilbert from the Board of Elections pointed out that changes to the code as well as the charter require a public hearing, while Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Silke Pope noted that both charter and code allow for a referendum by citizens.

Resident Bill Orleans argued that a special election should be held to replace any number of vacancies up to 60 days before a scheduled regular election, to which Jordan warned that Prince George’s County may soon face the very expensive possibility of holding special elections to replace its county executive and then members of its council.

Resident Michael Hartman recommended that should three or more members of Greenbelt’s council need to be replaced, this should occur using the system whereby voters rank their choices among candidates to determine the new members, all of whom must receive at least 50 percent of the vote.



A cardinal enjoys a snack from a bird feeder in Old Greenbelt.

PHOTO BY EMILIA LOO



A green heron hunts a dragonfly. The dragonfly was faster than the heron and the heron was faster than the photographer.

PHOTO BY KEN LOO



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred November 18 - 24, 2024. Due to the early publication for Thanksgiving week this report was not available for print in last week's issue.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported three domestic incidents, two with arrests, and one missing person that resolved as a mental health diversion.

Robbery

On November 22 at 9:05 p.m. near 5829 Cherrywood Terrace, a woman was approached by two men who presented a handgun, took her handbag, and fled on foot. At 8:35 p.m. near 6118 Breezewood Drive, a man was approached by two men inside a black Tahoe; they presented a firearm and took the man's car keys and cell phone. On November 23 at 4:05 p.m. near 6116 Breezewood Court, a man was approached by three men who presented a handgun and took his car keys and cell phone.

Burglary

On November 23 at 9:28 a.m. near 7423 Greenbelt Road, someone broke into a store, damaged two cash drawers, and took cash from the register.

Assault

On November 20 at 4:48 p.m. near 157 Westway, the complainant and a future tenant engaged in a physical fight. On November 23 at 9:08 a.m. near 6000 Breezewood Drive, a man was assaulted by another man he knew.

Man with Knife

On November 24 at 4:10 p.m. near 6101 Cherrywood Lane, a man brandished a knife and made threats to children near the recreation center. No assaults were made and the man was not found.

Disorderly with Arrest

On November 24 at 9:23 p.m. near 9206 Springhill Lane, residents contacted the police about a man yelling and screaming in a building; he was arrested and issued a citation.

DUI Arrest

On November 22 at 1:59 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Mandan Road, a vehicle was crossing over into different lanes and failing to maintain its lane. The driver had slurred speech and glassy, bloodshot eyes, and was arrested on suspicion of DUI.

Theft

Packages were stolen November 18 near 9124 Edmonston Court, November 19 near 9131 Edmonston Terrace, and November 20 near 6201 Springhill Drive. On November 19 near 8010 Greenbelt Station Parkway, the electric charger battery was stolen from an electric bike. On November 24 near 5833 Cherrywood Terrace, a Ring doorbell camera was stolen.

Shoplifting

On November 18 at 2:24 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole items and fled in a black Honda Accord with (possibly) a Virginia tag. On November 19 at 6:31 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a repeat shoplifter was seen concealing merchandise and was banned from the property. On November 20 at 1:07 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two shoplifters were captured after stealing items from the store; they were charged and released. On November 22 at 11:50 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a repeat offender tried to shoplift and was arrested. On Novem-

ber 22 at 6:58 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl was seen stealing, the items were returned, and she was banned from the store. On November 23 at 7:13 p.m. near 7583 Greenbelt Road, two women stole multiple items and fled in a dark vehicle. On November 23 at 7:51 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, juveniles were stopped for stealing items and banned from the store.

Fraud

On November 20 near 7500 Greenway Center Drive, business information was used to open credit card accounts. On November 22 near 7708 Hanover Parkway, a woman's identity was stolen.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Eight vehicles, including a motorcycle, were stolen: on November 18 near 7107 Megan Lane, a 2016 Infiniti (Md. 9EB4576), near 6610 Springcrest Drive, a 2013 Lexus (Md. 9BE3503), and near 7710 Hanover Parkway, a 2021 Acura RDX (Md. 2ES9828); on November 21 near 9338 Edmonston Road, a 2023 Nissan Rogue (Fla. RWEK15), and near 7852 Walker Drive, a 2021 Yamaha motorcycle (4860Y6); on November 22 near 9164 Edmonston Road, a 2020 Kia Optima (Md. 6FR8499); on November 23 near 8150 Lakecrest Drive, a 2018 BMW X6 (Md. 7EL7421); and on November 24 near 7824 Hanover Parkway, a 2018 Hyundai Elantra (Va. UDX5057).

Vehicles Found

On November 21 near 7501 Greenbelt Road, a car reported stolen to D.C. police was found damaged. On November 22 near 9208 Springhill Lane, a vehicle thought stolen was found to have been towed.

Theft from Auto

On November 18 near 6198 Greenbelt Road, a rear tag was stolen. On November 19 near 6013 Springhill Drive, a work vehicle was broken into and tools were stolen. On November 20 near 6400 Cherrywood Lane, tires and rims were stolen; near 6400 Ivy Lane, all four tires were stolen along with a rear tag. On November 22 near 7801 Mandan Road, a registration year sticker was missing. On November 23 near 9102 Edmonston Court, a window was broken and an airbag stolen; near 6003 Cherrywood Court, a window was shattered, the vehicle rummaged through, and personal items stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On November 21 near 7300 Hanover Drive, a front windshield was damaged. Windows were broken on November 23 near 9112 Edmonston Road and near 6006 Springhill Drive; near 6104 Breezewood Court, a window was shattered and the vehicle rummaged through, but nothing was taken. On November 24 near 6003 Cherrywood Court, a woman was alerted by her car alarm and found damage to a window and door.



Incidents reported here occurred November 25 - December 1, 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. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported three domestic incidents, two with arrests.

Shooting

On November 26 at 11:42 p.m. near 9108 Edmonston Road, officers responded to a reported shooting, and found a man with a single gunshot wound to the shoulder. He was reportedly meeting a man who owed him money.

Attempted Robbery

On November 27 at 4:44 p.m. near 151 Centerway, a suspect walked into a store with a weapon, demanding money. The employee went into the back of the store, and the suspect fled before police arrived. Nothing was stolen.

Assault

On November 27 at 4:32 p.m. near 6115 Breezewood Court, two women were involved in a fight. They refused medical treatment.

DUI Arrests

On November 25 at 11:54 p.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Old Calvert Road, officers responded to a reported crash, and found one driver intoxicated. The driver was arrested and charged with DUI-related offenses.

On November 28 at 11:30 p.m. near 6204 Breezewood Drive, an SUV was found stopped parallel to the road blocking both lanes. The driver had an odor of alcohol, showed multiple signs of impairment, and was arrested and charged with DUI.

Fraud

On November 26 near 6601 Springcrest Drive, someone cashed unauthorized checks from a bank account.

Shoplifting

On November 26 at 1:21 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman placed items into her purse and walked out.

On November 27 at 6:42 p.m. near 6219 Springhill Court, employees stopped two juveniles for concealing merchandise. The juveniles did not pass all points of sale and they were released to a guardian on scene.

On November 27 at 1:23 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was caught stealing merchandise; he was issued a criminal citation and banned from the property.

On November 29 at 10:22 a.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, employees stopped two juveniles for concealing merchandise. The juveniles did not pass all points of sale and they were released to a guardian on scene.

On November 30 at 4:53 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, two suspects tried to steal items from a store and were stopped at the door; all items were recovered, and both suspects were banned from the property.

Theft

On November 27 near 109 Ridge Road, a package delivered to a residence was reported stolen.

Vandalism

On December 1 at 5:00 p.m. near 436 Ridge Road, a juvenile kicked and damaged the door-knob to their front door. The juvenile was released to a guardian on scene.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

Two cars were stolen: On November 25 near 7740 Mandan Road, a gray 2021 Toyota Camry (Md. 8GB5812); and November 27 near 5905 Cherrywood Lane, a black 2011 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 1FG6827).

Attempted Theft of Vehicles

On November 27, two vehicles were broken into, near 5913 Cherrywood Lane, and near 5815 Cherrywood Lane. On December 1 near 5325 Smiths Cove Lane, a 2012 Kia Forte had a broken window and ignition damage.

Vehicle Found

On November 27 near 8013 Mandan Road, a man reported his vehicle stolen, but it had been impounded and towed by Metro Transit PD.

Theft from Auto

Vehicles were broken into

and items stolen: on November 25 near 9162 Edmonston Road (tools); November 26 near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, two vehicles; and November 30 near 6004 Springhill Drive.

On November 26 two vehicles had all four wheels stolen: a Lexus near 7712 Hanover Parkway, and a vehicle near 7706 Hanover Parkway.

Vandalism to Auto

On November 25 near 6108 Breezewood Court, a vehicle windshield was damaged.

On December 1 near 9119 Springhill Lane, a vehicle window was damaged; and near 6103 Breezewood Court, two vehicles had broken windows and were rummaged through: a 2012 Toyota Camry, and near 6007 Springhill Drive, a 2004 Toyota Sienna.

SKIP DAY continued from page 1

while acknowledging the court's decision. "The charges related to this case were brought after careful investigation by our officers, and we believe the case was thoroughly and fairly presented in court. However, it is the responsibility of the judicial system to determine guilt or innocence, and we honor that decision," wrote Bowers in a statement to the News Review.

"We understand that this outcome may be difficult for those directly affected by the incident and the community at large. The Department remains dedicated to investigating and preventing violent crimes in our city and will continue to work tirelessly

to hold individuals accountable through proper legal channels," stated Bowers.

Asked about the implications for the trial of the second juvenile suspect, which is scheduled for this month, Deputy Police Chief Tim White said he couldn't comment specifically but had reason to remain optimistic that the suspect would be held accountable.

"Our thoughts remain with all those impacted by this incident. We will continue to collaborate with local agencies and community partners to promote safety and peace within our neighborhoods," wrote Bowers.



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THE SPACE continued from page 1

transportation to get there.

Mission

According to Higgs, the arts are the foundation of human connectivity; they create culture and help to bind community. The SPACE is about building human relationships and helping people see their potential as creatives, entrepreneurs and community leaders. His mission, according to a grant document, is to provide underserved communities with high quality art supplies, materials, skills, career development and individualized growth.

Programs

Community needs were revealed by the number of individuals who came to The SPACE. What Higgs had not anticipated was how The SPACE met the personal wellness needs of young people from the community. Youth came to find a safe place to learn, to relax, to meditate or just to rest. The programs offered include photography, painting and sewing. One goal is to show, especially young people, that they could use the Entrepreneur Lab (ELab), a new program, to be trained for marketable skills such as 3D printing, laser engraving, video production, AI arts creation and customized clothing with custom-designed vinyl transfers. Other offerings include free clothing and a book market.

Testimonials

Indalyn was your typical introverted, socially awkward teenager when she arrived at The SPACE which she says redirected her life's purpose because Higgs had filled that environment with so

much love and acceptance. He was able to help her see possibilities for her future that she had not considered before. Indalyn became serious about learning photography. For her, the growth of The SPACE means that anything is possible. Today, she is leading the new Aperture Crew Videography program, described below.

Sadibu, a work-study student at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, needed a service assignment but was rejected by every place he applied in Greenbelt. He saw a flyer for The SPACE and came to ask if he could volunteer. Higgs took him on as both volunteer and a mentee. Through the months and years that he spent with The SPACE, Sadibu became more confident and went from being a silent observer to a leader.

He has learned to use 3D printers and Tinker CAD, and created a pin in memory of former City Councilmember Ric Gordon. Sadibu plans to be a comic book writer and is developing his own comic series on a character called Young Blood. The first of two series are awaiting an official copyright letter and will be published in 2025.

Bob Rand, who joined The SPACE as a board member in November 2022, was inspired to support The SPACE by Higgs' vision. He sees Higgs as an important local leader who knows how to create community where it is most needed and offer opportunities for personal discovery and growth. Rand loves being

part of The SPACE crew helping the nonprofit grow, and looks forward to maintaining regular arts and wellness programming in 2025 and expanding the new Artrepreneur program.

Current Programs

Revolutionary self-care includes yoga and mindfulness. Classes are free to the community and include sewing, knitting, crocheting, ukulele, keyboarding, guitar, jam sessions to connect musicians, Friday night FAFA gaming and expressive art workshops.

A new workforce development center in the Third Space Lounge is partnering with the City of Greenbelt and Employ Prince George's to offer support and training for career development.

Another program in the works is Aperture Crew Videography. Indalyn and youth interns from Kingsmen Academy in northeast Washington will run this program. Through Aperture youth make videos about the various types of work that are done every day in the community, and that help to sustain a city, allowing young people to see that there are all types of jobs in the community; however, to work one must be able to read, write, think and create.

The SPACE provides opportunities and hope for a better life.

The lives of local residents have been transformed through their association with Higgs and The SPACE.



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO


From left: Tammy Hurley, Melissa Sites, Owen Flippings, Kimmie Jolly, Jennifer Dudley, Lisa White, Bob Rand, Sadibu Kabba, Indalyn McCaskill and Shaymar Higgs (in front)




PHOTO BY MELISSA SITES

Shaymar Higgs, right, and Sadibu Kabba at the 6-year celebration for The SPACE





Allison Bruff, MD



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Letters continued from page 2

it was determined that the issues exceeded our diagnostic capabilities." I totally disagree with that statement. As a professional mechanic with over 50 years of experience, including 25 years running my own company, I know the importance of continuing education. I also know the difference between the cost of sending a vehicle to a dealer versus using your own labor. Let's not forget that according to our city manager, we have a "three million dollar rolling budget deficit." No one should be punished for asking, or even expecting, that our city employees be able to learn as they earn. I ask that everyone visit the city's website, watch the meeting video or read the transcript and come to the city council meeting on December 9, and let the council know how you feel.

Rodney M. Roberts
Member, Greenbelt City Council

Roberts and JEDI Team

Rodney Roberts, like every other member of the Greenbelt City Council, is held accountable for his performance by voters in municipal elections every two years.

Now, according to the November 7 edition of the News Review, Mr. Roberts will have to answer to a higher authority: the Greenbelt Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Team (JEDI).

This body consists of 13 city employees representing each department in the city government. None were elected. None are accountable to Greenbelt voters. Yet JEDI appears to have taken on a self-appointed role to monitor, regulate and even police political speech in the Greenbelt City Council.

JEDI is calling on the City Council to "censure" Mr. Roberts for unspecified remarks at the August 12 council meeting and a council retreat two days later – remarks that the News Review characterized as "disrespectful and verbally abusive." Hopefully the News Review can answer the following:

- What is JEDI, its role and mission?
- Who are its members and how were they chosen?
- When and how was JEDI formed?
- Was there a vote in the group to seek censure of Mr. Roberts? If so, who on JEDI voted for and against the decision?
- Does JEDI hold public meetings?
- Are minutes of meetings available to the public?
- Are meetings advertised on a city website, as with advisory boards?
- Since JEDI is composed of city employees, does the City Council have oversight of JEDI or does this responsibility belong to the city manager?

Hopefully, subsequent issues of the News Review can help shed some daylight on JEDI, an official policy advisory group of the Greenbelt city government that nevertheless operates in secrecy.

The city does have a "code of conduct" for council members, which the News Review also published. The code makes it clear that the council itself

is responsible for enforcing the code. This is the council's responsibility and not the job of unelected employees of the city government, who will never have to face voters.

Willis Witter

Editor's Note: The JEDI team specified remarks in their memo and the characterization of those remarks was that of the team not the News Review, who reported on their memo in the November 7 issue. Several of the letter writer's questions about the JEDI Team can be answered by reading the May 9 issue.

ERB Impartiality Concerns Raised

I am deeply troubled by the November 14 letter to the editor titled "In Defense of Roberts" by John Mason and Lolly Gaines. My despondency stems from their direct response, compounded by the fact that one of the individuals serves on the city's Employee Relations Board (ERB).

The ERB's primary functions include rendering decisions on employee dismissals, suspensions and demotions; hearing grievances and complaints from employees; and recommending policies and practices regarding appeals and grievances presented to the ERB. Prior to joining the board, members are required to sign a code of conduct, stipulating they must act with integrity, maintain impartiality and refrain from conduct that could tarnish the board's reputation. They are also prohibited from engaging in behavior that may undermine the trust of employees or the public in the board's ability to act fairly.

ERB members are expected to uphold these principles. However, the recent letter by Mason and Gaines raises concerns about the board's impartiality. Having a member openly express support for a councilmember whose behavior and code of conduct are in question further raises concerns. While stating Roberts has "no polished oratory" and that "heated discussions are part of the job," they also acknowledge that everyone has [done] "boneheaded things" in the past. These ideals are directly opposed to Greenbelt's Community Pledge, which asserts that our "strength lies in diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation." How does this align with the aspiration

to "be a respectful and welcoming community"?

In defense of Roberts, the use of the phrase "stupid is as stupid does" inadvertently highlights the very stance that the JEDI Action Team took to question his conduct: Actions should be the sole basis for judgment. Furthermore, "stupid is as stupid does" does not instill confidence in the ERB's ability to maintain impartiality. Instead, it suggests that their actions and words may be influenced by personal biases or motivations and further undermines the trust of employees and the public in the ERB's ability to act fairly and impartially.

This letter was submitted by a member of the JEDI team and city employee.

Name withheld

Reparations

A November 7 News Review letter writer cited his German-American abolitionist forbearers as reason to oppose reparations for descendants of slaves. Arguing that through hard work his family overcame hardships to build a better life, he draws a contrast to people whom he assumes are asking for handouts.

Although no doubt sincere, I question whether anyone succeeds without assistance, nor whether those whose forebearers were in chains are afraid of hard work. If African Americans hadn't labored long and hard, their community wouldn't have its current vitality; our country would be the poorer. Nonetheless, Black Americans on average earn less, own less wealth, and have a shorter life expectancy than those with European heritage – the reason the question of reparations is important.

My parents were refugees from Nazi Germany, my mother arriving in 1934, my father in 1938. They met through Nature Friends at Camp Midvale in New Jersey – German-American organizations with roots in the trade union and socialist movement. Although the surrounding town didn't allow Jews or Blacks to purchase homes, Midvale had the first – and for many years only – integrated swimming pool in New Jersey. That's where I learned to swim, learned the meaning of an inclusive culture.

We participated in annual Steuben Day parades in the

Workmen Benefit Fund's (WBF) contingent. WBF was a cooperative providing health insurance and old age services to members while advocating for national health insurance and improved Social Security benefits. Self-help in the community included working to improve the lot of all.

Similarly, I attended a turnverein in New York to learn German. The "Turners" imparted a democratic ethos contrary to the German imperial ethos that led to 1930s fascism. Reflecting that outlook, in 2017, Milwaukee Turners denounced the Trump Administration's Muslim ban, recognizing in their plight the circumstances of impoverished or politically persecuted German immigrants in previous times.

I honor my heritage by respecting all cultures and valuing cooperation – and GHI, Greenbelt's Food Co-op, New Deal Café and Greenbelt News Review. Discussions in our community about reparations reflect those values. Without genuine equality for all, no one's rights are secure.

Kurt Stand

The SPACE: Free Art For All Fall Programs

Ongoing programs at The SPACE: Free Art For All:

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

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

Fridays, Free Art for All Game Night, 5 to 7 p.m. Level up your game at open game night. Play for fun and gear up for monthly tournaments. Space Family Band Jam Session, 7 to 9 p.m. Rainbow Joe is back. Bring an instrument or borrow one from The SPACE and jump into the jam.

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

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

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



PHOTO BY BARBARA BJALES

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PHOTO BY SARAH HEADLEY

Before plunging to her death (just kidding!), Sarah Headley grabs her copy of the Greenbelt News Review in the Freakybuttrue Peculiarium in Portland, Oregon.



PHOTO BY KIND STRANGER

Mary Sies, Chris Stark and the News Review visited the Tom Petty historical marker at Tom Petty Park in Gainesville, Florida, November 19.

My Point of View

A Compliment; Some Musings

The News Review just keeps getting better and better, and the recent issue with its three main stories on the fire department, armory and lawsuit were well done – particularly the fact-checking of fire response times. The city is so fortunate to have such a vibrant newspaper in a time when so many other local papers have disappeared.

Comments

The city has taken on a real challenge with the Armory. It will be interesting to see what develops. A bond issue is something to think about but with the current political situation, who knows? I am of the opinion that CARES should have been moved out of the Municipal Building to the Community Center when it was first acquired. Planning should be there instead.

While there will be some demand, I feel the impact of the FBI on Greenbelt will not be that great. That was certainly so when Goddard came. Workers will commute, get off the Metro or park their cars and go inside. The FBI does not bring in sub-

contractors to seek out office space and whether enough out-of-town agents visit to support a nearby hotel is questionable. Beltway traffic will increase, but that will happen anyhow. It was the Beltway and Parkway that caused Greenbelt to develop as it has.

Way back I did a series of articles on maglev and concluded it was most likely that it would never be built. I see nothing to change my mind. I feel the developers are in for the government planning funding. It was true then and is still so now, I think, that there is not a successfully operating maglev train – the one in Japan is used for tourist rides and the one in China not reaching a good destination. But who knows what the future holds beyond January?

Jim Giese
Greenbelt City Manager,
1962 to 1991



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St. Hugh's Catholic Church Hosts 2024 Empty Bowls Charity Event

by Christopher Irwin

The generosity of Greenbelt residents was on full display as 200 attendees of the 2024 Empty Bowls event came together at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church on Sunday, November 17 to raise funds in support of the church's food pantry. By the event's end, \$6,000 was given toward the continued efforts of the church to meet the needs of the hungry in our area.

The Empty Bowls works were created by artists who donated their works for the public to purchase. Those bowls were then filled with various kinds of soup made by church volunteers. Adding to the event were performances by several groups, including the Greenbelt Orchestra's flute group, bassoon group and string quartet, and ukelele music from Zookulele Collective and Dave.

Among the attendees were Mayor Emmett Jordan and other Greenbelt city councilmembers. Their presence gave the occasion a special sense of recognition and support.

One participant, Mary Angevine, said, "I know that I made the right decision about coming when it was time to move to a new parish." She described the people as "friendly" and "willing to put together these kinds of events for the parish."

As an unforeseen consequence of her decision to attend, and a testimony to the charm of the moment, Angevine even encountered an acquaintance from her youth, her high school prom date. She expressed appreciation for how the event allowed her to get to know others rather than simply show up and return home once it was over.

Greenbelt Pottery Group potters Julie Boyton and Gina Mai Denn provided the bowls and partnered with the Ladies of Charity at the church, who coordinated volunteers to make the soups, desserts and provide the bread. The Ladies of Charity also handled ticketing and advertising for the event, assisted with seeking Greenbelt music groups to play and set up the decorations. Supporting the Ladies of Charity, the Knights of Columbus ran the kitchen and provided any logistical help needed, as this was the first time that Empty Bowls was held at the church.

Empty Bowls describes itself as a "grassroots movement by artists and craftspeople in cities and towns around the world to raise money for food-related charities to care for and feed the hungry in their communities." Started in 1991 by Lisa Blackburn and art teacher John Hartom, Empty Bowls events have taken place in several states throughout the U.S. and many areas in Canada. The 501(c)(3) organization also partnered with the United Nations in conjunction with World Food Day. To learn more about this effort, visit emptybowls.com.

- Photos by Michael G. Stewart



From left, Julie Boyton (Greenbelt Potters), Dave Pitts (Knights of Columbus), Gina Mai Denn (Greenbelt Potters) and Mary Ann Tretler (Ladies of Charity) show off some of the 200 bowls.



Attendees enjoy the many delicious homemade soups.



The talented Greenbelt flute group provides music to a packed house.



Greenbelt Farmers Market favorites the Zookulele Collective and Dave get the Empty Bowls crowd hopping.



Mayor Emmett Jordan admires a bowl with potter Lola Skolnik.



Greenbelt Buy Nothing Groups Gathered for Annual Social

by Erica Johns

About 25 members of Greenbelt's Buy Nothing groups met for their annual social gathering on Saturday, October 5 at the Sweetgum Picnic Area in Greenbelt Park. On a morning that began slightly foggy but soon became sunny, items were swapped and donated; food and drink were brought, eaten and drunk; and more sharing ideas were discussed.

Buy Nothing is a grassroots movement to build community and reduce environmental impact. Members offer things they no longer need and request things they do need, with no money changing hands. Greenbelt has three groups: Greenbelt-Redbud, Greenbelt-Dogwood and one for Old Greenbelt. Greenbelt-Redbud and Greenbelt-Dogwood are available to any Greenbelt resident regardless of where they live in Greenbelt. The Buy Nothing

Old Greenbelt group is for those who want to give and receive within Old Greenbelt. All three groups operate on Facebook.

Member and organizer Melissa Ehrenreich wrote that sharing ideas discussed on October 5 included the following:

- 1) Highlighting free opportunities to share gifts of skills and time to explore building a more robust gift economy in Greenbelt.
- 2) Quarterly meetups to share arts and crafts to ensure free art is available to all.
- 3) Monthly wishes to pick a topic to collectively source mutual aid to address as a group.
- 4) A regional meetup to pull all Buy Nothing groups in the area together.
- 5) Encouraging and celebrating networks that build resilience (welcome to the neighborhood kits, wellness check-ins, dinner/court parties, etc.).



Greenbelt Buy Nothing members met Saturday, October 5 in Greenbelt Park for their annual social gathering. Items were swapped and donated, food and drink were brought, eaten and drunk, and more sharing ideas were discussed.

- Photos by Erica Johns



Terri Goodnow at the Buy Nothing member get-together on October 5

PHOTO BY MELISSA EHRENRICH

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