



More protest photos, p.12



Garcia vigil at courthouse, p.6

City's Retirement Fund Changes Are Proposed at Worksession

by Daniel M. Thies

On March 19, retired city employees filled council chambers to hear the proposed changes to the city's retirement fund that could go into effect later this year, and made sure they were included in the discussion. City Manager Josué Salmerón and Director of Human Services Dawane Martinez first gave background for the issue. For more than two years, both received feedback from city staff and retirees about issues they were having with the fund. Although they couldn't go into specifics of the complaints they received, the issues were significant enough that they utilized the city's broker for Retirement and

Healthcare Services – National Financial Partners Corporation (NFP) – to review how the fund is currently managed by Mission Square and find potential alternatives through a request for proposals (RFP) process. Through that RFP, six retirement funds applied and one was determined by NFP to be the best option on offer – Nationwide Retirement Plan Services.

Originally, the change was going to be discussed during council's February 19 regular session, but the date was pushed out to allow employees to be briefed

See **RETIREMENT**, page 11

A Weekend of Protests, Rallies, Vigils for Many Greenbelters

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO COURTESY ELISE YOUNG

A group of Greenbelters with their children attend the Hands Off! protest in Washington, D.C., on April 5.

It was a weekend filled with protests and rallies for Greenbelters, beginning with a vigil outside the U.S. District Courthouse on Friday, April 4. There, a vocal group of over 30 turned out to sing songs, raise signs and support Kilmar Abrego Garcia of Beltsville and his family. Garcia's deportation to the Terrorism Confinement Center (CECOT), a maximum security prison in El Salvador, has been called an administrative error by the Trump administration, yet they are fighting a court order to bring him back. For more, see pages 1 and 6.

On Saturday, April 5, many Greenbelters attended a large protest at the National Mall, while here in the city over 300 rallied locally, taking their voices and signs through the city to the Spellman Overpass for Baltimore-Washington Parkway traffic to witness. For more, see story on this page.

Greenbelt's Matt Neufeld attended the national Hands Off! protest in Washington, D.C. and

estimated there was a crowd of at least 100,000. The protest was excellent, he told the News Review. "Jamie Raskin and several others delivered speeches of a lifetime," he said. "Hands off our freedom."

Among other protesters in Washington, D.C. were members of a Greenbelt Mahjong group and Greenbelt parents and

See **PROTESTS**, page 12



PHOTO BY FRED GASPER

Participants in Greenbelt's Hands Off! rally, and their signs, are seen by passing motorists on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway on Saturday, April 5.

Hundreds Attend Hands Off! America Rally in Greenbelt

by Erica Johns

Over 300 Greenbelt and Maryland residents attended Greenbelt's Hands Off! National Day of Action rally on Saturday, April 5 to protest Trump administration actions they say are violating the U.S. Constitution, attacking democracy and civil rights, gutting federal services, damaging the economy, threatening Americans' lives and livelihoods, and endangering global security. Many said it was critical to make their voices heard now before it is too late. The event was one of 17 Hands Off! demonstrations in Maryland and over 1,300 nationwide.

Handsoff2025.com called April 5 a National Day of Action for democracy and



PHOTO BY PETER TEUBEN

Hands Off! protesters outside the Municipal Center in Greenbelt on April 5

against the administration's "assault on our freedoms and our communities." It said, "Whether you are mobilized by the attacks on our democracy, the slashing of jobs, the invasion of privacy or the assault on our services – this moment is for you."

Greenbelt's Rally

Greenbelt's rally began at the Municipal Building from 3 to 4 p.m., followed by a march to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway pedestrian Spellman Overpass to engage motorists there from 4 to 5 p.m. Greenbelt police were on hand to manage safety at the Municipal Building and

See **HANDS OFF**, page 8

Judge Orders Garcia's Return, Supreme Court Grants Stay

by Melissa Sites

On Friday, April 4 at the United States District Courthouse in Greenbelt, Judge Paula Xinis ruled that Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia, 29, who lived with his family in Beltsville, was wrongfully deported to El Salvador and must be brought home by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, April 7. The government has appealed

What Goes On

Monday, April 14
7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building
Wednesday, April 16
7:30 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Planning and Community Development, Municipal Building

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



PHOTO BY MELISSA SITES

Abrego Garcia's attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg speaks outside the courthouse in Greenbelt. Far right is Jennifer Vasquez Sura, Beltsville resident and wife of Abrego Garcia.

the ruling and, after a federal court in Virginia denied their request for a stay, on Monday appealed for the Supreme Court to overrule the judge's order. On Monday evening, Chief Justice John Roberts paused the order of return while the court considers the case.

The defendants in Friday's case were members of the United States government, including Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Secretary of State

See **GARCIA**, page 6

Letters to the Editor

Armory What If?

What if the people of Greenbelt chose not to redevelop the armory? What if we decided to reallocate the \$50,000 earmarked for electric bills on a long-abandoned building with asbestos and structural damage, according to reporting in the News Review? For example, what if that money hired an enrichment teacher to work with low-income, multilingual children in Schrom Hills? What if that money supported people working toward naturalized citizenship?

What if the people of Greenbelt chose not to spend millions of dollars to remediate asbestos and millions more to repair water damage and vandalism? What if the city sold the eight acres of land and used those millions of dollars to provide openly accessible and culturally sensitive services to the myriad of people who call Greenbelt home?

Would an opportunity be lost or could more opportunities open?

Leah Cohen

Greenbelt Cats Need Your Help

Everyone has seen the construction in the rear parking lot at Beltway Plaza. In time, the sea of asphalt will be gone and all we can do is remember the

many times people have passed by and seen various people feed the feral mall cats. I want to send a special thank you to Mr. Ravan who owns the store Like On T.V., who has fed them for many years at the mall. Then there is Gabby and her fiancé who also feed them. Many of those cats were spayed and neutered at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter.

I have had over 46 cats spayed, neutered, released and adopted in the past, all with the help of the shelter. I have not been able to access their help for a long while and so I am reaching out to members of the community to help a few fur friends. I live in the Franklin Park apartments which is where the cats I care for live.

To the powers that be, we need the full resources of the animal shelter. Many of the cats we feed are not feral but recently abandoned, like Pricilla who just wants a home. My main concern now is for elderly Shorttail and Holla, who have lived on the premises and desperately need a home.

If you are someone who would like to help these two old girls, please reach out. This is our eighth year feeding and providing trap, neuter, release (TNR) of neighborhood cats. Does anyone know of a sanctuary that can

See **LETTERS**, page 8

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

On Becoming a Guinea Fowl

On an empty road in the middle of the night, Shula stumbles across the body of her uncle. As funeral proceedings begin around them, she and her cousins bring to light the buried secrets of their middle-class Zambian family in filmmaker Rungano Nyoni's surreal and vibrant reckoning with the lies we tell ourselves. Said critic Thelma Adams, AARP Movies for Grownups, "A cathartic, confident, unfussy film that brushes against the universality of death, while sharing the specificity of Zambian mourning rituals to a global audience."

The Friend

The comfortable, solitary New York life of writer and teacher Iris (Naomi Watts) is thrown into disarray after her closest friend and mentor (Bill Murray) dies suddenly and bequeaths her his beloved 150 lb. Great Dane. The regal yet intractable beast, named Apollo, immediately creates practical problems for Iris, from furniture destruction to eviction notices, as well as more existential ones, his looming presence constantly reminding her of her friend's problematic choices in both life and death. Yet as Iris finds herself unexpectedly bonding with the animal, she begins to come to terms with her past, her lost friend and her own creative inner life.

The Penguin Lessons

The film was inspired by the true story of a disillusioned Englishman who went to work in a school in Argentina in 1976. Expecting an easy ride, Tom (Steve Coogan) discovers a divided nation and a class of unteachable students. However, after he rescues a penguin from an oil-slicked beach, his life is turned upside down. Said critic Neely Swanson of the Beverly Hills Courier, "The true star of this tale, the one who's in the title of the film, is the penguin. Never pass up an opportunity to interact with penguins, and this one is no different."

Blade

A half-mortal, half-immortal is out to avenge his mother's death and rid the world of vampires. The modern-day technologically advanced vampires he is going after are in search of his special blood type needed to summon an evil god who plays a key role in their plan to execute the human race.

Snowpiercer

In this film from director Bong Joon Ho (Parasite, Mickey 17), a post-apocalyptic ice age forces humanity's last survivors aboard a globe-spanning supertrain. One man (Chris Evans) will risk everything to lead a revolt for control of the engine and the future of the world.



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:
APRIL 11th - 17th

On Becoming a Guinea Fowl
(PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2025) (120 mins)
In Bemba with English subtitles
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium

Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:15 PM
Tues. 6:00 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM
Wed. 8:15 PM

The Friend (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2025) (120 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Wed. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM
Tues. 8:00 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

The Penguin Lessons (PG-13)
(CC) (DVS) (2024) (110 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Tues. 8:15 PM
Fri. 8:00 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM
Wed. 5:45 PM
Thurs. 5:15 PM

2025 NY Cat Film Festival
(NR) (2025) (99 mins)

10% of ticket sales go to the
Greenbelt Animal Shelter
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 12:30 PM

2025 NY Dog Film Festival
(NR) (2025) (107 mins)

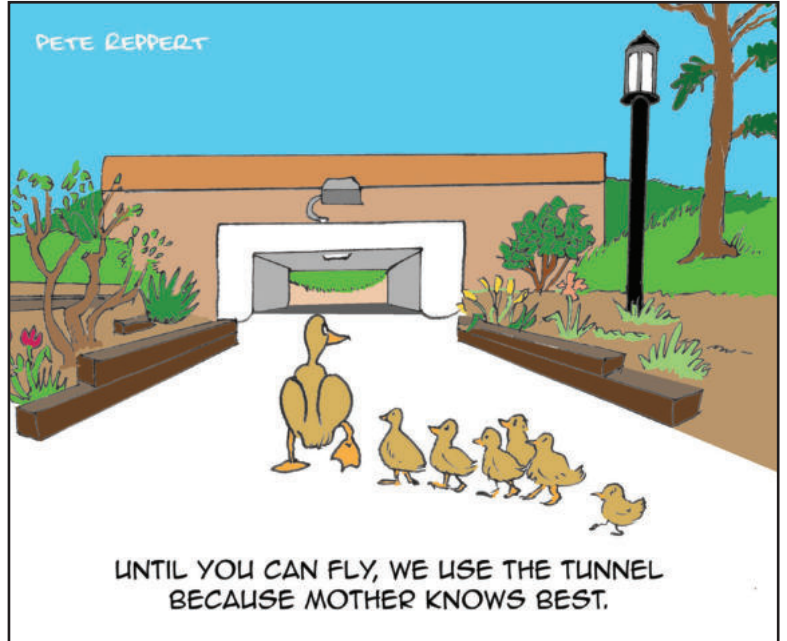
10% of ticket sales go to the
Greenbelt Animal Shelter
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 2:30 PM

Blade (R) (1998) (115 mins)
Cinema Pop!

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 8:00 PM

Snowpiercer
(R) (CC) (2013) (126 mins)

Cult Classic - Free movie
trivia at 7pm hosted by
@TheScreenBliss
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Thurs. 8:00 PM



News Review Hosts Open House April 12

Current and potential members, friends and families are invited to an Open House at the News Review office on Saturday, April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The News Review hasn't missed an issue since our first issue on November 24, 1937. Come learn how the weekly miracle occurs.

Meet the people who make it happen - writers, copyeditors, layout, ad desk, emailers, proofers, business desk and myriad other members. How do they produce a paper full of stories, photos, letters, cartoons and advertising each week? And how can you get more involved? Come find out!

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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Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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- 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.

Bilingual Story Hour

Friday, April 11, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5, at the Springhill Lake Community Center. Enjoy the wonderful world of storytelling. Friends and family welcome. Ven y disfruta del maravilloso mundo de contrar cuentos, amigos y familiares son bienvenidos. Hosted by Greenbelt Library staff and Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness (RUAK). Register at pgcmls.info/event/129886644.

Storytimes

Friday, April 11, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12988940.

Wednesday, April 16, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12988853.

Thursday, April 17, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12988920.

STEM for Families

Tuesday, April 15, 4:30 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Explore science, technology, engineering and math. Drop in for hands-on electricity experiments and activities. The event's theme is Squishy Circuits. Register at pgcmls.info/event/12993890.

Passport Services

Greenbelt Library serves as a U.S. Passport Acceptance Facility. Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgcmls.info/passport-services.

GHI Spring Bicycle Social April 19

On Saturday, April 19 from 1 to 3 p.m., everyone can "spring" back into bicycling at the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Bicycle Committee's bicycle social. Meet fellow cyclists in the Greenbelt community, join in the discussion and let the Bicycle Committee know what they can do to help you.

Topics for discussion will include E-Bikes: Introduction & Maintenance, Safety Tips and a Gear Swap (out with your old gear, in with the new-to-you). Snacks and refreshments will be provided.

The social will take place on the GHI grounds at 1 Hamilton Place, inside the GHI building if raining.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

Play Board Games Monday Evening

On Monday, April 14, meet at the Community Center from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in Room 114. Games will be available, or bring favorites to share. This group has partnered with the local cribbage group, so there will be plenty of pegging going on as well. Questions? Email events@greenbeltunplugged.org.

Chess Club Meets

The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet next Tuesday, April 15, at the Youth Center from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. The club welcomes people of all ages and skill levels. To be added to the mailing list, go to tinyurl.com/yey2nz4m and complete the brief form. Email questions to greenbeltchessclub@gmail.com.



Golden Age Club

The Golden Age Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The next meeting will be the Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, April 16 at the Holiday Inn, 10000 Baltimore Ave., College Park, starting at noon. Attendees will be entertained by the musicians of TGIF group, playing favorites from the 50s and beyond.

Other April meetings:

April 23 - Bingo

April 30 - Special presentation by Tina Alston, Ph.D. therapist, When You Make a Mess, You Clean it Up

Writing Contest on Peace For Maryland Students

All Maryland middle school students are invited to enter a statewide writing contest focusing on the themes of peace and social justice. The contest, sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, the Benjamin Peace Foundation and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Annapolis Friends Meeting, is open to all seventh and eighth grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland and to home-schooled students corresponding to the same grade levels. For information, go to tinyurl.com/2674k257.

Paint and Dance At Artful Afternoon



PHOTOS COURTESY GREENBELT REC ARTISTS AND EVOLUTION DANCE STUDIO

Dushaun Thompson and students; Koi painting by Barbara Joann Combs

The Greenbelt Recreation Arts Program invites guests of all ages to an afternoon of free activities at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Sunday, April 13. Starting at 1:30 p.m., use watercolors to paint beautiful koi fish with local artist Barbara Joann Combs. At 2 p.m., enjoy an energizing modern/hip-hop dance break with Dushaun Thompson of Greenbelt-based Evolution Dance Studio.

Guests are encouraged to sign up in advance at bit.ly/4jhQvYV. Walk-ins are also welcome. For information about more Greenbelt arts programs, visit greenbeltdm.gov/arts. Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.

Peace Camp Is Coming to Greenbelt

For the past three summers, Little Friends for Peace, a local organization, has been hosting a peace camp at Greenbelt Community Church for children and teens ages 5 to 14. Scheduled for July 21 to 25, the theme will be Mission Imagination, which includes cooperative games, storytelling, team building, conflict resolution and creative ways to inspire positive change. There is a fee, but needs-based scholarships are available. For more information, go to lffp.org/peacecamp.html.

Great Food Transition Project on April 16

CHEARS and partner Great Food Transition Project will present Food for All in Greenbelt. On Wednesday, April 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. enjoy a delicious chana masala dinner with neighbors at the Community Center dining room. The dish is prepared free of animal products, gluten, nuts, alcohol and other allergens using a Universal Meals recipe. Universal Meals have been served nationwide in a variety of community programs, schools, hospitals and hotels. Guest Melissa Ann Ehrenreich will facilitate a discussion around how Greenbelt can come together using food as a means to build community and connections to each other. They will imagine what a Greenbelt Cook Along could look like where everyone eats and everyone has a seat at the table. To set up or help prep in the kitchen, arrive at 5:15 p.m. The Community Center is located at 15 Crescent Road. The event is free, but registration is required. Go to lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/k4p3nm or email ghadamsrn@gmail.com.

Last Weekend at GAC For Tick, Tick ... Boom!

This is the last weekend to see performances of Tick, Tick ... Boom! at the Greenbelt Arts Center. The performances of the cast have been well reviewed in both this paper and other theatrical online reviews. This autobiographical musical by Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning composer of Rent, is the story of a composer and the sacrifices that he made to achieve his big break in theater. It takes the audience on the playwright/composer's journey that led to a Broadway blockbuster. Do not miss it. The last performances are this Friday, April 11 and Saturday, April 12 at 8 p.m. at the Greenbelt Arts Center. Tickets are required. For more information go to greenbeltartscenter.org.

Free Community Shred Day

On Saturday, April 12, the Lafayette Federal Credit Union will hold a free community shred day (for personal documents only) at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. The event is from 9 a.m. to noon or until the shred truck reaches capacity.

Easter Sunrise Service Sunday, April 20

An ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service will be held at Buddy Attick Park on Sunday, April 20 at 7 a.m. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on. The rain location will be the Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads.



Award-Winning Film On Street Artist TMNK

On Saturday, May 31, the Greenbelt Cinema will host a screening of Nobody Was Here: The Life of TMNK. This powerful documentary explores the life and artistry of TMNK (The Me Nobody Knows), a former advertising marketing professional who left behind corporate success to become a renowned street artist. TMNK's raw, thought-provoking art tackled social and political issues, leaving an indelible mark on the urban art scene.

Through rare footage, in-depth interviews and a compelling visual narrative, the film delves into TMNK's evolution as an artist, his struggles and the profound impact of his work. More than just a documentary, Nobody Was Here is a tribute to creative freedom, resilience and the transformative power of art.

The award-winning director, Rico James, currently living in Miami, is originally from Silver Spring and graduated from Howard University.

The screening will be at 1 p.m.

This Week at the New Deal Café

Celebrating 30 years in Greenbelt, 1995 - 2025!

BECOME A MEMBER!*

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113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD
 Monday, 9am-9pm; Tuesday—Thursday, 9am - 10pm; Friday/Saturday, 9am – 12midnight;
 Sunday, 9am – 9pm

TH 4/10	FRI 4/11	SAT 4/12	SUN 4/13
FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Free Flowing Musical Experience 7-9pm Paying homage to the Dead & other psychedelic bands	Rock Creek Revival 8-11pm A Maryland-based band drawing inspiration from bluegrass greats!	COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE, 3:30 - 5pm D'Vibe & Conga 8-11pm Bowie, Maryland blues, funk, rock, reggae, R&B and more!	ASL BRUNCH, 10:30a - 12noon The Nighthawks 6 - 8pm Legendary DC band mixing blues, R&B, honky-tonk, and rockabilly
MON 4/14	TUES 4/15	WED 4/16	TH 4/17
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT* 4-9pm Live Band Karaoke w/ Mike Scott & Friends 6-9pm	Open Mic w/ Joey Campfire 7 - 9:30pm Sign-ups begin at 6:30pm EXPRESS YOURSELF!	PUB QUIZ 7-9pm Bring your own team or form one! Test your knowledge	FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm Classic Jam w/ The Low Rent Quartet 6:30 - 9:30pm Old Town Bowie Grille jam has found a new home!
*Join NDC! Go to NewDealCafe(dot)com , click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW!"			PLEASE TIP GENEROUSLY. IT'S THE ONLY PAY BANDS RECEIVE, AND WE WANT THEM TO COME BACK! [SUGGESTED MINIMUM: \$10]

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To Learn More, Visit GreenbeltAccessTV.org/Membership Or reach out to us at GreenbeltAccess@gmail.com

Obituaries

Neil Williamson



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Neil Williamson

Neil Williamson, 72, an adored partner, son, brother, uncle, granduncle and true friend, died suddenly on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Neil was a spirited adventurer. He sought thrills with family and lifelong friends through camping, hiking, tai chi and caving. He embarked on trips crossing the United States, Scotland and Europe, preferably by motorcycle or train whenever possible. Neil was an avid fisherman. His travels and relationships wove together an everlasting quilt of comradery and memories Neil deeply cherished.

An amateur historian, Neil never missed an opportunity to explore historic landmarks and battlegrounds or to regale anyone with stories of family history and the Civil War. He was proud of his Scottish Clan Gunn roots. In addition, Neil never wavered in his lifelong loyalty to the Washington Senators and Nationals.

On a ski trip to New York, Neil met the love of his life, J. Because she lived in Greenbelt, Neil was inspired to move back to Maryland. Over the 22 years he called Greenbelt home, Neil made enduring friendships, volunteered and supported many local organizations. Neil's musical gifts drew him back to playing the trumpet in the Greenbelt Concert Band and Wind Ensemble. Neil loved being a part of the Greenbelt community.

Above all, Neil felt a connection to all people. He especially sought to understand the experiences of those who we as a country have failed, and tirelessly advocated for justice and reform. As a kidney transplant recipient, he encouraged people to become donors and urged greater support for those needing and receiving transplants.

Neil had a heart for the ages, a contagious laugh and always a sparkle in his eyes. He shone bright and brought great joy to

all he knew.

Neil is survived by his partner J Davis, siblings Karen Lepping (Ron) and Jay Williamson (Suzanne), stepmother Mona Williamson, niece Erica Lepping (James), nephew Miles Lepping (KC) and a grandnephew and grandniece. Neil was preceded in death by his parents Jean and

Harry Williamson Jr.

A celebration of Neil's life has not yet been determined. Donations in memory of Neil may be made to the Greenbelt Concert Band, Greenbelt CARES, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and TRIO-Maryland Chapter, Inc., a transplant support group.

See OBITs, page 8

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

We Preach Christ Crucified

(1 COR. 1:18-25)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 6905 Greenbelt Rd
 Greenbelt, MD 20770

Maunder Thursday:
 April 17, 7 pm

Good Friday:
 April 18, 12:00 Noon

Easter Sunday:
 9:30 am

Greenbelt Community Church
 One Hillside Road

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

We are an Open and Affirming Church

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.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

Palm Sunday
 April 12 5pm Vigil Mass
 April 13 Sunday Masses:
 8, 9:30, and 11am +

Wednesday of Holy Week
 Confessions
 April 16 11am to 12:30pm

Holy Thursday
 Mass of the Lord's Supper
 April 17 7:30pm +

Good Friday
 April 18
 11am: Living Stations with the Confirmandi
 2pm +: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Easter Sunday
 Saturday, April 19 8pm +
 The Great Vigil of Easter
 April 20 Sunday Masses
 8, 9:30, and 11am +

+ live streamed on YouTube

"We stand on the threshold of an age whose convulsions proclaim alike the death-pangs of the old order and the birth-pangs of the new." – Shoghi Effendi

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
 40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors
 Find us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc) facebook.com/mowattumc
 301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

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

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m. **A Roman Catholic Intentional Eucharistic Community**

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION
Community Center Room 114
 15 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
 For ZOOM link:
[CCG1985+owner@groups.io](https://www.zoom.us/j/CCG1985+owner@groups.io)

The Bible Says...
Lent-Week #6
 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 Romans 6:23

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

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

April 13, 2025 at 3:00 pm
For the Earth Forever Turning

Anthony Jenkins with Worship Associate Anne Hoover

In the spirit of our April theme (Emergence) and Earth Day, we'll contemplate and celebrate Mother Nature emerging in Spring. Together we'll share a service centered in song – featuring our Paint Branch Choir, our pianist Francesco Barrett, and our Music Ministry Director Amelia Peele.

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

Holy Week & Easter
St Andrew's Episcopal Church, College Park

"Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light." - Helen Keller

Palm Sunday, April 13: 8 & 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday through Thursday, April 15-17:
 • 8 a.m. **Morning Prayer**
Maundy Thursday, April 17: 7:30 p.m. **Holy Eucharist with foot washing**
Good Friday, April 18:
 • 11:15 a.m. & 6:45 p.m. **Stations of the Cross**
 • Noon & 7:30 p.m. **Good Friday Liturgy**
Saturday, April 19: 9 a.m. **Morning Prayer for Holy Saturday**
 • 10 a.m. sharp **Easter Egg Hunt**
 • 7:30 p.m. **The Great Vigil of Easter**
Easter Day, April 20: 10:30 a.m. **Holy Eucharist**

4512 College Avenue, College Park, MD
www.saeccp.org (301) 864-8880
All Are Welcome!

Our Neighbors

Our condolences to J Davis and the many friends of Neil Williamson who died on February 18. His sense of adventure, musical skill and keen interest in people will be greatly missed by all. A celebration of his life will be announced at a later time.

Our sympathies also to the family and friends of Haven McKinney who died on March 18. He loved talking to people around the world on his ham radio.

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



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, April 14 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
- Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge**
- 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**
- Animal Control Appreciation Week - April 13-19
- Telecommunications Week Proclamation
- Earth Day Proclamation
- Autism Acceptance Month Proclamation
- * Minutes
- Administrative Reports**
- * Committee Reports
- * Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) Report #25-1 - Grant Interim Report to Council 2025

LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16 of the City of Greenbelt Code to Codify General Orders 675; *-2nd Reading and Adoption*
- An Ordinance to Amend the City of Greenbelt Code to Authorize the Operation of Sign Monitoring Systems in School Zones, Establish Associated Fines and Fees, and Provide for the Enforcement of Violations; *-2nd Reading and Adoption*
- A Resolution to Establish School Zone on Municipal Roads in the City to Implement and Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Program Within the Established School Zones; *-2nd Reading and Adoption*
- Resolution to Amend Membership Requirements for the Charter Review Task Force; *-1st Reading, Suspension of Rules; -2nd Reading and Adoption*

OTHER BUSINESS

- Authorizing the City Manager to Execute Contracts for the Versaterm Contract Renewal
- Authorization to Approve the Sale of Surplus Police Radios
- Authorization to Approve the Sale of Tow Truck
- Proposal for Use of Space at the Armory Site for Composting
- Discussion on Legislative Priorities and Actions
- Discussion to Formalize Reappointment Process
- City Employees Retirement Plan
- Charter Review Taskforce Appointments
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- * Meetings
- * Stakeholders
- * Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board
- * Award of Purchase - Water Storage Tank Replacement - Community Center

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.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §4, "Creation; Qualifications; Compensation" of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on April 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

** The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000.*

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

For 6 months your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt. Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity.

To register, visit <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt>.

Questions? Luisa Robles: robles@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2153.

CHEARS FOOD FOREST Saturday, April 26, 10 am - 1 pm

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Join our community effort to rejuvenate the riparian buffer at the CHEARS Food Forest. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive species and install native trees, shrubs, and perennials to enhance the crucial riparian habitat.

To register, contact Environmental Coordinator, Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at kdriscoll@greenbeltmd.gov or sign-up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F49AAA92BA6FCC34-49105067-city>.

MEETINGS FOR APRIL 14-18

Tuesday, April 15 at 7 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION**, *On the Agenda: AARN Update, Demographic Analysis, Listening Sessions, Upcoming Events*

Tuesday, April 15 at 7 pm, **GREENBELT ARMORY SITE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING**

Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Wednesday, April 16 at 6:30 pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Council Liaison Updates, Discussion with Arts Advisory Board: Greenbelt Draft Strategic Wayfinding Plan, Discussion with Arts Advisory Board: Council Referral Re Multilingual Welcome Signs at City Parks, Staff Updates*

Thursday, April 17 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda:*

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.

TOUCH-A-TRUCK EVENT

Saturday, April 26 11 am - 2 pm

Beltway Plaza Back Parking Lot, 6000 Greenbelt Rd

The City of Greenbelt invites you to our first-ever Touch-A-Truck Event! Bring the whole family for an exciting hands-on experience to explore fire trucks, police vehicles, utility trucks, and more! You will also meet the dedicated professionals who operate these vehicles, learn how they keep our community safe, and even hop in the driver's seat! This is a free event for all ages.

Contact Gizelle Alvarez at galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2025 AT 7:30 PM

CONCERNING THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 FOR THE GENERAL FUND AND EACH OF THE OTHER FUNDS OF THE CITY.

This is the first of two Public Hearings on the budget. The second will be held on Monday, May 12, 2025.

The Public Hearing will be held in person at the Municipal Building and virtual via Zoom. Public attendance and participation are encouraged.

All residents of Greenbelt will have a reasonable opportunity to provide written and oral comments and ask questions concerning the entire budget.

Copies of the proposed budget may be examined at the City Offices, 25 Crescent Rd., during normal operating hours. The proposed budget is also posted on the City Web site at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov>. For more information, please call 301-474-8000.

Bonita Anderson, City Clerk

ARTS HAPPENINGS

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts for more information and many other opportunities!

Register for Spring Circus Camp, Greenbelt Community Center, April 14-18. Ages 8-13. Join former Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus performer Greg May for a fun-filled spring break! See page 7 of the Greenbelt Recreation spring and summer camp guide.

Sign up for FREE Artful Afternoons in April. All ages welcome!, **Sunday, 4/6**, Greenbelt Community Center, 1 - 3 pm. Make a beautiful koi fish painting. PLUS - ukulele jam and sing-a-long 1:30-2:30 pm, **Sunday, 4/13**, Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 1:30-2:30 pm, Make a beautiful koi fish painting, PLUS - an energizing modern/hip-hop dance break at 2 pm

MORE ARTS IN APRIL

- Parent's Night Out, 4/11 and 4/25
- Fused glass workshop, 4/12
- Laser-engraved jewelry workshop, 4/18
- Art Share (meet-up), 4/20
- Photography exhibit opening, 4/24

FREE SENIOR PLANET CLASSES - MEDIA & HEALTH FOR ADULTS 60+. FREE. IN-PERSON, 11 AM - 12:15 PM Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

April 15. Messaging Apps
Learn about the most popular messaging apps - iMessages, Google Chat, and WhatsApp - learning how to send texts & pictures, making voice & video calls, and how these apps keep your messages secure.

April 29. Ridesharing Apps
Apps have changed the way people get around! Learn about Uber and Lyft and the pros and cons of both.

May 6. Introduction to AI
Learn basic ideas around artificial intelligence (AI), how it's being used, its limitations, and how it will shape the future.

May 8. AI & Disinformation
Explore how AI is being used to create convincing fakes and clone voices.

May 20. Everyday Uses of AI
Learn how AI is already present in everyday tasks and how its being used across industries so that you can take advantage of the technology.

May 22. Is That AI?
Learn how to differentiate real images versus AI and become a tech savvy internet user by learning to do a reverse image search of images you find online.

These classes are facilitated by Flora Li, Brendy Maddox, and Katherine Farzin. To register, email Kelly Lange at klange@greenbeltmd.gov or call Brendy Maddox at (240) 424-0302.

GREENBELT JOB FAIR Saturday, May 17 12-3 pm

Beltway Plaza Mall (Near T.J. Maxx), 6000 Greenbelt Rd

Join us for our semi-annual Greenbelt Job Fair! Learn about the latest job opportunities, connect with local employers, and get access to a variety of employment resources and training.

Contact Deji Ayoku for more information or to register your business for the Job Fair by emailing dayoku@greenbeltmd.gov.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:
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.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/known-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE ADVOCACY PRESENTATION SATURDAY, APRIL 26 AT 1 PM Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Rd

Learn about autism acceptance and available resources in this informative session led by the Autism Society of Maryland. We hope to see you there. Together, we can create a more inclusive world-one act of awareness and advocacy at a time!

Contact: Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056, pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov.

ANIMAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Animal Services would like to let you know that there are resources available to you when you need help for your pets! Financial resources are available based on your needs, whether it be help with pet food/supplies, help with spaying/neutering your pet, or just help financially with medical costs. Please reach out to us at animalservices@greenbeltmd.gov if you have more questions.

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 Education, Advisory Committee on Trees, Advisory Planning Board, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Ethics Commission, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, or Youth Advisory Committee** 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.

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

Material Drop-Off

We're looking for materials to add to the City's *Welcome Kits* for new residents and visitors. Please drop-off at the Municipal Building to

Chondria Andrews
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

NO LATER THAN 4 PM ON APRIL 25

CELEBRATE ARBOR DAY! Saturday, April 12, 10 am Plateau Place Playground

Join us for Arbor Day in Greenbelt! We're celebrating with a tree planting at Plateau Place Playground on Saturday, April 12, from 10 AM to 12:30 PM (corner of Ridge Rd. & Plateau Pl.) For more info, contact Brian Townsend at 240-417-2158 or email btownsend@greenbeltmd.gov.

GARCIA continued from page 1

Marco Rubio and several directors of ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Attorney Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg represented Abrego Garcia and his wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, who was present in the courtroom.

Justice Department immigration lawyer Erez Reuveni (now on administrative leave) immediately let the judge know that his arguments on behalf of the government would be “frustrating,” and said, “the government made a choice here to produce no evidence.” Xinis pressed the attorneys on both sides to let her know if there was any legal reason for Abrego Garcia to have been picked up by ICE, but neither side had any evidence of probable cause, a warrant, a charge or any legal reason for ICE to detain him. Reuveni agreed, saying, “the facts are conceded. He should not have been removed.” Xinis responded, “From the moment he was seized, it was unconstitutional,” ascertaining that there was no evidence of any reason for El Salvador to hold him. Garcia has not been charged with any crime in either El Salvador or the U.S. He fled El Salvador at age 16 because he was being threatened by gangs. In 2019, a judge ruled that the threat against him was credible and granted “withholding of removal,” meaning that he should not be deported to El Salvador. In her ruling Xinis stated, “The record reflects that Abrego Garcia was apprehended in Maryland without legal basis on March 12, 2025, and without further process or legal justification, was removed to El Salvador by March 15, 2025.” Additionally, she found that his removal caused irreparable harm, and that the public interest lay in favor of his return.

Part of the government’s defense was that they had ceded control of Abrego Garcia to

the sovereign government of El Salvador. Xinis questioned this, since the U.S. is paying El Salvador \$6 million to house deportees at CECOT (Terrorism Confinement Center), a mega-prison established by Salvadoran president Nayib Bukele, and which Noem called “one of the tools in our toolkit.” Abrego Garcia’s attorneys pointed out that there was evidently “significant coordination between the governments,” adding “Kristi Noem was inside the walls of that prison last week,” and she was able to return to the U.S. Sandoval-Moshenberg quipped, “The government says ‘we’ve tried nothing and we’re all out of options,’” provoking laughter in the two courtrooms, overflowing with supporters of Abrego Garcia.

Outside the courthouse, dozens of supporters rallied. SMART, the sheet metal workers union of which he is a member, gathered, chanting in Spanish, “The people, united, will never be defeated.” The Rapid Response Choir, wearing pink vests, led several uplifting songs. After the ruling, clergy members spoke, including Rev. Michael Vanacore, Pastor of Pilgrim Church, United Church of Christ, who had called for clergy support in the courtroom. Members of the Greenbelt Peace and Justice community were also present, as well as CASA, a Latino and immigration advocacy and assistance nonprofit. The case hits hard with Greenbelters because, as one sign at the rally read, “We’re here to support our neighbor” after he was taken from his car by ICE while his five-year-old was in the back seat. For more on the protest, see this page.

After the ruling, Sandoval-Moshenberg was asked if he was celebrating, and he replied, “It’ll be a victory when Kilmar is home with his family.”

Kilmar Abrego Garcia Vigil Outside Federal Courthouse

by Daniel M. Thies



Members of the Rapid Response Choir lead the vigil participants in singing We Shall Not Be Moved.

On April 4, while Kilmar Abrego Garcia’s wrongful deportation case against the Department of Homeland Security was being heard in Greenbelt (see story on page 1), more than 50 people representing a dozen groups came together outside the federal courthouse here to show solidarity with Abrego Garcia and his family.

Sheet Metal Air Rail Transportation union (SMART), the union Abrego Garcia is a member of in the apprenticeship program, came carrying signs stating, “I stand with Kilmar Abrego Garcia.” Paul Pimentell, a SMART union member, said that they were there “demanding that he be returned back to the United States to be with his wife and children and that he receive his due process rights. Everyone in America has the right to face their accusers and he was denied that right and he deserves to have that right.” Other union locals stood with SMART, including the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and International Union of Painters and Allied Trades (IUPAT).

CASA de Maryland, an immigration-advocacy organization of which Abrego Garcia is a member, was present to be there to support him and his family. Jossie Sapunar, spokesperson for CASA, noted the impact that Abrego Garcia’s deportation has had on his coworkers, his community and especially his wife and three children: “He and his wife are living a normal life until one day it changed forever. As he was out shopping with his kid ... Garcia was grabbed, shoved on a plane and kicked out of the country ... The real tragedy in all of this is the three kids.” She recounted how Abrego Garcia’s children have special needs and that the child who was present when Abrego Garcia was taken

has autism spectrum disorder and is nonverbal. “The kids are missing him terribly. They’re snuggling up with his jacket just to smell him and trying to send messages to him with their tablet like they usually do ... they don’t understand what is going on,” said Sapunar.

“The bottom line is that this type of overreach is happening with increased frequency,” she said. CASA believes that the state’s passage of House Bill 1222, the Maryland Values Act, will help to prevent the events that led up to Abrego Garcia’s deportation from happening again by discouraging proactive collaboration between county police officers and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The bill passed both chambers and, upon signature by Governor Wes Moore, will take effect on June 1, 2025.

Clergy members were also in attendance, some as part of the Congregation Action Network, a local nonprofit that advocates for

immigration rights, and some as part of the Rapid Response Choir (RRC), which formed in February in part to oppose the Trump administration’s mass deportation efforts. Wearing high-visibility vests, RRC members passed out the lyrics to a variety of hymns and patriotic songs so everyone could join in singing We Are Marching (Siyahamba) and America the Beautiful in English and Spanish.

Most of the vigil attendees came as individuals, many with their own handmade signs saying “Citizens are not Safe While Neighbors are Disappeared,” “I’m here for the Constitution” and “Bring Kilmar home.” Even though the hearing took hours, the crowd stayed in high spirits and in high numbers with few dropping out before the verdict was announced. When all of the songs the RRC had prepared were sung, new chants filled in between the familiar songs, such as “No Hate – No Fear – Immigrants are Welcome Here.”



The vigil asks and answers: “What do we want? Justice for Kilmar! When do we want it? Now!”



tick, tick... BOOM!

30:90

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jonathan Larson

David Auburn, Script Consultant

Vocal Arrangements by Stephen Oremus

tick, tick... BOOM! was originally produced off-Broadway in June, 2001 by Victoria Leacock, Robyn Goodman, Dede Harris, Lorie Cowen Levy, Beth Smith

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG

MARCH 21 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2025

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8PM

SUNDAYS 2PM

(FACEMASKS REQUIRED FOR UNDERSTUDY PERFORMANCE FRIDAY, APRIL 11)

TICK, TICK ... BOOM! IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATER INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. WWW.MTISHOWS.COM

PRELIMINARY AGENDA
Meetings of the GHI Board of Directors
on April 17, 2025

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

- a) Approve Minutes of the GHI Closed Meeting Held on March 20, 2025
- b) Contract Matters
- c) Member Matters

GHI Open Meeting – starts after GHI Closed Meeting - open to members and visitors

- a) Statement of Closed Meeting Held on April 17, 2025
- b) Approve Minutes of the GHI Open Meeting Held on March 20, 2025
- c) Recommendations from YARDI Task Force
- d) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on May 1, 2025

Members and visitors who wish to attend the Open meetings must register in advance via the following link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZwtd-uqzoiG9XHGq9rswP_N9LZj33gbi9r

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

Little Lutheran Story Hour

The Tale of THREE TREES

Saturday April 12 11 AM

FREE tickets and more information available on EVENTBRITE

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
6905 Greenbelt Rd.
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Tenants' Rights Town Hall: New Laws, Legal Aid Expand Rights

by Patrice Pascual

If you rent an apartment or single-family unit in Greenbelt, you're not alone. Some 55 percent of Greenbelt's housing is rental property, according to data from the city's Department of Planning and Community Development. So don't go it alone if you have concerns about your rental unit, said panelists at the city's town hall on tenants' rights on March 27. City code inspectors and lawyers from two nonprofit legal firms discussed renters' rights and responsibilities, as well as new Maryland laws before an audience of about 30 people.

"I spend about 90 percent of my day stopping evictions," said John Malchar, a staff attorney with Maryland Legal Aid. In 2021, Maryland tenants gained the right to legal counsel, often for free. In 2016-2017, nearly all renters went to court without a lawyer and suffered for it. "About 90 percent of [those] tenants could have had the charges against them dismissed" if they'd had a knowledgeable lawyer, Malchar said.

Several Maryland tenant protections went into effect last fall, creating a learning curve for many judges, lawyers and landlords. Maryland Legal Aid can help tenants have an informed conversation with a landlord or learn if the issue should go to court. Common tenant concerns include:

- Being threatened with eviction or lease termination
- Landlord failed to make repairs
- Rent increases or a security deposit is not returned
- Needing to break a lease following a protective order
- Concerns about unfair treatment
- Filing a complaint or needing help with legal forms

Both tenants and landlords rely on the City of Greenbelt's Department of Planning and Community Development to certify the health and safety of rental properties. City code officials conduct annual inspections of all rental units for compliance with housing codes (e.g., safe fire, electric and heating systems) and educate residents on responsibilities, such as upkeep of the unit. The city does not enforce terms of rental agreements between a renter and the landlord.

"We work collaboratively with property owners and residents," said City Manager Josué Salmerón. "We prioritize keeping residents housed. No one wins if we have to condemn a building and the tenants have to leave," he noted.

In welcoming remarks, Salmerón recognized Constituent Services Coordinator Gizelle Alvarez, who joined the staff in mid-January 2025 (see March 20 issue) and is organizing the new town hall series. Her position builds the city's capacity to manage rental property crises that often arise. The city is dedicated to "first-class services" for Greenbelt renters, Salmerón said. Panelists and city code enforcement staff Gilberto Cabrera and Michael Day outlined the differences between code requirements (heat, plumbing, electrical, etc.) and issues that can feel like nuisances to renters. For instance,

landlords don't have to replace old appliances that still function, or undamaged carpet that doesn't create a fall risk. They don't need to provide window blinds or replace light bulbs in the unit.

Code inspectors can help landlords and tenants take shared action to prevent or stop mold growth, which is a common concern.

If a renter doesn't have time to engage either the city or Maryland Legal Services, and is facing an imminent court date, they should contact Community Legal Services (CLS) said panelist Warren Buff, a supervising attorney with the nonprofit agency. Among a host of legal services, CLS runs a full-time legal aid clinic in the Hyattsville District Court, where landlord-tenant cases are heard. "We're the last line of defense in an eviction case," Buff said. CLS can often provide same-day support for a renter facing a court hearing. Eviction is a many-step process, he emphasized, and planning can lead to better outcomes. "If you have more time," Buff said, "go to Maryland Legal Aid."

After about two hours of presentations and Q&A, many participants stayed for continued discussion. Alvarez was pleased. "We had a great turnout and I'm particularly happy to see constituents coming out." She is seeking suggestions for future town halls (see sidebar). Audrey Johnson, a Charlestowne North resident, was enthusiastic about the city's attention to renter concerns, following a harrowing experience with an unlicensed landlord. "This is excellent," Johnson said. "We've

got a voice and we have people listening."

Questions about your rental? Learn more.

1. Rental Housing Code Enforcement, City of Greenbelt Department of Planning & Community Development: 301-345-5417, pcd@greenbeltmd.gov. All rental housing is licensed and inspected annually by the city's certified code enforcement officers. The city does not enforce terms of individual lease agreements.

2. Maryland Legal Aid: mdlabor.org/, 888-465-2468 (English and Español). Provides a range of free civil legal services to financially eligible individuals from 12 office locations. "Our legal work helps to protect people's basic needs and human rights."

3. Community Legal Services: clspg.org, 240-391-6370. Provides legal education, advice and free legal representation to self-represented litigants in Prince George's County and tenants in Anne Arundel County.

Town Hall Topics

Have a topic for a future Greenbelt Town Hall? Town halls bring expert panelists and residents together to discuss priority issues, like tenants' rights and soaring utility costs. Suggest a topic to Gizelle Alvarez, the city's new constituent services coordinator, at 240-542-2020 or galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov.



Kim Kash

Realtor®
m 301.789.6294
kim.kash@compass.com

I believe strongly in Prince George's as the smartest buy in the DC metro area. Be in touch if I can help with real estate anywhere in the DMV--and especially in Prince George's County!

Kim Kash of Compass
Washingtonian's Face of Prince George's County Real Estate



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Greenbelt CORES Making Strides Focuses on Building Community

by Matthew Arbach

Greenbelt Collaborative Opportunities for Resilient and Enduring Solutions (CORES) is moving forward in its goal of "charting a course through chaos and leading with community," says resident and spearheader Melissa Ehrenreich. The community task force was recently formed to provide solutions and coping responses in the face of lay-offs, funding slashes and institutional uncertainty at the federal level, most especially as it relates to the Greenbelt community.

Ehrenreich reported that 36 residents have indicated their interest in being part of the effort through the online volunteer enrollment form. She indicated that the turnout is a varied group with many skills and levels of community involvement preferences, from wanting to "remain in the loop," to actively engaging neighbors personally.

Ehrenreich said that a crucial skillset needed is technical expertise in communication channels other than Facebook, citing that it has been "a go-to for many in our community, but increasingly content is being hidden about community organizing by algorithms."

Ehrenreich stated that her approach at this point is for engagement to be through small groups that have organically grown around "various needs and

programs," in order for progress to move forward more swiftly.

A major goal is the employing of a citywide volunteer coordinator, funded through private means, as "civic engagement will be key," said Ehrenreich.

An open-to-all meeting has been scheduled for Friday, April 11 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room (201) at the Community Center. One of the aims is to make introductions and share any successful efforts being done presently. Ehrenreich stated that there "is no idea too big or small," with the focus being on essential issues like food, housing, education, health and safety, among others. Solutions will be developed, with the next step being to "figure out a way to share them."

Creating a community web for disseminating ideas is crucial. Ehrenreich stated the need for a quick community resource assessment that reveals existing assets — such as organizations, institutions, infrastructure and projects — that can be further built upon.

A pilot effort will be held at the Community Center kitchen on Wednesday, April 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. as part of the Great Food Transition program. Said Ehrenreich, the question being explored is, "How can our community build resiliency by making a meal together across the

See CORES, page 9

Garden Enthusiasts,

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A Garden Party

at Mary Lou's Garden,
58 Lakeside Drive
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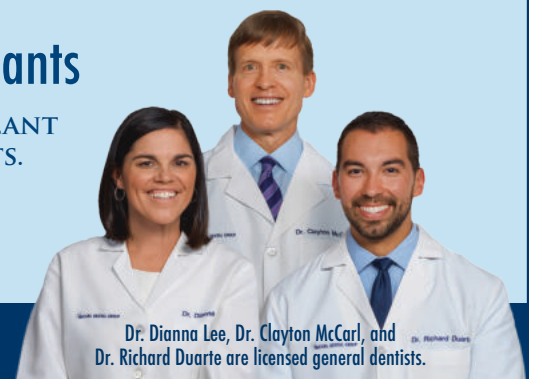
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Letters cont'd from p.2

help? Let me ask for anyone who has a barn, land space, a home, if they can take in some of my old friends? Reach out to Natalie.s.williams@gmail.com or @Feral_Furreal on Instagram.
Natalie Williams

The SPACE Says Thank You to Donors

Peace SPACE Fam! You're just as golden as the pie crusts we shared!

Because of your incredible support, we surpassed our \$10,000 Pi Day Fundraiser goal – and donations are still coming in!

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Shaymar Higgs
The SPACE Free Art for All

HANDS OFF continued from page 1

the overpass, and as attendees marched from one to the other.

Attendees the News Review spoke with came from Greenbelt, Bowie, Calvert County, College Park, Crofton, Davidsonville, Hagerstown, Lanham, Laurel and University Park, with ages ranging from a few months old to their 90s. Some had attended the Hands Off! rally in Washington, D.C. earlier in the day.

Attendees carried signs advocating for issues they felt the administration is attacking, including the Constitution, democracy, human rights, Medicare and Medicaid, Social Security, seniors, veterans, fair elections, immigrants, workers, free speech, cancer research, the environment, African American contributions, women's and minority rights, faith, education, health care, the economy and consumer protections. Participants engaged in chants including the call and response of "When I say Social Security, you say – Hands Off," following "Social Security" with public education, health care, migrant solidarity, black bodies, trans bodies, worker solidarity, social services, clean air, public libraries and Medicare.

Drivers of vehicles passing the Municipal Building expressed support with their horns and waving. Baltimore-Washington Parkway drivers did the same and waved signs of their own, perhaps while returning from the Washington, D.C. rally. Greenbelter Frank Gervasi estimated that 9,600 Parkway drivers saw the demonstration.

Making Their Voices Heard

The News Review asked attendees why they wanted to participate in the rally. Former Greenbelt mayor and councilmember J Davis said, "We have to be here today. We have to show people that we are not lying down and accepting what's going on. I think everyone thinks

See HANDS OFF, page 12

Attendees Speak about Importance of Protest

Erv Beckert of Greenbelt, who called for moderation, said, "I think the extremism of the current administration has really impacted the stability of our country, and I think our economy is going to greatly suffer, and I would rather have a return to the old Republican values than this current Republican. I don't believe he's fiscally conservative, I don't believe he cares about defense. I share all the values of the old Republicans and we sure could use them right now. I believe in the value our federal government brings to bear every day. And we should absolutely support infrastructure. I see Trump moving away from that. That helps the local economy, builds the manufacturing base because you buy goods and services made in America, and it helps elevate the entire economy because people need roads, bridges, water systems, electrical grid improvements, and he's totally forsaken that. Tariffs are going to absolutely impact our economy. The way to support U.S. building and manufacturing is by supporting those industries, not diminishing our allies. I just think we don't exist on this planet by ourselves."

Greenbelter Amethyst Dwyer asserted simply, "I am here to defend democracy."

Frank Gervasi of Greenbelt said he spent the whole day in downtown Washington, D.C. and figured he'd "top it off with my neighbors and friends. Though," he noted, "I saw a lot of neighbors and friends in D.C."

Bruce Kritt of Greenbelt was there to defend the democratic system, the global secu-

rity order including NATO and to support Ukraine.

Julie Winters of Greenbelt said, "I attended because I'm really disheartened to see so many things taken away from Americans right now. We're losing our research, we're losing our science, we're losing our free speech. Watching people be snatched up off the streets is something I'd never thought I'd see in our country, and I think it's important for people to get together and say this is not acceptable. This is not what we want for our country. We want freedom, we want due process, we want to have vaccines, we want to have research, we want people to not feel afraid to come to this country. And right now people are afraid to come to this country because they don't know if they'll be snatched up because they have an opinion against Trump in their phone."

Yael, a Greenbelt teacher, stated, "I feel we're sliding into a regime and autocracy. We've already seen the slow ride into autocracies and how gradually the frog gets boiled without realizing it until it's dead, and I don't want that happening here in America, which is supposedly the land of the free and supposedly guarantees free speech. But free speech seems to only be free if you agree with the current president and those who support him. It's happening already and my ancestors have had to outrun dictators and I don't want to have to do that. This is supposed to be a representative government and we're being pushed out of decision making."

- Erica Johns

Obits cont'd from p.4

Haven McKinney



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Haven McKinney

Haven McKinney, age 82, of Greenbelt, died peacefully in his

home on March 18, 2025. Haven was born December 17, 1942, and raised in West Virginia. He moved to Greenbelt where he met and married the love of his life, Noreen Schultz, in 1972.

He worked successfully as a light and sound technician, eventually starting his own business, HLM Productions. In addition to the job he loved, Haven also enjoyed talking to people around the world on his ham radio.

Haven was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Noreen McKinney; his daughter, Kathleen Pantano; and his granddaughter, Nicole Brown. He is survived by four daughters, one son and five grandchildren.

Sign Up for May's Arthritis Walk, ERHS

On Saturday, May 3 from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Eleanor Roosevelt High School will host the 21st Annual Walk to Cure Arthritis in Prince George's County, to benefit the Arthritis Foundation. Funds raised help in finding solutions, better treatments and a cure. To register for this event or to donate, go to events.arthritis.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1744.

Bilingual Story Time At SHL Rec Center

On Friday, April 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) with the Prince George's County Memorial Library System will present engaging, lively stories and activities for young children and their caregivers to help build early literacy skills.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 31 - April 6, 2025. 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 one mental health diversion, one domestic incident leading to arrest, and one case involving Child Protective Services.

Robbery

On April 2 at 1:12 p.m. near 7601 Hanover Parkway, a high school student who refused to fight another student had his backpack stolen. The backpack contained his shoes. The parents of both students were notified. School security also has a video of the incident.

On April 4 at 12:04 p.m. near 6003 Cherrywood Court, someone was robbed at gunpoint for money. Suspects fled in a white sedan.

DUI Arrest

On April 4 at 11:58 p.m. near Cherrywood Lane and Greenbelt Road, a vehicle was stopped in the middle of the road with the driver asleep at the wheel, under the influence of alcohol; he has had several DUIs in the past month.

Fraud

On April 5 near 7595 Greenbelt Road, someone used a credit card without permission.

On April 6 near 5327 Smiths Cove Lane, a man found his residence listed for rent online as a scam, and a bank account had also been opened in his name.

Theft

On April 1 near 161 Centerway, a shed was broken into and several items were stolen; at 4:17 p.m. near 121 Centerway, four youths stole merchandise from a restaurant and fled when officers arrived.

On April 2 near 6411 Ivy Lane, tools were stolen from a trailer.

On April 4 near 7802 Hanover Parkway, a FedEx package was stolen from the door.

Shoplifting

On April 1 at 3:29 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise and fled.

On April 2 at 4:13 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl stole items; she was released to her guardians.

On April 2 at 8:46 p.m. near 7607 Greenbelt Road, a man stole several items and fled.

On April 3 at 3:25 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man stole merchandise and fled; officers arrested him and gave him a criminal citation.

On April 4 at 1:46 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man was arrested after leaving the store without paying for the merchandise; he was released on criminal citations and banned from the store.

On April 4 at 12:25 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman passed all points of sale without paying for merchandise and fled.

On April 5 at 9:30 a.m. near 7595 Greenbelt Road, a man with dreads stole groceries and fled in a silver two-door Mercedes.

On April 6 at 6:01 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a girl was caught stealing.

Trespassing

On April 3 at 8:40 a.m. near 5911 Cherrywood Lane, a person who broke into a vacant building unit was found by officers and arrested.

Vandalism

On March 31 at 1:50 a.m. near 5916 Cherrywood Terrace, officers were conducting a foot patrol and observed "MS13" gang graffiti near the playground area.

On April 1 at 12:24 p.m. near 5909 Cherrywood Terrace, an employee for a housing program received notice that a window had been broken in one of the units.

On April 4 at 1:09 p.m. near 8200 Canning Terrace, Public Works reported that someone had broken the playground slides.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicle

On April 3 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a green 1997 Honda Civic (Md. 5AL5596) was stolen.

Attempted Theft of Vehicle

On April 2 near 446 Ridge Road, a 2016 Kia Forte had window and ignition damage.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On April 4 at 4:43 p.m. near 6926 Hanover Parkway, a 2019 Lincoln MKZ (Md. 4FB5448) was stolen with an iPad inside that was used to track the car to Washington, D.C. A tow truck recovered the vehicle with minor damage and a missing front bumper.

On March 31 at 4:34 a.m. near 7619 Greenbelt Road, the Metropolitan Police Department tracked a carjacked vehicle to a Greenbelt address. Officers located the vehicle and made an arrest.

Theft from Auto

On April 1 near 7538 Mandan Road, a 2024 Toyota RAV4 was rummaged through and a purse was missing.

On April 2 near 7309 Sunrise Court, a wallet was stolen from the center console of a vehicle; near 6400 Ivy Lane, a white 2025 Toyota Camry was missing all four wheels, and a black 2025 Toyota nearby also had all four wheels missing.

Vandalism to Auto

On April 5 near 6152 Springhill Terrace, a vehicle had scratches on the trunk, body and door.



CORES continued from page 7

city?" She cited Geraldine Adams as the force behind this effort. Those wishing to register and seek more information can do so at lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/k4p3nm.

"It has been tough for folks to focus, either because things are so chaotic or they are in the midst of propping up existing institutions," said Ehrenreich.

For the April 11 event, Ehrenreich is "looking forward to what folks feel called to put into motion."

Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

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

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RETIREMENT continued from page 1

on the potential changes first and allow time for information to go out. Salmerón then introduced the NFP representatives present virtually to give a summary of their findings to council: Andrew Prevost, the RFP specialist and Ray Reeves, the senior advisor for the NFP team.

Prevost explained that NFP approached its analysis with the bottom line of finding the best return on investment at the lowest cost for city employees and retirees. Mission Square has managed the city's retirement fund for over 30 years. However, lately Mission Square has lost major clients, including Virginia's Retirement System, as well as Prince George's County's fund; this, in turn, has reduced Mission Square's market share. The investment company's recent operating changes have also caused its recordkeeping fees to increase. Mission Square's fees are over \$200K per year, whereas the average of its peer group is less than \$65K. Because these recordkeeping fees come out of the retirement fund itself, this lowers the potential growth of those investments. Although Mission Square offered to lower its recordkeeping fees during the RFP, their reduced charges are still greater than Nationwide. By comparison, Nationwide is the largest provider of governmental plans and one of the largest companies overall – larger than companies like Starbucks or McDonald's. NFP sees the scale of Nationwide and its structure as a private company as indicators of its stability and ability to consider long-term growth, as opposed to quarterly earnings. As Nationwide also ranks highly in the 2024 J.D. Power U.S. Retirement Plan Digital Experience Study (which measures customer satisfaction on digital platforms), NFP believes that changing to Nationwide will improve customer services for city employees and retirees, and NFP believes that changing how retirement plan options are presented will

help improve decision-making.

Currently, investment options are broken out in nine categories, with some categories having multiple similar stock fund options. NFP sees this as a problem as it makes it harder to make a diversified investment portfolio, increasing risk. As an alternative, a proposed investment menu was shown with a greater amount of categories, with fewer sub-categories. For those who like how their investments are allocated among the current categories, they will be able to make a like-to-like transfer to funds. Councilmembers noted that this alternative was still hard to navigate and NFP said that this menu can be refined. Additionally, if council decides to go forward with changing how the retirement fund is managed, NFP would work with the City of Greenbelt and Nationwide to hold educational workshops and develop a communication plan to help retirement fund members navigate the change.

In the lengthy public comment period that followed, it was clear that the retirees present felt that the city had not done enough to include them in the discussion over the retirement fund. David Moran, former assistant city manager who retired in 2021, noted that he was not notified of the proposed changes, let alone asked for input. He believes that he and other retirees are major stakeholders, as collectively they hold 57 percent of the fund and are most immediately affected by the fund. Because the retirement fund is \$71 million, far greater than the city's budget or its American Rescue Plan Act funding, Moran believes that any decision by council regarding the fund warrants heavy public deliberation. William Smith also did not hear from the city about this worksession, but instead from his Mission Square advisor while he was enjoying his retirement in Florida; he traveled to Greenbelt so he could speak to this matter. Smith and other retirees also

spoke highly of their experience with Mission Square. Former City Human Resources Director Mary Johnson, who retired four years ago, recalled how Mission Square solved her confusion on when and how she could retire. To provide some reassurance, Prevost explained that even if city council transitioned the fund management from Mission Square to Nationwide, retirees would be able to stay with Mission Square or transition to a completely different investment manager if they wanted. Based on comments from retirees and councilmembers,

more information, including previous NFP presentations, will be publicized before the decision is made. At the time of writing, the session has not been announced, but should occur in the next months if the city wants to keep up with NFP's proposed timeline, which would go into effect in the middle of this year.



City Notes

Several city departments presented at Greenbelt Elementary School's Career Day; Arts staff brought a giant puppet and offered a puppet-making workshop.

Constituent Services and Public Information attended commerce-related county events. Economic Development, Planning and Constituent Services hosted the third annual Greenbelt Business Conference. Planning staff attended the American Planning Association National Conference.

Public Works Streets crew excavated for an electric vehicle charger at the Police Station. Environmental/Sustainability, Park Rangers and three Weed Warrior volunteers removed over four cubic yards of invasive plants at Buddy Attick Park. Recreation staff, with two volunteers, prepared the Buddy Attick Food Forest for planting and Horticulture/Parks worked on perennial beds.

As the Aquatic & Fitness Center prepared for summer, contractors moved vending machines to outdoor locations.

Arts' special workshops included stained glass, stitching, fused glass and lithography on clay.

During March, CARES welcomed 213 people for counseling, 29 for tutoring, 13 for GED, 11 for English classes and 12 for workforce development.

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PROTESTS continued from page 1

children. Greenbelter Elise Young attended and described it as “a critical moment to show up in solidarity for the protest and announce to the world that we are not OK with discriminatory policies that are being put into place by the U.S. government at this time.” Young was with her husband, their seventh-grade daughter and friends who were once part of the same Greenbelt Girl Scout troop. “It was wonderful to be there with other Greenbelters, including middle schoolers, who were leading the way in speaking up for human rights for all,” she reflected. Young said they “took the Greenbelt spirit of justice down to the Washington Monu-

ment ... speaking up for better U.S. federal policies that protect the rights of all people.” Greenbelter Jessica O’Roark said she had gone into Washington, D.C. recently to protest USAID being cut. Her 13-year-old wanted to come then but had school. This time her child felt good about attending and the posters they made, she said. “We both enjoyed being around others in solidarity,” said O’Roark, but afterwards her child asked some tough questions about the difference it made. “I’m not sure!” she said. Though it felt good to do something, she wasn’t sure they were able to create the change or impact her child hoped for.

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we’re being complacent. We’re not. It’s going to start building and eventually we’ll see it in the voting booth.” Nancy Giddens, with Greenbelt daughter Joanna, said, “I believe in our democracy and we do not have a representative government at this time. We have an autocracy with the executive branch having absolutely limitless power. That is not constitutional. I think we have to protest that. It’s really important to be here because if we’re passive, then all our rights will be slowly taken away.”



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Protesters walk from the Municipal Building to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway pedestrian Spellman Overpass.



PHOTO COURTESY PETER TEUBEN

A group of Greenbelt mahjong players protest in Washington, D.C.

Sinkholes Rectified, Research Road’s “Rocketship Playground” Reopens

by Anna Bedford-Dillow



PHOTO BY KRISTEN INGE

The Rocketship playground on Research Road was roped off for almost two months.

Greenbelt’s youngest residents and their carers will be pleased to know that underground repairs at the playground near 2 Court Research Road were completed on March 26 and the playground, which had been closed since early February, has now reopened. In early February, Public Works roped off the playground due to multiple sinkholes, some as much as six feet in depth according to residents. The playground is a frequent after-school meeting spot for some Greenbelt Elementary School students, and is enjoyed by other neighborhood children as well. According to news shared by Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) in

its newsletter, the sinkholes developed due to the deterioration of abandoned utility tunnels in the area behind the playground. The tunnels were originally installed to route hot water/steam from a boiler plant to GHI dwelling units. “The boiler plant was demolished in the 1980s, however, the utility tunnels, which were abandoned in place, have deteriorated over the decades,” they said. After several weeks, a contractor was found and GHI approved a proposal to fill sections of abandoned tunnels. GHI said they would restore grading and grass as part of the repair work to the playground.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Protesters demonstrate at the Municipal Building before moving to the Spellman Overpass.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Demonstrators of all ages make their voices heard.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Giovanni De Amici came from Crofton “because we are losing our country”.



PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS

Four-year-old Felix T-G holds a sign about Mayor Humdinger, a cartoon bad guy on the popular Paw Patrol show.



Young people protest at the Hands Off! march.



PHOTO BY PEGGY HIGGINS