



Food, Diaper Distribution, p.12



Little Seed Library, p.12

*Desegregating Greenbelt*

## One of First Residents of Color Remembers Early Years Here

by Matthew Arbach

Angie Bass Williams and her husband Rivers were among the first people of color to live in Greenbelt. On February 25, Angie Williams was interviewed by Councilmember Emmett Jordan, on behalf of the Greenbelt Museum and the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, giving her a chance to recount her and her family's experience in Greenbelt and Prince George's County in that seminal period when the nation was just beginning to desegregate as a result of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, among other milestones. While finding Greenbelt a welcoming and open place overall, the Williams family encountered struggles along the way, first in their search for a safe home and neighborhood and in their goal to be part of a community where they were very much a minority.

Williams was born in North Carolina and spent her early years in Newport News, Va. The seventh of nine children, her father was a lay minister, and she graduated from a segregated high school and began studies to fulfill her goal of becoming a stenographer. Her first job was



SCREENSHOT BY AMY HANSEN

Angie Williams speaks with Councilmember Emmett Jordan about desegregating Greenbelt in the 1960s.

at Fort Monroe, Va., a segregated environment where she was only among a few people of color, including the soldiers on base. She excelled through hard work and a perfectionist approach.

She went on to spend about two years working at the Pentagon as the Vietnam War raged, before transitioning to a more enjoyable stint at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, during the period of the then-burgeoning space program.

Throughout, she was active in her Mennonite faith and, over time, became an ordained minister. In her spiritual life, she experienced a rare integrated environment, even as a girl.

See **EARLY YEARS**, page 7

## A Proclamation and a Plethora Of Petitions Occupy Council

by Kathleen Gallagher

The January 25 meeting of the Greenbelt City Council opened with a proclamation presented by Mayor Colin Byrd in recognition of February as Black History Month. Dr. Lois Rosado, representing the Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee, received the proclamation and introduced the other members of the committee.

Rosado described some of the many virtual programs to be offered over the month of February. Together with Leeann Irwin, she published an article about the programs that appeared in the January 28 issue of this paper, and there were notices and information on forthcoming programs in the city ad and in Community Events in subsequent issues.

**Petitions and Requests**

On behalf of the Greenbelt Climate Action Network, resident Josh Poland presented a request to council to send a letter to Greenbelt School Board Representative Joshua Thomas in support of a resolution currently before the school board to create a focus work group tasked with drafting a School Board Climate

Change Action Plan for Prince George's County schools. Poland identified the item as time sensitive because it would come to the board for second reading and action at its February 11 meeting.

Because of the time factor, Councilmember Judith Davis moved to special order taking action on this request, and eventually it was moved and adopted to direct staff to draft the required letter.

A request from resident Patrick Gleason was for consideration of an additional entrance sign to Buddy Attick Park and increased landscaping and upkeep in the areas of some of the tennis courts.

Konrad Herling asked that council support two pieces of state legislation regarding purchase of guns in a way that evades having a background check: long guns or rifles purchased at gun shows or private sales and "ghost guns" where parts of guns can be bought separately and assembled by the owner. There was agreement to

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

## Greenbelt Businesses Express Gratitude for City Grants

by Glory Ngwe

Twenty Greenbelt businesses won working capital grants of up to \$10,000 last November to aid with financial loss due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In a video posted on the city Facebook page ([facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt](https://facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt)) on February 23, business representatives expressed how the funds are helping them stay afloat during Covid-19.

The grants are part of the \$300,000 Greenbelt Business Improvement and Recovery Fund, which was created to offer immediate financial assistance to local small businesses who have been impacted by the pandemic. Seventy-four applications were received and reviewed by an external committee, said the city's Economic Development Coordinator Charise Liggins.

The American Legion Greenbelt Post 136 was one of those recipients. "It's very gratifying to know that the City of Greenbelt wants to help us in our time of need," said a representative.

Wylo, an online wash and dry-cleaning company, echoed the same gratitude: "This money really saved us and kept us open so we are really grateful for that."

The funds can be used to support operating expenses related to business interruption, improvements and continuity. "It was so needed," said a representative from PJ Professional IT Services. "I mean, I look back and I think about how would we have made it had we not gotten that grant."

An A.C.T.I.O.N

Sports & Fitness spokesperson said attendance has dropped dramatically since the pandemic began so the grant helped with handling costs, "revenues went down



SCREENSHOT BY AMY HANSEN

Economic Development Coordinator Charise Liggins

and you know, expenses pretty much stayed the same so the grant definitely helped with the

See **GRANTS**, page 6

## The News Review Anticipates First Steps Toward Normalcy

by Cathie Meetre

The bolt shot home around a year ago after the News Review issue of March 12, 2020. With the benefit of hindsight, it was only the first tentative inroad of the pandemic. Very few people actually knew someone who was sick – perhaps a friend of a friend – but the pattern of who was vulnerable had already clearly emerged – older people and especially those with comorbidities (a new word to most that was to gain infinite meaning for too many). And the staff of the News Review is rather prone to being old. The average age of copy editing, proofing and advertising teams is well over 70 so there's a lot of white hair and

some unsteadiness of gait – and presumably the usual incidence of heart disease, hypertension and diabetes in that age group.

**Hunkering Down**

The decision was made to stop the in-office sessions which had been the beating heart of the newspaper since 1937 and which are at least part of the reason its members enjoy the newspaper. Tuesday afternoons and evenings were a period where a group of mostly like-minded people got together and made, by golly, a newspaper. They didn't quilt, improve their minds with poetry, win at bridge, embroider or

See **NORMALCY**, page 6

### What Goes On

**Monday, March 8 8 p.m. City Council Meeting**  
All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](https://greenbeltmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



SCREENSHOT BY REBEKAH SUTFIN

As part of the Greenbelt Recreation Black History Month celebration, Bellydancers of Color Collective gave a free workshop on Saturday, February 27. Pictured, from left, are Gigi Nash, Adina Gittens-Smith and Lori Alford.

# Letters to the Editor

## Is ERHS Safe To Reopen?

I am a teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS). In April, I will begin teaching in person using the simultaneous instructional model (teaching the students learning virtually and the students learning in the school building at the same time). I will bring my daughters to work with me because I have no other childcare options. The schedule at ERHS operates with eight periods, where students transition between classrooms. According to CDC guidelines, freely mixing students between classes poses the highest level of risk for transmitting Covid-19 when reopening schools. Furthermore, the CDC guidelines state that in terms of ventilation, it is essential that school buildings open the windows and strategically point fans out the windows in order to increase ventilation. However, ERHS is designed to largely have classrooms without any windows. My classroom does not have windows.

There are many things that the administration at ERHS has done to improve safety, such as installing hand sanitizer dispensers, and marking hallways so students move in one direction. However, many teachers, all the students and my children are not yet vaccinated, and ERHS is, by CDC standards, a high-risk environment.

One effective measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19 in ERHS would be to screen the students before they enter the door by taking their temperature. However, PGCPS has stated that the county budget does not allow for temperature checks and decided instead to rely on the honor system. Parents have suggested that students could take their own temperature before entering the building. Consensus has not been reached on this important issue. I urge not just parents and teachers, but fellow citizens to hold PGCPS accountable and to follow all CDC guidelines to the highest standard. Temperature checks would be an easy, low-cost and effective way to increase the level of safety for our schools and communities.

As we surpass 500,000 people who have died in this country from Covid-19, I know for many of us, it is more than just a number. As we continue to mourn our loved ones and pray for those fighting for their lives, we must stay vigilant, and follow CDC

guidelines when reopening the schools in Greenbelt.

Name Withheld by Request

## Dangerous Merge

I always get nervous in fear of having a car accident (not caused by me) when I merge onto Kenilworth Avenue coming from Berwyn Heights on Greenbelt Road, and traveling toward Beltsville. A merge sign is a regulatory sign. Drivers who encounter a merge sign are warned that two separate roadways will converge into one lane ahead. The merging traffic sign will typically indicate which lane should be merging into the other. In this case there is an arrow on the road indicating to merge. Drivers on the full length and width lane have the right of way. Merging vehicles must yield to traffic on the main highway. This means they must fall back and not pass the car in the full lane. By my own experience the supposed-to-be-yielding car often tries to pass when the lane is narrowing, potentially causing an accident. This is the law. I am sure that the police can do something about this, as it is the law. Therefore changes must occur. Why not put up a "No passing" sign and a sign saying that the left lane has right of way. Also a lane divider indicating not to cross the line.

It is time to take action.

Many times over, I have had to blow my horn and come close to being in an accident because the driver in the merging lane does not follow the rules or purposely tries to pass without right of way. This is extremely dangerous.

How many more accidents, injuries and potential fatalities must happen before Greenbelt and the State of Maryland fix the dangerous merge onto Kenilworth Avenue?

There are way too many incompetent drivers that don't know the laws concerning merging, and who has the right of way. I myself use the rules that I learned at the age of 16 while taking Drivers Education. I have never caused an accident.

Randall Crenwelge

## More USPS Woes

I just found out that the check I wrote and mailed on January 4 was received by my health insurance on February 8. It was mailed out of our post office here in town.

Looking forward to more articles on the postal service.

Katrina Boverman

## Corrections

In the article about the Female RE-Enactors, which ran in the February 25 issue, the lower of two photos was taken by Rebekah Sutfin. In the page 3 article about the film on Wangari Maathai the photo should be credited to Green Belt Movement, International.

Also in the February 25 issue, in the obituary of Edward Wrenn, the name of the U.K. air force base where he served is Upper Heyford.

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.



See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.

## ¿Qué tal nos va con los artículos en español?

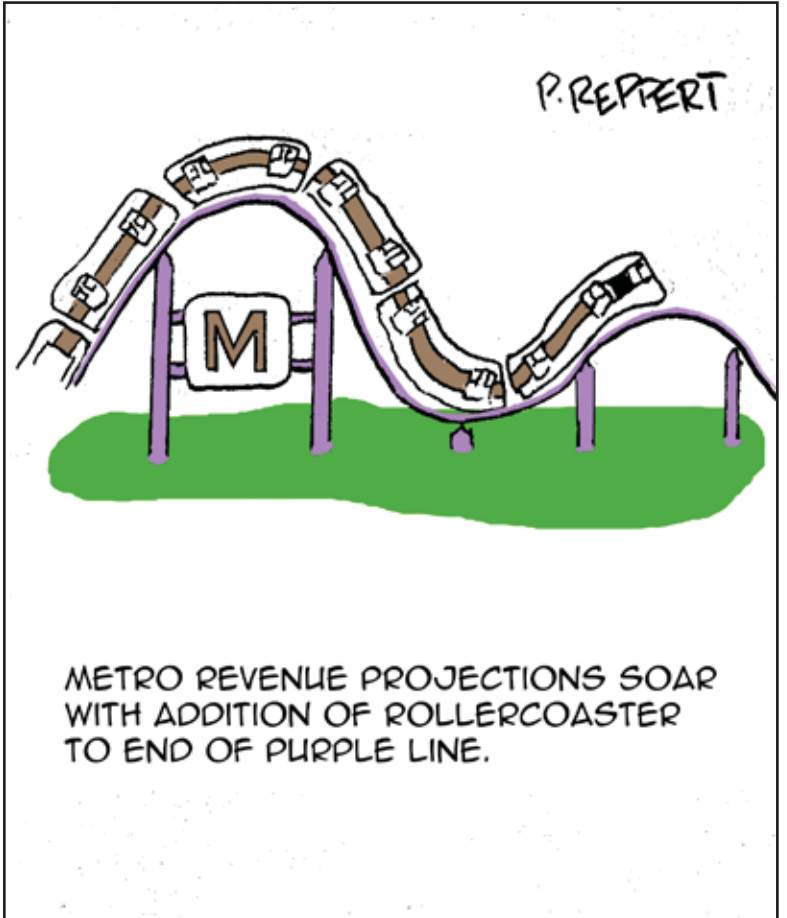
En Greenbelt News Review nos gustaría saber si usted lee los artículos traducidos al español que se publican cada semana en el sitio web de Greenbelt News Review. Tenemos un excelente equipo de traductores bilingües, pero no sabemos si tenemos lectores. Si lee las traducciones en español, por favor mándenos una nota (en inglés o español) a [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com). ¡Gracias!

## How Are We Doing in Spanish?

We at the Greenbelt News Review would like to know if you read the Spanish translations that are posted every week on the Greenbelt News Review website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com). We have a crack team of bilingual translators but we don't know if we have any readers. If you use the Spanish translations, would you please leave us a note (in English or Spanish) at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## Is There an Artist Stuck In the House?

Have you taken up a new craft or art since Covid-19 started? The News Review wants to know. Send some (high rez) pictures of your work, and a brief note about the project and its inspiration, to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



METRO REVENUE PROJECTIONS SOAR WITH ADDITION OF ROLLERCOASTER TO END OF PURPLE LINE.

## Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

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 withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- 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

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

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.



A crow is dusted with light snow.

PHOTO BY CHARLES JACKMAN

# Community Events

## At the Library

Curbside service is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Customers may place new hold requests via the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) catalog ([catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris](http://catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris)) or Ask a Librarian Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. Call 301-699-3500 and ask for Public Services or use the link at [pgcmls.info/contact-us](http://pgcmls.info/contact-us) for assistance. The Library's Spanish language call center is available at 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

The library is not accepting book donations for the foreseeable future. Customers can place donations in the third-party book donation bin; do not place donations outside the bin if it is full.

All Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students have access to the library's online resources with their LINK card number. Adults may register for a free virtual library card or renew an existing card at [pgcmls.info](http://pgcmls.info).

### Kids Achieve Club

The mission of the Kids Achieve Club (KAC) program is to provide academic support through homework assistance and reading practice for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students in grades 1 to 6. The program was created to support the unique needs of English learners to foster a love of reading and to provide academic support. Children of all backgrounds and ethnicities are invited to participate.

### Strategic Plan

PGCMLS announces the launch of its Strategic Framework 2021-2024, which will guide the work of the library over the next three years with a new mission, vision, values and strategic focus areas. The framework provides a foundation for ongoing collaborations between PGCMLS staff, the Board of Library Trustees and community members to strengthen the library's role as a responsive and trusted community-driven organization.

Community members may explore the library's new Strategic Framework Microsite, [pgcmls.libnet.info/strategic-plan/strategic-plan](http://pgcmls.libnet.info/strategic-plan/strategic-plan), to learn more about the library's path into the future. Feedback and suggestions are welcome and may be submitted to [pr@pgcmls.info](mailto:pr@pgcmls.info).

## Reparations Discussion At Community Church

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) invites the community to join in a discussion on Sunday, March 7 at 7 p.m. on how our experiences may inform our views on reparations.

GCC partners with Coming to the Table (CTTT), a national organization that works to create a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to heal from the racial wounds of slavery and the many forms of racism it spawned.

GCC/CTTT practices Circle Communication, a tool that maximizes sharing and respectfulness. To participate, email [kenlittlefield1@aol.com](mailto:kenlittlefield1@aol.com) for Zoom meeting information.

## GCAN to Discuss Legislation, Plans

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, March 10, 7 to 9 p.m.

During the first half of the meeting, the topic will be how a bill becomes a law and how to navigate the Maryland General Assembly website (<https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>) to track a bill or submit testimony.

The second half of the meeting will include updates on GCAN's priority issues, including state legislation on the Maglev, Climate Solutions Now Act and the Beltway expansion; the county's Climate Action Plan; the Prince George's County School Board resolution on its Climate Change Action Plan, as well as state and county legislation on the Brandywine Power Plants.

The Zoom link for the meeting can be found at [chears.org/gcan](https://chears.org/gcan). For more information, contact Lore Rosenthal, [SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com](mailto:SimplicityGroupsMD@gmail.com), at 301-345-2234.

## Garden Club Plot Assignment Meeting

The Greenbelt Community Garden Club will have a virtual 2021 Plot Assignment meeting on Tuesday, March 23 at 7 p.m. An email will be sent to returning gardeners with a link to join. New and returning plot holders may download or fill out the application form at [greenbeltgardenclub.com](http://greenbeltgardenclub.com).

Returning gardeners can direct any questions about the application to their garden coordinator. Fees and forms may be sent to the garden coordinator or mailed to Greenbelt Garden Club, P.O. Box 1732, Greenbelt, MD 20768, or payment can be made online using PayPal. Anyone having difficulty downloading or printing the form can call Martha Tomecek at 301-614-0691.



## CAG's Next Meeting Is on Microaggression

Those who would like to see Greenbelt better connected and forge paths to equity can join a conversation and creatively deepen their support with community connections. Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG) is a group of residents who gather virtually to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. A multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of Greenbelters, CAG is working to enhance quality of life through connections and relationships. To research ways to cope in these difficult times, the group is building a Caring and Connecting Toolkit ([bit.ly/CAGtoolkit](http://bit.ly/CAGtoolkit)) in association with leading mental health and community health leaders. Ideas are welcome.

To find out about the group's March meeting, with a focus on microaggression, email [communityconnectionsbg@gmail.com](mailto:communityconnectionsbg@gmail.com).

## Local Author Seeks Young Illustrators

The Children's Rhymes Project and Greenbelt author Laura Kafka-Price have launched an international illustration contest for children in grades 2 through 8 (ages 7 to 14). They are seeking original children's artwork in two-dimensional media to illustrate Kafka-Price's book about the Polish composer Karol Szymanowski. The book features 19 poems from Rymy dziecięce (Children's Rhymes) written by the Polish poet Kazimiera Iłakowiczówna, that Szymanowski set to music. The main characters in the poems are two friends, Krzysia and Lalka, who make up delightful stories about animals, birds, Christmas, home, happy and sad days and the wind dancing among flowering trees in springtime.

Visit [childrensrhymesproject.com](http://childrensrhymesproject.com) to learn more. Deadline for entry is March 31.

## Senator Pinsky Seeks Scholarship Applicants

State Senator Paul Pinsky is offering a scholarship to current high school seniors and to full-time and part-time degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students who live in the 22nd legislative district. The application is available online at [senatorpinsky.org](http://senatorpinsky.org). Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in addition to Senator Pinsky's scholarship application. Selection is based on academic achievement, financial need and commitment to higher education. Awards range from \$500 to \$2,000.

Awards from previous academic years will be renewed automatically as long as the student has maintained satisfactory academic progress. For further information or questions, call 301-858-3155 or email [paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us](mailto:paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us). The deadline is April 1.

## Maglev Comments

The Maglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement is available for comments, which are due by Thursday, April 22. Information can be found at [bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis](http://bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis).

Comments may be made online or by email following the instructions on the website and also in writing by mailing them to the attention of SCMAGLEV Project/Lauren Molesworth, Maryland Transit Administration, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

## Spring Activity Guide Now Available Online

Greenbelt Recreation's spring classes and special events are online via the Virtual Recreation Center. Go to [greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation) to access a wide range of online activities, including classes, video tutorials, sing-alongs and more. Art activities can be accessed in the Visual Arts section of the Virtual Recreation Center.

## Where to Get IRS Tax Forms, Publications

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Comptroller of Maryland started processing individual tax returns for Tax Year 2020 on February 12. The deadline for filing tax returns or extension requests with both agencies is Thursday, April 15.

The Greenbelt Library has a limited number of the Form 1040/1040-SR (including Schedules 1 to 3) and associated instruction booklets in either English or Spanish. Customers may obtain two copies of each booklet per curbside service visit. IRS Publication 17 will only be available online this year. Contact the PGCMLS Ask A Librarian service at 240-455-5451 or [pgcmls.info/656](mailto:pgcmls.info/656) for assistance.

Customers are encouraged to visit the IRS website ([irs.gov](http://irs.gov)) to view/download/print or submit a request for mailing of Federal tax forms and information. Or call 800-829-3676 to request Federal tax forms and publications.

Customers may also obtain two copies of the Maryland 2020 resident tax booklet per curbside service visit. For most Maryland state tax forms and information, visit [marylandtaxes.gov](http://marylandtaxes.gov). For forms only, call 410-260-7951. Comptroller of Maryland Taxpayer Service Offices will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday by appointment only. In order to make an appointment at one of their branch offices, customers should access the appointment scheduler at [marylandtaxes.gov/locations.php](http://marylandtaxes.gov/locations.php). The local Greenbelt office is located at 6401 Golden Triangle Drive, Suite 100, phone number 301-486-7540.

**Don't be a doormat!**  
**Be ON one.**  
**\$15 gets you on thousands.**  
[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

**2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Sunday March 21 at 3pm on ZOOM**

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION, INC. CONNECT WITH GATE ON

**This year we will be hosting our Annual Membership Meeting online.**

**To receive a link or phone number to join us on ZOOM please email:**

**[greenbeltaccess@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltaccess@gmail.com)**

**We will be voting on three Board Member positions. Members will receive a link to vote for candidates the day before the meeting. Nominations will be open until March 14 at 3pm.**

**ROSE AWARD**  
for best Greenbelt Community Video

**The 2020 Winner of GATE's Annual Rose Award for Best Greenbelt Community Video will be announced during the Annual Meeting!**

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77  
 FIND OUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org) by clicking on Channel

**GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION**  
**Friday March 5 - Thursday March 11**

**TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!**  
<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		CONNECT WITH GATE ON	
7 am	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	• Women's History Month Programming	
8 am	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program	
9 am	<b>GATE Classic Film ★</b> <small>Comedy/Romance • 1940</small>	• <b>His Girl Friday</b> • Cary Grant • Rosalind Russell <small>Directed by Howard Hawks</small>	
11 am	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	• Women's History Month Programming	
12 pm	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	• Today's Syndicated Program	
1 pm	<b>Science Bowl PGCPS</b>	• Elementary Competition Northview v Rogers Heights	
2 pm	<b>Music at the New Deal Café</b>	• <b>Ursula Ricks Project</b> Funk/Soul/Neo-Blues	
3 pm	<b>GATE Classic Film ★</b> <small>Comedy/Romance • 1940</small>	• <b>His Girl Friday</b> • Cary Grant • Rosalind Russell <small>Directed by Howard Hawks</small>	
5 pm	<b>Science Bowl PGCPS</b>	• Elementary Competition Northview v Rogers Heights	
6 pm	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	• Women's History Month Programming	
7 pm	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	• Today's Syndicated Program	
8 pm	<b>GATE Classic Film ★</b> <small>Comedy/Romance • 1940</small>	• <b>His Girl Friday</b> • Cary Grant • Rosalind Russell <small>Directed by Howard Hawks</small>	
10 pm	<b>Music at the New Deal Café</b>	• <b>Ursula Ricks Project</b> Funk/Soul/Neo-Blues	
11 pm	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	• Today's Syndicated Program	
12 am	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	• Women's History Month Programming	

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77  
 STREAMING LIVE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream)

# Obituaries

## Ruth Durantine

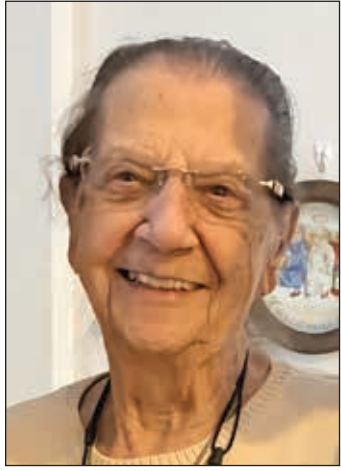


PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Ruth Vondras Durantine

Ruth Vondras Durantine, 94, died on February 25, 2021, at her home in Corning, N.Y.

She was born in Cicero, Ill., on August 14, 1926, daughter of James and Mary (née Farina) Vondras. She grew up in Newburgh, N.Y., with her three brothers and sister. She traveled with her husband, Toni, until she settled in Greenbelt to raise her family.

She and her family attended St. Hugh Catholic Church, where she taught CCD classes for several years. Her compassion led her to attend the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute in Washington, D.C., which provided her training to start religious education classes for the parish's children and adults who had mental disabilities.

Her work involved ensuring the students received the sacraments, the Holy Eucharist and Confirmation, starting the annual children's Christmas mass, and serving on the Parish Council.

Professionally, she worked as a librarian's assistant at the Greenbelt Library and secretary at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, as well as Arch-

bishop Spaulding High School in Glen Burnie, from where she retired.

Upon retirement, she relocated to Long Neck, Del., where she was active in Mary Mother of Peace Church, participating in and conducting Bible studies. She also was involved with a Methodist church Bible group.

In 2007, she moved to Corning, N.Y., to live near her daughter and her family.

She has nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her parents and her brothers George of Newburgh, N.Y., and James of St. Louis, Mo., and sister Marie of Trenton, N.J.

She is survived by her brother the Rev. John Vondras of Newburgh, 24 nieces and nephews; sons: Anthony, wife Lorna; their son Anthony and his children Amelia, Frank and Josiah of Greenbelt; and daughter Antonella, with husband John Jafari and her children Nino and Reza of Washington, D.C.; Peter, wife Angela and daughter Emma and son Elijah of Hummelstown, Pa.; son Matthew and companion Jeanne of Wheaton, Md.; and daughter Nicolette Butler, husband Douglas and children Derek, Sarah, Noah, Jeanette (Isabella) and Nicholas of Painted Post, N.Y.

She is a member of All Saints Parish in Corning, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on March 17. The site of her Christian burial, at St. Catherine's Cemetery in Addison, N.Y., is scheduled for a later date.

Funeral arrangements will be by Barber Funeral Home of Horseheads, N.Y.

## In Memoriam

# John Parker

by Rick Ransom

John "Pappy" Parker spent most of his formative years on Research Road in old Greenbelt. Although he moved around a bit, he remained a part of events in Greenbelt most of his life. John died of natural causes in the hospital near where he was living in Millsboro, Del., on December 10. He was 70. John is survived by a sister, Linda, a daughter, Julie and a son, Danny. Another sister, Barbara (Bo) and his brother Bob both predeceased him.

He was friends with Richard "Duke" Perry who related a tale of setting off with John and Edis Starnes toward Woodstock, N.Y., for the famous rock festival of 1969. Not too many miles along the way, they realized they had less than \$10 between them to last for a weekend out of town. They returned home forthwith.

John was working a summer job when he fell through a skylight at the new Greenbelt Youth Center and fractured part of his



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

John Parker

back. He recovered enough to serve in the Marines as an MP after attending High Point High School (class of 1968). According to Duke, the closest he got to Vietnam was when he went there to pick up a prisoner.

John married a Greenbelt girl from Springhill Lake, Kathy Danforth, who joined him when he was stationed in Florida. Although they had parted some years back, Kathy and John remained friends and often spent holidays together. They lived in Walkersville, Md., when they had their children and where Kathy remains. His daughter Julie remained close to John and he visited her and his five grandchildren, who called him Pop-Pop.

John worked a variety of jobs and at one time captained his own home security business. More recently, his health began to decline to the point where he could no longer live alone. He had secured a place at Green Ridge House, but had trouble selling his GHI honeymoon



Condolences to the family, friends, students and former fellow parishioners of Ruth Durantine, who died in New York, having left Greenbelt and St. Hugh Catholic Church to live near one of her daughters.

Sympathies also to the family and friends of John "Pappy" Parker who grew up in Greenbelt and died in Delaware in December.

Congratulations to Anja Elizabeth Holland, a senior film major at Hollins University in Roanoke, Va., who has been named to the Dean's List for the 2020 Fall Semester. To attain this distinction, students must earn at least a 3.5 average on a 4.0 grading scale. Holland is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



## 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.



See PARKER, page 8

"In this world hate never yet dispelled hate. Only love dispels hate. This is the law, ancient and inexhaustible." – Gautama Buddha



**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**

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

**CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT**

During the pandemic, we gather **VIRTUALLY** for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

For ZOOM link: [FDeBernardo@aol.com](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

The Bible Says...

**Lent-Week #3**

The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:8

**Sunday Worship Services**  
10a-11a **ONLINE**  
[MCFcc.org/online](http://MCFcc.org/online)

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410

**Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor**

In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.  
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

Worship with us at

**Greenbelt Baptist Church**

Biblical  
Confessional  
Reformed  
Gospel Centered

Join us **OUTSIDE** Sundays at 11:00am/Wednesdays (online) at 7:00pm  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
Instagram/Facebook/Youtube

<<101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD>>  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
301-474-4212  
[@GreenbeltBaptist](https://www.instagram.com/GreenbeltBaptist)

Greenbelt Community Church

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
a just world for all

Join Us on Facebook Live  
Sunday at 10:15

**Just When All Seems Lost...  
Rising from Ashes**

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

1 Hillside Road 301-474-6171 Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

**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  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION**

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

March 7 10 a.m.

**"The New Heresy: Anti-Racism and the Future of Unitarian Universalism"**

Deb Rubenstein, Chris McCann and the Conflict Transformation Team; with Worship Associate Clark Ritz

UUs take great pride in our heretical past and the people who took bold stands against toxic, limiting cultures. We have an opportunity to engage in a new heresy, standing in opposition to our current toxic culture of white supremacy and racism. Nothing less than the future of Unitarian Universalism depends on it.  
ONLINE ONLY. Streaming information at [pbuuc.org/news/](http://pbuuc.org/news/)



# 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 COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING Monday, March 8, 2021 8:00 p.m.

### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
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

- International Women's Day Proclamation
- Colorectal Cancer Awareness
- Cesar Chavez Day Proclamation
- Irish American Heritage Month Proclamation

#### Petitions and Requests

(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

#### Minutes of Council Meetings

#### Administrative Reports

#### Committee Reports

\* Advisory Planning Board Report #2021-01: National Capital Planning Commission Concept Review Referral on the Proposed Relocation Bureau of Engraving and Printing to the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

### LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Amend Article I "In General", "Section 8-4 "Absentee Voting" of Chapter 8, Elections" of the Greenbelt City Code- 1st Reading
- 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" to Require a Special Election if a Council Seat Becomes Vacant Nine (9) Months Prior to the Next Election (Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2021-1) - 1st Reading

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Foreclosure Moratorium
- Collective Bargaining for all City Employees
- Private Electric Vehicle Charger in City Right of way -133 Northway
- Noncitizen Voting
- Term Limits
- State Legislation
- WMATA's FY 2022 Budget Proposal Including Service Adjustments
- Consent to Hire Technical Consultants to Assist with Maglev DEIS Review
- Request to Initiate Memorandum of Understanding with State Hwy.
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- \* Reappointments to Advisory Boards
- \* Appointment to Maglev Task Force

### MEETINGS-Scheduling of Future Meetings

**COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL** Cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv)

**Resident participation: Information will be posted on Meetings Calendar at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov)**

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@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.gov)

### VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR MARCH 8-12

Monday, March 8 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipaltv)

Thursday, March 11 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD** On the Agenda: Community Feedback, Planning for Future Forums, Fair & Just Policing Act Proposal – Draft Ordinance, Council Referral on Festival of Lights Inclusivity, Selection of CRAB Representative for Grant Review Panel, and Reports from CRAB and Next Meeting Date. This agenda is subject to change.

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@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltdmd.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 virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov).

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- SCMAGLEV Opposition Task Force
- Youth Advisory Committee

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**



Greenbelt Recreation  
[www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation)  
301-397-2200

## SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!

Registration begins on Monday, February 22 for Greenbelt Residents  
Classes begin the week of March 22, 2021  
Check out our Spring 2021 Activity Guide available at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation) for more details!

Explore our Activity Guide for lots of options for all ages and interests. We offer seasonal special events and varied recreation facilities and classes to provide opportunities for community celebrations, a chance to learn something new or improve your skills in an activity you enjoy, all while socializing and staying active!



## FIT FAMILY HOUR

Register online for an hour of fit family fun! Families must sign up in advance and may choose a time slot at either the Greenbelt Youth Center or Springhill Lake Recreation Center.

Families may register for up to three time slots per week. Fit Family Hour Fee: \$5; Please bring your own equipment.

This program is reserved for Greenbelt residents.

Please visit our Virtual Recreation Center online or give us a call for more information. Many thanks!

## EVIPG SURVEY

The Greenbelt Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Planning Group (EVIPG) is established for the purpose of creating a comprehensive plan to develop electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in the City of Greenbelt, and for recommending this plan for adoption by Greenbelt City Council. This survey is to gather information about EVs in Greenbelt.  
<https://forms.gle/nWayxKn23sC1NUJ38>



City of Greenbelt  
25 Crescent Road  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

## GET FREE INTERNET ESSENTIALS FOR ONE YEAR



A program providing free internet access (WiFi)

The City of Greenbelt will be covering the cost as part of its COVID-19 Recovery programs.  
**NO CREDIT CHECK & NO TERM CONTRACT**

Due to COVID-19, a self-installation kit will be mailed to you

**SPACES ARE LIMITED**  
Registration begins March 1st to March 30th

Have questions?  
Ready to register? Call  
Lena Enciso  
(240) 542-2031

#### Eligibility requirements:

- New and existing Comcast Internet Essentials customers are eligible
- Live in incorporated Greenbelt
- Must participate in **one or more of the following programs:**
  - o WIC, SNAP (Food Stamps), VA Pension, Public Housing Assistance, NSLP/Head Start, TANF, Medicaid, LIHEAP Energy Assistance Program, Tribal Assistance Eligibility Letter



## JOB OPENINGS COMING SOON!

Want to love going to work everyday? Job Openings for Summer Camp Staff and Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center Staff:

Job openings will be posted online in early March.

**For more information on job openings and application details: [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/jobs)**



## SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards!

Apply now at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/jobs)

## WEED WARRIORS:

**Invasive Plant Pull**  
Saturday, March 13th,  
10:00am-1:00pm  
Buddy Attick Park  
555 Crescent Road



Be a part of the community effort to remove invasive plant species from the environment at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works staff to remove invasive vines from native trees and to pull other invasive plant species. Masks will be required at all times.

#### Reminders:

- Bring a reusable water bottle
  - Wear weather-appropriate clothing and closed-toe shoes
  - Students: bring community-service forms
  - Volunteers must register in order to participate
  - Limited to 25 volunteers
- To Register: Contact Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll at [kdriscoll@greenbeltdmd.gov](mailto:kdriscoll@greenbeltdmd.gov)

## Greenbelt CARES Survey

Greenbelt CARES is running a very short survey to see how they can better help residents during this difficult time. Please take a couple of minutes to fill it out! Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZC63LF>

## Monthly Art Shares

Friday, March 19, 7pm  
Meet up with fellow artists online for an informal discussion of everyone's work. Bring 1-3 pieces in any medium to share online. All experience levels welcome. Sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084babab2ba4ff2-winter-11to> to receive the next Zoom link by email.

## CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO ONE OF THE CITY'S CHARITABLE FUNDS

Agency Funds are managed but not financed by the City. All donations to the funds are used for the listed charitable purposes. The City of Greenbelt receives no portion of these funds nor does it charge an administrative fee for processing the donations

**Funds include: Good Samaritan Fund, Emergency Assistance Fund, Greenbelt Recreation, and Advisory Committee on Education. Find out more at [www.greenbeltdmd.gov/donations](http://www.greenbeltdmd.gov/donations).**

You can also mail a money order or check to: City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770. Please notate which fund in the notes section of the check. You may also use the drop box on flag side of the building. Receipts will be provided and mailed out to you.

# Surviving the Pandemic

by Sharon J. Anderson



PHOTO BY SHARON ANDERSON

Faces of Survival depicts a series of photos of masked personas created by Sharon Anderson.

On March 30, 2020, when Maryland issued a stay-at-home order in response to Covid-19, I was, like all of us, apprehensive. I was high risk for the virus; further, I had no masks. So I investigated everything in my home and found some intriguing mask possibilities.

On April 1, I posted on Facebook a selfie taken on my front porch in which I wore a blue bandana, steampunk goggles and a vintage leather aviator cap with the caption, "Off to mail some birthday cards!" Over the next two months, I posted 19 more pandemic "personas" on Face-

book – all selfies from my front porch, using only items I found in my home.

These personas gained so much notoriety, I published them in a small booklet called The Faces of Survival, and offered it for a \$30 donation to the Contemporary American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown, W.V., of which I am a trustee. With the help of Facebook friends (several from Greenbelt) I raised \$1,800.

Covid-19 taught me that sometimes in order to survive, one doesn't need to venture beyond one's own backyard. Many thanks to all.

# GRANTS continued from page 1

expenses all across the board."

According to Yelp, over 160,000 businesses have closed across the country since the pandemic began. Of that number, 60 percent have shut their doors permanently. The aim of the city grants is to help Greenbelt businesses survive.

Businesses that won these grants include:

- American Legion Greenbelt Post 136, Inc
- Samurai Hibachi & Wings - - -
- Now BBQ Chicken
- Greenbelt Barber and Stylist Shop
- A.C.T.I.O.N Sports & Fitness
- Bethel Medical Clinic, CHTD
- Café Continental
- Wylo, LLC
- Greenbelt Dental Care, P.C.
- Thompson Vision Care
- Mazique Pediatrics, P.C.
- PJ Professional IT Services
- Raja M. Din, MD PLLC
- New Deal Café
- TrainACE
- Greenbelt Auto and Truck Repair
- ViVi Trendsetter
- Beltway Plaza Hardware
- Jodeem Food Express
- IHOP 2113
- Cedars of Lebanon

Glory Ngwe is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the Greenbelt News Review.



The American Legion is among the businesses that received grant monies from the city.



A.C.T.I.O.N Sports and Fitness thanks the city for the grant.

- Screenshots by Amy Hansen

PHOTO BY BARBARA BUJANES AND DORRY IPOILITO

PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

**Dr. Purell--sometimes goofiness can lighten the mood. Collaboration was key.**

**One of two pink yard flamingos at 35 Ridge is dutifully wearing its preventive mask. (The photographer also wore a mask and used a telephoto lens setting for good social distancing.)**

**One Year On**

The News Review is keeping on keeping on. We miss seeing our readers. We miss seeing our colleagues in the office but we still like writing the articles, finding the news and getting the paper put together. We've found ways to tether our ties to each other, via email chains and messages. We wish our pictures showed more of people's faces, but of course we're all covered up with masks. As we hit the one-year mark of Covid-19, we'd like to hear from you. What are you doing differently? How do you find joy? Is there anything you couldn't imagine a year ago, that is now normal? Send us your thoughts and (high rez) photos at [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

# NORMALCY continued from page 1

stretch – they made an honest-to-goodness entire, viable, non-Pulitzer-Prize-winning newspaper. Every week. This newspaper goes out into the community and into people's lives and makes a little bit of difference in the world. It creates an enduring documentary of the history of a small city on the fringes of a big one – and of the people who live in it.

### Making Adjustments

A few people continued to physically come into the office but under careful sanitary precautions with only four people in the room (which is about 600 sq. ft.) at a time. Existing systems originally designed to provide online backup to the newspaper's production cycle were jury-rigged to accommodate increased levels of remote access and a primitive workflow system was superimposed on the processes and naming conventions already in use. Over time, more people were introduced to the system and could participate remotely, although the system was challenging to staff members who were not comfortable with computers and impractical for involving very many.

### Coming Back

As the city winds itself back out of the lockdown pit, the News Review will be in step. Because of the staff's age, members are likely to be among the

earlier groups to be vaccinated and the expectation is that as individuals become vaccinated, the newspaper will welcome them back into the newsroom and return to its pre-pandemic hours and staffing. The enforced rigidity of the workflow system will relax once again into the interplay of a typical Tuesday – "What do you think of this?" "Let me have a crack at that." "What could they be thinking?" "Who has the barber shop story open?" "Ooops!"

### A Worthwhile Outcome

The care that was taken, the energy expended and the patience and ingenuity of the members has gone through a year of trial and prevailed. Once again, as it did through 83 years before, the Greenbelt News Review adapted and continued. It didn't miss an issue and – more importantly – the lives of members were protected. Knock on wood, no member of the staff caught Covid-19. The precautions taken and the systems adopted proved their worth.

### Going Forward

There is much to do. The newspaper needs to rebuild its advertising base because it is losing money every week. Normally, the size of the paper is based on advertising and it is rare that there's not the revenue to pay for

printing 12 pages – so the newspaper generally breaks even. Advertising, however, has dropped enough that there is no newspaper with few enough pages to allow reaching the break-even point. The outflow has been staunch to some degree by economies and can be supported by reserves built up over the years, but not indefinitely. As the city recovers economically, the newspaper anticipates a rebound in at least some of its advertising (and indeed, already sees a small trend in that direction) but will need to aggressively seek out new advertisers to restore the balance.

### New Blood Needed

Expect also a drive to recruit new volunteers. Having once been young themselves, the older generation of News Review members know how busy it is to work and raise a family. But they also know that a couple of hours a week at the News Review office or the occasional story or photo clears the head and expands the mind.

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FEATURING HIGH-TECH DIGITAL IMPRESSIONS  
COMFORTABLE, FAST AND ACCURATE

OVER 500 5-STAR REVIEWS!  
COVID INFECTION CONTROL CERTIFIED

Dr. Jay McCarroll, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarroll, Dr. Richard Duarte, and Dr. David McCarroll are licensed general dentists.

**Babe Ruth Baseball Signups**

Players 13-15  
And 16-18

Call Ian at  
240-305-7458

[greenbeltbaberuth.com](http://greenbeltbaberuth.com)

My Perspective

# Maglev Project Will Impact Wetlands and Drinking Water

by Nancy Bagwell

Among the most important adverse effects of maglev is the threat to drinking water. Currently, major Maryland waterways, except Beaverdam Creek, are classified as fair to poor (Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) Section 4.10, page 8). Where does our drinking water come from and what are current sources of pollution that maglev could make worse?

Greenbelt water comes from a groundwater/aquifer system, both underground, which is fed by surface water resources such as streams, floodplains, small ponds and wetlands (DEIS 4.10- 4.12).

Maglev construction would divert and dam some streams and fill in some wetlands. This creates stream fragmentation and can be a barrier to flow between streams and wetlands. When wetlands become dry, they begin to lose the function of being a filter for pollutants. Like a large sponge, wetlands soak up pesticides, nutrient runoff (e.g., fertilizer from lawns or Beltsville Agricultural Research Center fields), excess water flow and sediment from

floods, or too many paved surfaces. Examples of paved surfaces added by maglev include access roads (temporary and permanent) and permanent, large train maintenance facilities (TMFs). Where erosion of streambanks sends more unfiltered sediment (i.e., dirt) into the water, we will have to drink the water with a spoon!

Floodplains exist along streams in Greenbelt together with forested wetlands. What are the hydrological values of the floodplain and its water-adapted vegetation of shrubs and trees?

First, floodplains mitigate floods by slowing flow rate and depth. Floodplain vegetation – to be cleared by maglev – is also a water filter. Floodplains re-fill or re-charge the groundwater, which in turn replenishes the associated underground aquifer. The values of floodplains are listed in DEIS section 4.10-3-4 on page 4.10-8). Especially worrisome in the DEIS report are the J-01 and J-04 build alternatives' impact (listed section 4.10, p. 13). The same page estimates permanent watershed impacts from maglev at 900 to

1,100 acres.

Impervious surfaces include TMF tarmac and, surprisingly, viaducts to carry trains above ground are also classified as impervious surfaces (section 4.10, p. 17).

A local example of the consequences of heavy runoff in the paved, developed Washington metro region is the pollution dumped into the Potomac River after heavy rain. Warning signs against drinking or swimming in the river, or eating the fish, have been posted many places along the parallel C&O Canal: the high volume of water makes it into the water treatment plant! Use your imagination regarding what is in the water – or visit WSSC (Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission).

Finally, a cost/benefit comment: this project will be very disruptive and expensive. Restoration of damage will never be adequate.

References: DEIS Report, Principles of Conservation Biology by Gary Meffe et al. (2nd edition).

## EARLY YEARS continued from page 1

After marrying, a bond that has lasted 57 years, she and her husband moved to the D.C. area, because it afforded closeness to both their jobs. Yet, it was their dream to own a home and raise a family in a safe and integrated neighborhood. They eventually settled on moving to Prince George's County.

What followed was a string of disappointments, as their initial phone calls to realtors, engendering excitement, were followed by discouragement upon a face-to-face meeting, as they were often directed to neighborhoods that were majority African American, areas that, at the time, were known for high crime rates. When they came up against the reality of racial segregation, they realized that it was naïve to think that simply being able to afford a house meant success in buying one.

### Citizens for Fair Housing

Eventually, however, the Williams were referred to the Greenbelt Citizens for Fair Housing, who were able to assist them in finally purchasing a home in the environment they were seeking. On February 12, 1966, they moved into 7-H Southway in the Greenbelt Homes Inc. housing cooperative, remaining there until November 1968. Later, they would move into a larger home more conducive to a growing family in Boxwood Village.

Williams said they "loved" their Greenbelt experience, never feeling unsafe or persecuted, and enjoyed the many cultural activi-

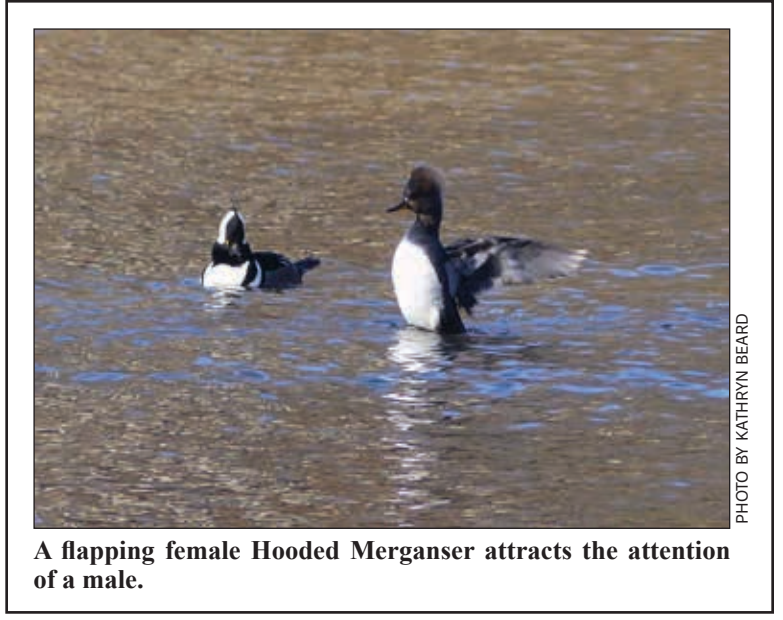
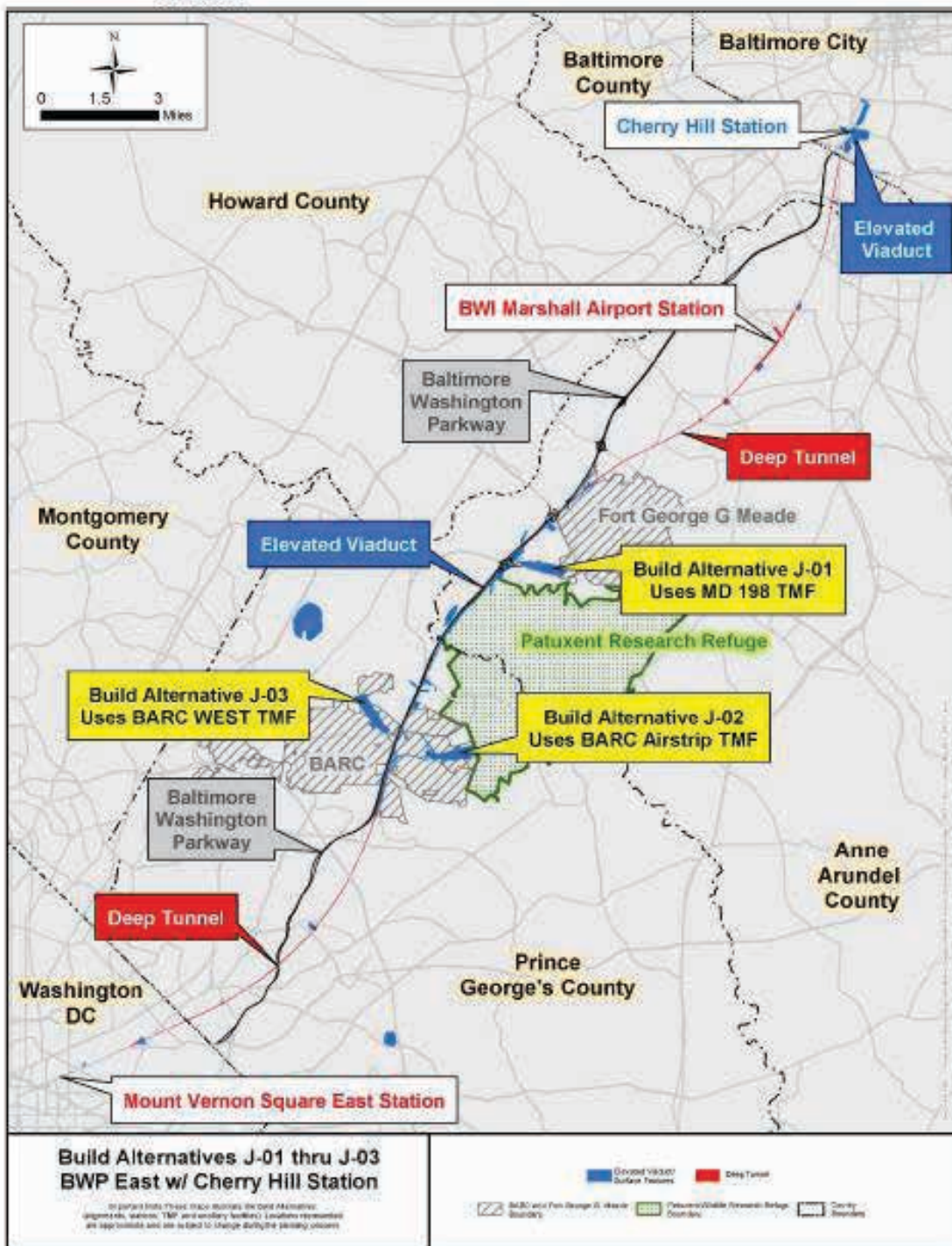
ties. What they did experience at times was the feeling of being an object of notice, where many seemed to know a great deal about them without really knowing them personally. Williams recounted the difficulty of finding babysitters for their child when the color of their skin became known. Outside of Greenbelt, the county at the time was a mixed bag of troubled and safer areas and the Williams had to pick carefully in their social outings. The Williams made a point of making diverse friends, most especially Bert and Marjorie Donn, and being active in the community. They hosted gatherings at their home and had many visitors over the years.

The Williams left Greenbelt in the 1970s for a time, returning in 1988 to see their younger son, who excelled at football and scholastics, graduate from Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Williams said that they wanted to "teach their children the value of all people," that they all are "God's creation." Their life in Greenbelt afforded them this opportunity.

Jordan pointed out that while Greenbelt was built by both African American and white relief workers, it remained an all-white community for decades. He said that while much has changed for the better, census data show that both the county and city retain some of the segregated housing patterns that are the vestiges of a much more divided past.

Figure 3.4-1: Build Alternatives J-01 through J-03 – BWP East with Cherry Hill Station



A flapping female Hooded Merganser attracts the attention of a male.

**Greenbelt Federal Credit Union Rescheduled 2020 Annual Meeting will be held on March 16th at 7 p.m.**

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# COUNCIL continued from page 1

consider these bills at the next meeting.

Davis had received a request from two residents who were concerned that the Festival of Lights appeared to represent only one religion. The residents suggested in the future including Christian, Jewish and Kwanzaa symbols, with other groups given time to highlight their religion or culture. The Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) has reviewed this topic in the past, but council supported Davis' suggestion that it might be well to refer it to CRAB again for review.

### Swim Team

Tris West, president of the Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team, met with council to review the group's application for 2021 Recognition Group status. Following discussion of what it is like to manage a swimming team and its budget during a pandemic, council unanimously voted to approve the application.

### ACE Grant Awards

Jon Gardner reported to council that this year's Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) grant competition received 30 proposals from four of the six city schools. Those that applied were Greenbelt Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary, Magnolia Elementary and Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

In general, ACE grants go toward needs or activities that are not funded by the Board of Education such as field trips, supplemental instructional materials, family engagement activities and teacher development.

Davis had high praise for ACE's creativity in approaching the competition this year, including both face-to-face and virtual projects, with funding for the former to wait until in-person projects are feasible. She also commended the recommendation to provide \$600 to each of the six schools to assist with problems of food insecurity. Other members of council joined in the

praise for ACE's work.

### Community Relations

CRAB co-chairs Rick Ransom and Jamie Krauk had asked to speak with council about the role the board, as well as other city boards and committees, could play as efforts go forward to improve racial equity in the city. One area discussed was sponsoring or facilitating community hearings.

### Greenbelt Station Parkway

The Greenbelt Station South Core includes both private and public streets. Woodlawn Development Group has completed Greenbelt Station Parkway and requested the city to accept it for

city maintenance. Staff inspection confirmed that the work had been completed as planned, with some landscaping to be reviewed in the spring and minor asphalt sealing to be completed when weather permits, conditioned on the posting of a maintenance bond.

### Board Appointment

In what surely will set a record or two, Sudhanshu Sinha, who had served on ACE for 15 years, retired from that committee recently, only to be appointed at tonight's meeting to CRAB.

### State Legislation

Council also discussed support for state legislation, which will be reported separately.



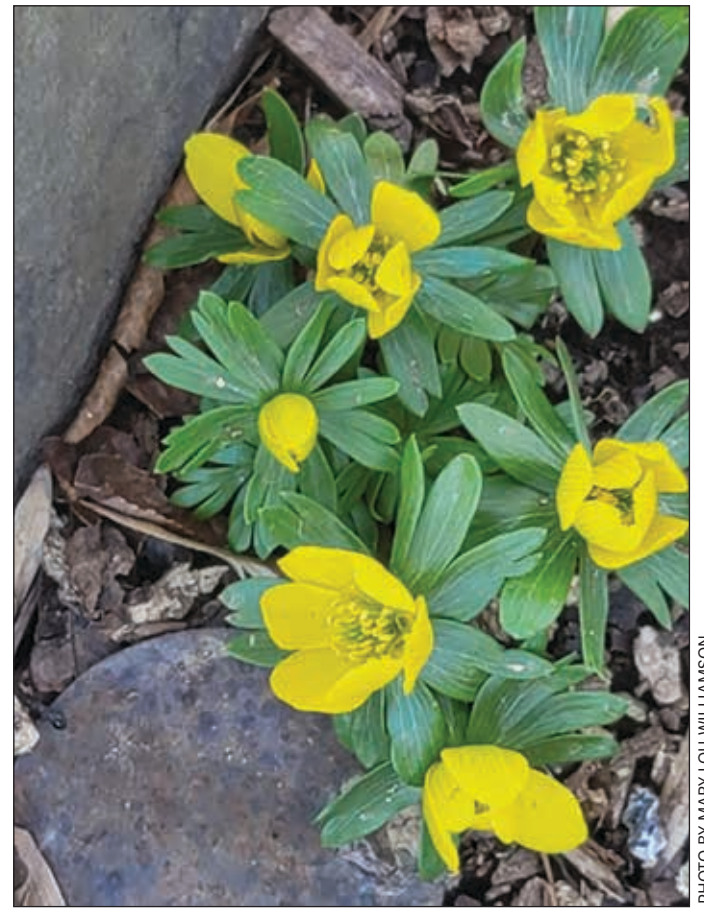
Maeve Waters finds all the hidden elements of an "I spy" set up in a library window. Maeve has also been enjoying the book bundles, curated by librarians in a chosen genre.

PHOTO BY CORITA WATERS

# PARKER continued from page 4

cottage so he moved back after eight months. Duke lived with him there for three years. John eventually sold his house and bought a trailer in Millsboro. Former Greenbelter Neil Smith lived with him there for two years but moved out not long after John broke his hip from a fall. John was living with another roomer when he succumbed to injuries and a variety of health problems.

I knew John in his later years from encounters at various get-togethers and from seeing him around town. We exchanged pleasantries and smiles, but I did not know him more deeply. He was a fellow member of that larger family of youths who grew up in and around old Greenbelt before we were joined by newer and more diverse folks from Greenbelt West and Greenbelt East.



Winter aconite, eranthis in bloom

PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
 Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Shooting

February 18, 6:36 p.m., 7607 Greenbelt Road in Greenway Center. Officers responded to a report of several gunshots being fired outside the CVS pharmacy. No shooters were located. A short time later two men were reported to be at a local hospital, suffering from non-life-threatening gunshot wounds. Surveillance footage revealed that three men with handguns fired into a vehicle leaving the area. They then fled on foot.

### Robbery

February 20, 8:18 p.m., 6301 Breezewood Drive. Two men approached a woman who was sitting in her vehicle and one of them announced a robbery. They took money, earphones and a credit card before they fled in a black vehicle.

February 21, 5:45 p.m., 6100 Greenbelt Road. A 17-year-old nonresident youth was arrested and charged with robbery after officers responded to a report of a robbery in front of Target. A man had arranged over social media to sell designer handbags and agreed to meet the buyer to complete the transaction. They were unable to complete the sale by way of a cash phone app. The buyer then implied he had a handgun and fled with the handbags. He was located at the Greenbelt Metro Station and was positively identified by the seller. The property was recovered and the youth was released to a parent pending action by the Juvenile Justice System.

### Assault

February 22, 12:25 p.m., 7483 Greenbelt Road. An employee at Party City reported that three women entered the store, took merchandise and attempted to leave without paying. The em-

ployee tried to stop them, at which time one of them sprayed pepper spray at him. He was not injured. The three women fled in a gray vehicle driven by a fourth woman.

### Theft

February 19, 5:13 a.m., 9162 Edmonston Road. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

February 20, 12:30 p.m., 7816 Hanover Parkway. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

### Burglary

February 19, 10:28 p.m., 8957 Edmonston Road. The front window of a medical office was broken and the doorknob damaged by tampering. Entry was not gained.

### Vandalism

February 23, 12:56 p.m., 11 Crescent Road. Graffiti was painted on the wall of the pedestrian underpass near the Library.

### Vehicle Crime

Five vehicles stolen from Greenbelt were recovered by Metropolitan Police in Washington, D.C. A 2009 Toyota Camry taken February 19 from 9190 Springhill Lane was recovered the same day in the 2300 block Langston Place, S.E.; a 2012 Dodge Journey SUV taken from 9118 Edmonston Road on February 19 was recovered the same day in 2300 block 33rd Street, N.E., with the key inside; and a 2011 Nissan X-Terra reported stolen January 7 from Cherrywood Terrace and Breezewood Court was recovered February 24 in the 1100 block Bellevue Street, N.E. Also, a 2012 Toyota Highlander taken from 9135 Edmonston Terrace on February 22 was recovered on February 24, unlocked and with the engine running, in

the 5300 block James Place, N.E.

Prince George's County Police recovered two vehicles that were stolen from Greenbelt. A 2002 Lexus ES300 that was reported stolen January 31 from 5925 Cherrywood Terrace was recovered on February 20 in the 6200 block Livingston Road in Oxon Hill and a 2001 Mercedes ML320 reported stolen February 10 from 7700 Hanover Parkway was recovered February 18 in the 5000 block Townsend Way in Bladensburg.

A silver 2015 Kia Sedona van with Maryland tags 7AG5232 was taken from 9190 Springhill Lane on February 19.

A catalytic converter was taken from 6017 Springhill Drive on February 23.

Two Virginia tags JYC6250 were removed from 7511 Greenbelt Road on February 20. A front windshield-wiper shield was cracked at 6235 Springhill Drive, also on February 20.

Officers responded to a report of two men attempting to take tires off a vehicle at 7905 Mandan Road on February 4.

A window at 5833 Cherrywood Terrace was forced down and a blue tooth speaker and video game player were taken.

A purse was removed from a car at 7619 Greenbelt Road, the Greenbelt Exxon Station.

# Catalytic Converter Theft Is an Increasing Problem

A rise in thefts of catalytic converters within the city and neighboring jurisdictions has occurred and police are asking residents to be aware of suspicious activity. The most recent thefts have involved vans and pickup trucks but cars are also vulnerable.

The cost to replace a catalytic converter is on average up to \$2,000, and it is illegal to drive a car without one. Once removed, the gap in the exhaust system makes the car run poorly until it is fixed.

Converters appeal to thieves because they contain platinum, rhodium and palladium and can be sold to junk yards. The rate of catalytic converter theft varies depending on the current prices of the metals inside it. Price increases typically result in an increase in thefts. Thieves look for easy targets when it comes to catalytic converter theft and there are a few simple steps to help make a car or SUV a less likely target.

### Signs

If a catalytic converter is missing, there will be a loud rumbling or roaring sound when the engine is turned on. This gets louder when the gas pedal is pressed. The exhaust will not work properly, so the vehicle will drive rougher than usual, often with a sense of sputtering as speed is changed.

To see if the converter is

missing, go to the back of the car and look underneath. It is a round canister that connects two pieces of piping in the exhaust. There will be a gaping space in the middle of the exhaust if the converter is missing, and you will likely see signs of the piping being cut away.

To decrease the probability of catalytic converter theft, park in well-lit areas when possible. If a personal garage is available, keep your car in it, with the door closed when the vehicle is not in use. Park close to a building entrance or to the nearest access road when using a public lot to take advantage of an increased amount of pedestrian traffic in those areas.

Security devices are available that attach to the converter to make it harder to steal. Welding the converter in place also makes it more difficult to remove. Cars with security systems can be calibrated for vibration to set it off. This ensures the alarm activates if a thief tries to saw off the converter. Video surveillance around a garage or driveway is also useful. A converter with the VIN number on it makes identification easier if it does get stolen.

Greenbelt Police ask for the public's help in providing information about these crimes or persons suspected of being involved. Call 301-474-7200 if you have specific information regarding recent catalytic converter theft.

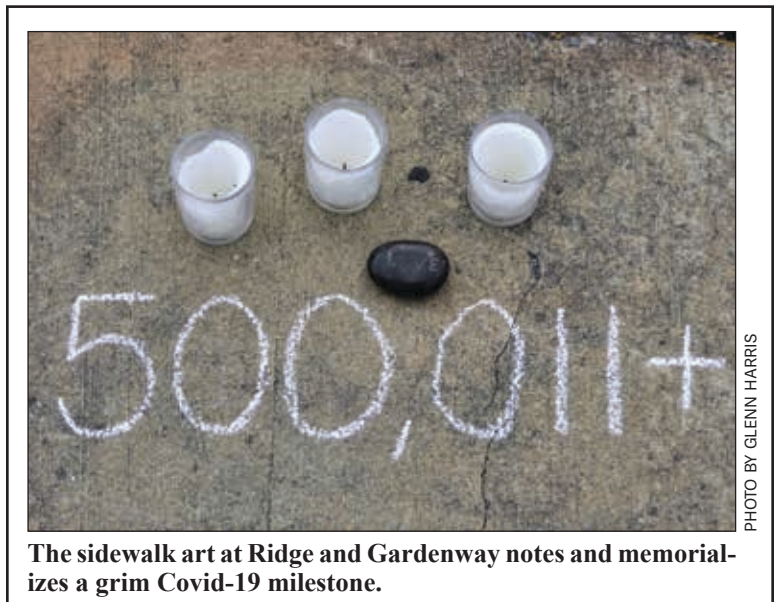
## Mother Tongue Film Festival

The sixth annual Smithsonian Mother Tongue Film Festival is on now and runs into May, celebrating cultural and linguistic diversity by showcasing films and filmmakers from around the world.

The screening series, entirely online, includes a Women Directors Panel on Friday, March 5, at 2 p.m., as well as films, shorts and conversations as the series continues.

For more information, go to [mothertongue.si.edu/](http://mothertongue.si.edu/).

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.  
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The sidewalk art at Ridge and Gardenway notes and memorializes a grim Covid-19 milestone.



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## Public Notice

### NASA Environment Assessment

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental impacts of implementing a new Master Plan for the GSFC Greenbelt Campus. The GSFC Greenbelt Campus Master Plan would be implemented over a 20-year period during which time numerous buildings would be demolished, constructed, and renovated and general infrastructure maintenance and improvement activities would continue throughout the installation. NASA would explore different options for some excess buildings and land areas to include divesting land, divesting buildings, and potential future partnerships with non-NASA entities.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, GSFC invites the public, government agencies, and other interested parties to comment on the findings presented in the GSFC Greenbelt Campus Master Plan Draft EA. The Draft EA is available for review on the internet at: <https://code200-external.gsfc.nasa.gov/250/node/122>.

Please provide comments in writing by April 5, 2021. Comments may be submitted via mail or email, however due to the current situation with COVID19, email is preferred. Submit comments via email to [lizabeth.r.montgomery@nasa.gov](mailto:lizabeth.r.montgomery@nasa.gov) or postal mail to Lizabeth Montgomery, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Code 250, Building 26, Room N250, 8800 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20771.

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From the Archives

# Greenbelt, Shorts and Congress

The Greenbelt News Review has long been convinced that the city ordinance forbidding the wearing of shorts, along with certain other specified garments, in the shopping center is just plain ridiculous. Now a recent ruling by both houses of Congress points up how silly the Greenbelt ordinance is. These august and dignified bodies have ruled that it is permissible for visitors in the galleries to wear shorts. According to the news item, the House of Representatives was at first somewhat doubtful about permitting this but then it discovered that the Senate had quietly permitted the wearing of shorts for weeks without detracting from the dignity of its proceedings.

We don't want to be trite and say what's good enough for Congress is good enough for Greenbelt. However, we feel that if the eyes of our country's leaders are not offended by the sight of adults wearing shorts in the midst of their profound deliberations on the laws of the land, then certainly Greenbelt residents should not recoil in shocked horror at men and women attired in shorts while shopping at the Center.

This newspaper has never advocated the entire repeal of the ordinance, which also forbids the wearing of kimonos, bathing suits, bathrobes and housecoats. Our poll conducted last summer found a majority in favor of

amending the ordinance to permit shorts to be worn. The city council did not feel that the sentiment for this was overwhelming enough to act. Now, however, there is no reason why a referendum on the wearing of shorts at the Center cannot be included on the ballot in the coming city election. This is a fair and democratic way to settle this issue once and for all. It also has the advantage that neither the outgoing or incoming city council will be saddled with this apparently controversial question.

People have been seen wearing shorts at the Center this summer. Most of them probably are newcomers to whom it probably never occurred that this is verboten in Greenbelt. We do not advocate that this ordinance be ignored, and most of us have tried to obey it - even though we think it pointless. Let us continue our proud record of a law-abiding community, but let's get off the books a law that is as archaic as requiring women to wear full-length black stockings when they go swimming in the pool. We formally ask the council to place this question on the ballot - or give us a good reason why it cannot be done.

*This editorial appeared in the August 4, 1955, issue of the Greenbelt News Review (see <https://archive.org/details/GNR1955080401/page/1>).*

## City Notes

Black History Month celebrations over the past few weeks featured the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Gospel Choir, a Belly Dancers of Color Collective class and Desegregating Greenbelt: Family Histories of the Community's First Black Residents, offered by the Museum and the Black History and Culture Committee. Daily Museum posts included segregated baseball teams. Therapeutic Recreation's event management included the Golden Age Club's Black History Month celebration.

Animal Control quickly found a missing dog. Well-Wishers for the Animals of Greenbelt Shelter (WAGS) covered dental work for a cat, one of six shelter residents.

Street Maintenance/Special Details reported and repainted graffiti in the Museum underpass. Horticulture/Parks repaired/replaced tennis court windscreens. Refuse/Recycling collected 22.66 tons of refuse and 10.36 tons of recyclables. Building Maintenance installed mini-lockers at the pool and Fleet Maintenance staff took classes on hybrid motors.

Pool staff filmed video advertisements for lifeguards and preschoolers made pizza. A few onsite recreation classes began March 1. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program hosted a diaper distribution and 35 seniors received Food and Friendship meals.

## Terp Thon Hosts Dance Marathon

Terp Thon, a student-run philanthropy at the University of Maryland, is hosting its 12th Annual 12-hour Dance Marathon on Saturday, March 6 to celebrate its year-long effort raising funds and awareness for Children's National Hospital. The organization strives to unite the UMD campus and community in its effort to Change Kids' Health and Change the Future.

See the campus community virtually celebrate with the patients and their families. The Dance Marathon will be held online at [TerpThon.org](http://TerpThon.org), starting at 10 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m. To learn more about Terp Thon and its Dance Marathon event, visit [TerpThon.org](http://TerpThon.org).



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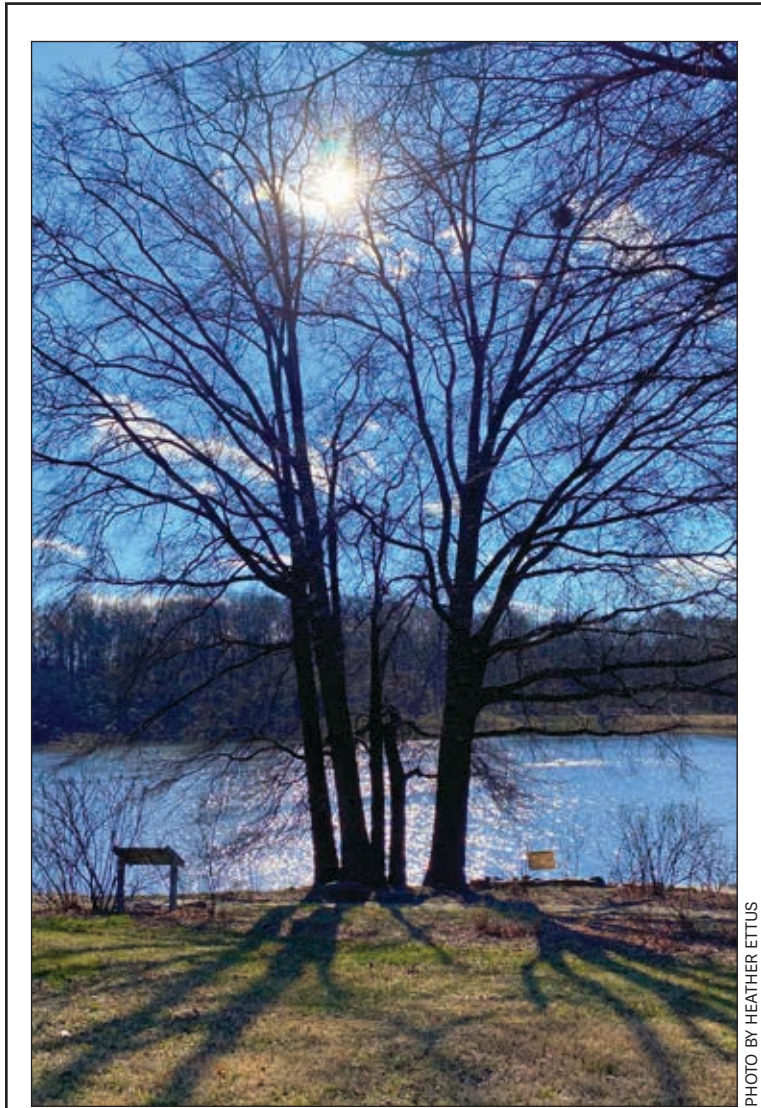
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A bright new January day at the Lake

PHOTO BY HEATHER ETTUS



A great blue heron steps out at twilight on the Lake.

PHOTO BY MARA HEMMINGER

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**Full Attached Inlaw apartment** 5 BR, 4 Bath home with lots of space. Elevator to bedroom level; no stairs! 2 Full kitchens, generator, fireplace & more.  
**Addition With Full Bath Downstairs** 2 BR GHI townhome with large family room/bedroom on main level. Completely remodeled - opened kitchen.

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**Senior Living** 55+ Community 2Br 2Ba condo w/fireplace & more! Remodeled w/new kitchen, modern baths, sunlit enclosed patio, new carpet & paint.

**Cape Cod Home** Investors - priced to sell! 3Br 1 1/2 Bath home with large fenced back yard, dining rm., br & full bath on mn. lev. \$208,900

**Estate Sale** GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands.

**Brick Townhome with Addition** Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

**Large floorplan w/addition** Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br.

**Cape Cod SFH** 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.

**Townhome with 2 additions** 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced back yard, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

**4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome** Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

**Townhome with addition** 2 br townhome w/ front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen, s/s dishwasher, pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

**Charlestowne Village** Single-level 1-br condo in Greenbelt - no stairs! Parquet flooring throughout. Remodeled kit. With s/s appliances. \$149,900

**Addition - Backs to Woodlands** Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Central HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

**Brick Townhome** 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

**Upper Level One Bedroom** GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

**2 BR Townhome** Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900

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# Greenbelt Sprouts Its Own Little Free Seed Library

by Julie Rapp

With spring just around the corner, Greenbelt gardeners can now get free seeds to grow a variety of fruits, vegetables and more. Heather Mortimer, a science communication specialist at Goddard Space Flight Center and a garden enthusiast, told the News Review that, "I decided to give seeds a try during the pandemic. Apparently, I wasn't the only person who was thinking this way because the seed selection in the stores was awful." Noticing the Little Free Seed Libraries that shared books in the neighborhood, Mortimer began to research ways to share seed varieties in a similar fashion and discovered that Little Free Seed Libraries were sprouting up in other parts of the country.

To get her library up and running, Mortimer started with a contactless seed sale, for which she repackaged her excess seeds to sell for a nominal fee and placed them in a box near the sidewalk by her home for neighbors to retrieve and leave their money. Mortimer said that store-bought packs of seeds are "hilariously large for our small GHI yards – I could replace my lawn with one pack of lettuce seeds." She tried to unload extra seeds in the library whenever she could but soon realized that, once you begin to harvest seeds from the plants you grow, "you only need a few pepper seeds for a lifetime supply." The seed sale money went to the purchase of her first seed library structure with signage where people can take seeds for free or leave seeds for others.

Eventually, the library became so popular that Mortimer needed to upgrade her box and she purchased a sturdier structure suitable for storing seeds. Determined to get her new library established despite a back injury, Mortimer, complete with grabber and cane, was finally able to finish installing the new box.

Keeping the seed library stocked has been a challenge, in part because when seeds are borrowed, they are often not exchanged until later, as borrowers must wait for their garden to mature before they harvest seeds to share. Mortimer was also able to secure seed donations from the Girl Scouts and a starter kit with seeds and past season seeds from True Leaf Market of Utah.

As Mortimer explained, "Thanks to them, I should be able to keep the library stocked for the next couple of years until people are able to successfully return seeds. The goal is for the library to eventually be sustained entirely by people collecting seeds from whatever they grow and donating them back to the library."

The library accepts any type of seed, including perennials, annuals, herbs, fruits and vegetables, store bought or harvested. Heirloom seeds are preferred over hybrids. Mortimer asks that borrowers only take what they need. When depositing seeds in the library, donors should label their seeds with some basic information such as the name of the plant, variety, flower color if applicable, year collected and planting instructions.

The Little Seed Library is located at 4 Court Laurel Hill Road, at the end of the parking lot, by the telephone pole. Borrowers should look for a gray, house-shaped mailbox, with a cedar roof and a rain gauge attached.

For Mortimer, starting the seed library was a tangible way to address environmental concerns and food waste. Food is fresher when picked from a garden. By using seeds, instead of purchasing potted seedlings, gardeners will have avoided a trip to the garden store and will not have plastic pots and plastic tags left over. Seeds become more economical, especially once gardeners can start harvesting their own seeds.

Seed exchanges help preserve crop varieties that might be lost if not shared.

Mortimer enjoys talking to neighbors about her garden. Reminiscing, she said, "Everyone wanted to know what the huge vine was: a luffa that grew big and impressive but never produced any squash. And kids loved seeing the monarch caterpillars all over the butterfly milkweed." She added, "Who doesn't love to see a beautiful garden while walking around?" Interested gardeners can learn more by going to The Little Seed Library Facebook page, which offers updates, planting and harvesting tips, and information about gardening resources.



Little Free Seed Library lets gardeners share their bounty.



Luscious red berries are rimed with ice.

# Greenbelt Food and Diaper Distribution Helps Residents

by Brittany N. Gaddy



Margaret Strohecker and Assistant Pastor Suah S. Deddeh of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Greenbelt distribute food from the church parking lot on February 27.

As the Covid-19 pandemic leaves families and communities financially vulnerable, the Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program (GAIL) aims to meet the essential needs of the city's residents.

"In Greenbelt, we recognized many years ago that there were financial disparities that would warrant some additional support as far as food distribution," said Christal Batey, the coordinator and community resource advocate for GAIL.

"I think that the pandemic has sort of amplified the need in the community and added additional faces to our lines that we have never seen before," she said.

As GAIL's coordinator, Batey handles all food distributions that go through the city. Its produce distribution provides registered participants with fresh fruits and vegetables on a monthly basis, and is supplied by the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington, she said. There are also other food distributors that provide food to residents on daily and weekly bases.

Batey said when she first came to Greenbelt, the main food distribution source was through a food pantry that distributed foods once a month, and did not provide fresh fruits and vegetables.

It was imperative to begin to bring those resources to everyone in the community, she said. "We felt that everyone was entitled to fresh fruits and vegetables, not just people that could afford to go to Whole Foods or MOM's Market."

Since the pandemic, she said other organizations have stepped into the arena of food distribution.

In January, Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Greenbelt started its monthly food pantry distribution, said Dawn Felix, its coordinator.

"I see a lot of needs around. Even here in the community there

were several people by the train station who said that they didn't have any food," she noted. "I said, you know . . . we can do something about this."

According to Felix, anyone is welcome to register for the distribution.

"We may not be able to help everyone, but we'll be able to help some," she said. "And that's our mission as a church in terms of going out and spreading the gospel and also feeding the hungry."

In addition to food, the GAIL program distributes diapers monthly, which are supplied by Greater DC Diaper Bank and other donors, to Greenbelt parents in need, said Katherine Farzin, the bilingual community outreach coordinator for GAIL.

To operate during the pandemic, Farzin said, the Greenbelt Nursery Program was reformatted to be an emergency diaper distribution program. And according to her, the need for baby items has increased.

Before the pandemic, the nursery program worked with two to three university nursing schools to provide baby health and milestone assessments, as well as baby items, to parents during at-home visits, she said.

Despite this transition from providing families with diapers every other week to once a month, Farzin said she thinks families are grateful. "[They're] just so appreciative of whatever we can give them to support their child during this time," Farzin said. "Because in any other scope, they're just unable to do so with the income that they're earning now because of reduced hours or they've . . . lost their job."

Brittany N. Gaddy is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the Greenbelt News Review.

## Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

