



Vatican Apologizes, p.8



Reel and Meal, p.11

From the Archives

## In December 1941 Greenbelt Got Ready for Christmas ... and War

by Deanna Dawson



PHOTO BY ARTHUR ROTHEIN, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Greenbelt residents select a Christmas tree for purchase at the Co-op food store in December 1941. The town administration had issued an order against the cutting of Christmas trees, holly or other greenery in the woods around Greenbelt.

Eighty years ago, Greenbelters were preparing for Christmas when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II. The holiday festivities went ahead as planned, but preparations were also stepped up to make Green-

belt ready in the event of an attack on the U.S.

### Initial Preparations

The town had already started to make preparations before the Pearl Harbor attack. A local Defense Council had formed in the summer of 1941 and made a

plan for coordinated action for Greenbelt. The October 24, 1941, Greenbelt Cooperator reported that the various committees were ready to sign up volunteers. George Panagoulis, Greenbelt's police chief and public safety director, announced that volunteer firemen would be enlisted immediately for training. Mrs. S.H. Downs reported that first-aid classes had already started and a nursing class was being organized. Dr. James McCarl was organizing an emergency messenger group, which the Girl Scouts had already volunteered for (boys age 10 and up were later recruited). Abe Chasanow, in charge of firearms, reportedly was checking to see if more rifles could be acquired for training volunteers how to shoot. And Thomas Ricker said that his motor unit committee

See DECEMBER 1941, page 12

## A Ride-along with Santa Brings A New View of the Community

by Kyla Hanington



PHOTO BY DANIEL R. HAMLIN

Santa greets Franklin Park residents on Sunday, December 12.

I've wondered occasionally if the day will come when I would reflect upon my life and see it as complete. Perhaps one day I'd look and see that I'd raised my children well, been a kind friend, a community volunteer, that my existence had been put

to good use. I imagined one day I would look back on my life and conclude, "Yes. It has all been accomplished now." Perhaps that day would come in my 80s.

I did not imagine that day would arrive so quickly, when I See RIDE-ALONG, page 6

## Utopia Film Festival Has Another Successful Year

by Frank Gervasi

The 17th annual Utopia Film Festival took place here in Greenbelt town center on Saturday, November 20 through Monday, November 22. All 35 movies, with discussions afterward, screened at the Old Greenbelt Theatre or at the New Deal Café.

With in-person venues shuttered last year due to the pandemic, a shortened six-film festival was mounted entirely on Zoom. All were very good films, but many more had to be omitted when we reluctantly had to cancel the live show.

This year, with fingers crossed, the committee of dedicated volunteers began tentatively in March the process of

assembling the festival, with scheduling beginning in May. In the weeks that followed we advertised, received and evaluated 76 films from 22 different countries. In typical years, we have received more than double that number.

Every year our enthusiasm builds around the excellent films we feel privileged to show. This year our hope was that the festival would not have to be shut down again due to Covid-19 and that people would feel comfortable coming out to see the films in person.

The venues for screening the movies were the Old Greenbelt See UTOPIA, page 12

## Police Discuss Recent Spike In Violent Crimes, Offer Tips

by Matthew Arbach

Members of the Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) held a community forum on December 1 at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center to disseminate information on the recent spike in carjackings, robberies and violent incidents. Present were Chief Richard Bowers, Captain and Patrol Division Commander Jermaine Gullidge and Captain and Administrative Services Division Commander Tim White. Tips on how to prevent oneself from becoming a victim were shared as well as the imperative to report

any suspicious activity, no matter how minor, as it may help solve a case or avert a crime from occurring. As the police can't be everywhere at once, residents provide the eyes and ears of the community.

To date, there have been 20 carjackings (compared to three last year) and 63 robberies (compared to 51 last year). These have occurred throughout the city.

While it wasn't possible to share exact details on the police response, as to not divulge the See POLICE, page 9

### What Goes On

- Monday, December 20 8 p.m.,** City Council Work-session: ARPA Engagement Plan
- Wednesday, December 22 8 p.m.,** City Council Work-session: Pre-Budget Meeting (Council and Manager Priorities)

All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



PHOTO BY LIZ MURRAY

Izzy Murray paints a sign for the Winter Wonderland. See story page 4.

# Letters to the Editor

## With the Best Of Intentions

I was most pleased, during this season of dining excesses, to see the article, Eating Healthy Foods Leads to Healthier Bodies, Earth (page 7 of November 25 News Review).

This article pulls together resources, including recipes, whereby one could feasibly protect both health and Earth. The dozen or so persons attending Geraldine Adams' local Food for Life nutrition and cooking class to control diabetes, watched a video by Neal Barnard, MD, president of Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM). I have been aware of their conspicuously responsible work for decades. Kudos to CHEARS for getting PCRM introduced to this class and to News Review readers.

As for the part about a healthier Earth, I can see that it is taking a few decades for us to get used to the idea that if we will shift our diets more toward plant-based, we will indeed have more food available to feed ourselves in the 2040s and beyond.

Because of this realization, I now would rather feed humans than cattle, though I did feed cattle, in the 1950s in my teens when I worked on dairy and beef farms. For me that included spreading on the nearby fields many tons of manure and urine left by the cattle. But, on today's giant beef farms this spreading results in far too much waste per nearby acre and hence high levels of polluting run-off.

A note for you militant vegans out there: It appears to me that your attempts to make the New Deal Café 100 percent vegan nearly terminated it. I believe that when a venue has been in a long-term struggle for its very

survival, it should be serving food more representative of the desires of the local population.

Bill Norwood

## Friendly Yards For Wildlife

I was excited to read the article "Leave the Leaves to Protect Wintering Pollinator Insects" in last week's News Review (page 4). I have been leaving the leaves in my yard for several years since learning about the benefits of this practice which are more moths, butterflies, bees and other insects and wildlife.

Pollinators and all wildlife are in need of our help. All of us can have a pollinator and wildlife friendly yard and garden. We can create a place where bees, butterflies, birds, turtles, frogs and other wildlife can thrive. One of my favorite books on this subject is The Humane Gardener by master naturalist Nancy Lawson. In her book she notes that the Luna Moth, American Toads, American Bumblebees, Meadow Fritillary and Silvery Checkerspot Butterflies will have the best chance to live if we allow fallen leaves to remain untouched. There is a lot going on underneath those leaves. Lawson explains, "You can have all the native plants you want, but you won't have nearly as many wild visitors unless you also leave the leaves." Check out her amazing website at humanegardener.com to learn more about her work to help wildlife.

Donna Almquist

## More on Leaving The Leaves

Thanks to GreenACES Pollinator Team for encouraging us to allow our fallen leaves to remain

in place in our yards, so that we don't destroy helpful insects, their larvae, etc., that play essential roles in our ecosystems (December 9 News Review). Great advice. But some folks who want a leaf-free lawn, anyway, might now think that continuing to dump their raked leaves onto a neighborhood woodlot, adding to the leaves that have already fallen there naturally, is okay, because the leaves are "good for insects." Great big piles or banks of raked leaves can keep birds and other wildlife that feed on organisms in the soil from reaching their food, especially if the piles become

See LETTERS, page 7

## Holiday Deadlines

Since both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Saturday this year, there will be no change to the News Review deadlines for the holidays.



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

### SHOWTIMES

#### December 17th - 20th

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination OR negative PCR test (within 72 hours)

AND matching photo ID required for admission.

For more information call (301) 329-2034 or visit greenbelttheatre.org

BELFAST (PG-13) (CC) (DVS) (2021) (97 MINS)

FRI. 5:00 PM  
SAT. 5:00 PM  
SUN. 2:15 PM (OC)  
MON. 5:00 PM

SPENCER (R) (CC) (DVS) (2021) (111 MINS)

FRI. 7:30 PM  
SAT. 7:30 PM  
MON. 2:00 PM

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE (PG) (1946) (135 MINS)

Reel Magic of the Holidays free screening!

Register at greenbelttheatre.org

SUN. 11:00 AM

## PETE REPPERT



HE KNOWS.

## 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

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 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.

## On Screen

This Week at Old Greenbelt Theatre

### Belfast

Written and directed by Academy Award nominee Kenneth Branagh, Belfast is the humorous, tender and intensely personal story of one boy's childhood during the tumult of the late 1960s in the Northern Ireland city of Branagh's birth.

Belfast is a movie straight from Branagh's own experience. A 9-year-old boy must chart a path toward adulthood through a world that has suddenly turned upside down. His stable and loving community and everything he thought he understood about life is changed forever but joy, laughter, music and the formative magic of the movies remain. Starring Catriona Balfe, Judi Dench, Jamie Dornan, Ciaran Hinds and Jude Hill.

Rated PG-13, running time 97 minutes.

### Spencer

The marriage of Princess Diana and Prince Charles has long since grown cold. Though rumors of affairs and a divorce abound, peace is ordained for the Christmas festivities at the Queen's Sandringham Estate. There's eating and drinking, shooting and hunting. Diana knows the game. But this year, things will be profoundly different. Spencer is an imagining of what might have happened during those few fateful days. Starring Kristen Stewart, Jack Farthing, Sally Hawkins, Timothy Spall and Sean Harris.

Rated R, running time, 111 minutes.

### It's a Wonderful Life

In this 1946 film classic directed by Frank Capra, George Bailey has so many problems he is thinking about ending it all - and it's Christmas! As the angels discuss George, we see his life in flashback. As George is about to jump from a bridge, he ends up rescuing his guardian angel, Clarence - who then shows George what his town would have looked like if it hadn't been for all his good deeds over the years.

Rated PG, running time 135 minutes.

# Community Events

## Call for Artists

The New Deal Café is looking for artists to participate in a group art show titled New Scene, an exploration of abstract and mixed-media art. The show will be on view during January and February in the Café. Send submissions to [Artshows@freartforall.org](mailto:Artshows@freartforall.org) by Saturday, December 25 for consideration. There is no limit on the number of submissions.

## Winter Session Rec Activity Guide

Greenbelt Recreation has published its 2022 Winter Activity Guide. View the guide by going to [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) and clicking on Recreation Classes. The guide includes information about the winter session classes offered by Greenbelt Recreation, along with a variety of free activities including art activities and gallery shows, Black History Month events and the annual Winter Lights Festival. Registration for Greenbelt residents began on November 29 and for nonresidents on Monday, December 6.

## City Offers Rent, Utility Assistance

Through CARES, those who live within the city limits of Greenbelt are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 per household from the American Rescue Plan Act federal funds for emergency rental assistance. Applicants must show financial hardship due to Covid-19. Previous recipients of rental or utility assistance funds can apply but the previous balances count toward the total grant award allowed.

Email [Cares@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:Cares@greenbeltmd.gov) or call 301-345-6660 to receive an application.

## Tales and Traditions

Tales and Traditions, scheduled for Sunday, December 19 from 2 to 3:30 p.m., has been canceled. This event was sponsored by Connecting Across Greenbelt, a local group dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all residents of Greenbelt. They will be organizing other events in the new year. For more information about the group and its activities, visit their website at [connectingacrossgreenbelt.org](http://connectingacrossgreenbelt.org).

## Shop With a Cop

The Greenbelt Fraternal Order of Police Shop with a Cop will take place Saturday, December 18 at the Target Store located in Beltway Plaza.

This program partners needy children from the community with Greenbelt police officers, allowing the children to purchase Christmas presents for themselves and family members. Each child is allotted a budget of \$100 and is accompanied by Greenbelt police officers to make their purchases. The children are then brought to a present wrapping party where they can enjoy lunch while they wrap their gifts. The children are selected to participate through nominations by their elementary school.

The program is funded through corporate sponsorship and community donations. Donations to fund this program are accepted by mail at: Greenbelt FOP, PO Box 94, Greenbelt, MD 20768 or by dropping them at the police station in an envelope marked Greenbelt FOP/Shop with a Cop. For further information, contact Shamise Hawkins-Graham at 240-542-2138 or at [Shawkins-graham@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:Shawkins-graham@greenbeltmd.gov).

## GAC Seeks Proposals For Reopening

Greenbelt Arts Center is looking for plays or other activities to put on as they reopen the theater. They are seeking creative ways to do productions within the restrictions due to Covid-19.

Among the options they would consider are: outdoor productions, productions live-streamed from the theater to an internet audience, small-cast productions, hybrid productions in the theater with both a live and online audience, music performances, play readings, non-theatrical productions, low-cost shows and fully virtual performances.

Auditions, rehearsals and performances will be subject to GAC's Covid-19 policy, which could change. Currently, as mandated by Prince George's County, the policy requires actors and other participants to wear masks at all times while in the theater. Proposals should address the need to obtain rights for the use of copyrighted material, and estimate other costs. The production does not necessarily need to make money, but low-cost shows or shows that are in the public domain allow the greatest flexibility in production.

Directors with works showcasing themes of social justice, or diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, are strongly encouraged to submit.

Proposals should include a description of the production, addressing how it will fit within the Covid-19 rules; a brief summary of the script, if appropriate, as well as a link to an electronic copy; estimated costs associated with the production, including rights; and a timeline for production, including proposed performance dates.

For more information and to submit proposals, contact Pamela Northrup, VP of Programs, at [programs@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:programs@greenbeltartscenter.org).

## Porch Food Collection

Porch Greenbelt Food Collection (PGFC) is continuing to collect food in December. The collection schedule is as follows: between 9 and 10 a.m. on Saturday, December 18 for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill, and between 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 19 for all of Boxwood Village.

Place donations in a box or bag labelled PORCH or RUAK on the front porch or other location that can be easily seen from the street by the volunteers who collect the donations. Make sure to check the expiration dates on all food items.

Volunteers who want to expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt are welcome. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer or starting a new neighborhood for monthly food collection with Porch Greenbelt, contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com).

## Give or Get Hats, Gloves and Scarves

Realty 1 is collecting and distributing hats, gloves and scarves. Anyone can give to or receive from Working Together to Keep Greenbelt Warm. Contact Linda Ivy at 301-675-0585 to donate or receive warm hats, gloves or scarves.

## GIVES Quarterly Membership Meeting

GIVES (Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service) will hold its quarterly membership meeting on Saturday, December 18 from 10 to 11 a.m. via Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent to all registered members a few days prior to the meeting.

At the meeting, participants will share the ways in which GIVES is modernizing by going digital. In this past year, GIVES has been given access to an online service scheduling program funded by a federal grant under the auspices of the Jewish Council on Aging of Montgomery County. The meeting agenda will include a showing of the new GIVES website, which can host an online membership application, members only section and easy e-news for communicating with members.

Anyone not a member of GIVES who wants to attend this meeting can email [givesoffice@gmail.com](mailto:givesoffice@gmail.com) with a request by Thursday, December 16 to receive a Zoom link.

## Donate Sneakers For People in Need

The Board of Congregational Life at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment. They will send the sneakers to countries where the poor often go barefoot out of necessity. For more information about GotSneakers, go to their website at [GotSneakers.com](http://GotSneakers.com).

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time. GotSneakers will pay GCC a varying amount for name-brand and off-brand laced-up sneakers with no tears inside or outside. The company even pays for cleaning and shipping – all GCC does is collect sneakers.

## Old Time Radio Show Online at GAC

Greenbelt Arts Center presents Old Time Radio Shows featuring seasonal themes, available for free online viewing from Thursday, December 16 at [greenbeltartscenter.org](http://greenbeltartscenter.org). The three shows are Jack Frost, Fibber Snoops for Presents in the Closet, and Miracle for Christmas.

## Library Hosts Clinic, Rapid Test Kits

In conjunction with the County Health Department, the Greenbelt Library will host a second-dose Covid-19 vaccination clinic on Saturday, December 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pfizer vaccines will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, with no appointments required, for residents age 5 and up, including booster doses for eligible adults.

Free Rapid Test Kits are available while supplies last. Call 240-455-5451 or email [askalibrarian@pgmls.info](mailto:askalibrarian@pgmls.info) with questions.

## Local Blood Drives In January, February

As a result of low blood donor turnout in recent months, the Red Cross is heading into the holidays with its lowest blood supply in more than a decade.

To help, American Legion Post 136 is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, January 3. The Recreation Department is holding blood drives on Fridays, January 14 and February 11. Multiple appointment times are available at each drive, but they fill up fast and walk-ins are not permitted.

Find the drives and sign up at [redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive). Search zip code 20770 under Find a Drive.



## Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 23 issue.



PHOTO BY CAITLYN MCGILLEN

Holiday lights sparkle on Westway.

### Greenbelt Access Television

**Dec 17, Fri – Dec 23, Thu**

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
(School Programming on Your Cable Guide)  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	NEW • Utopia Film Festival 2021	Music Docs: RJohnson • MConn • JThorp
11am	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Robert Goddard v Thomas Johnson
2pm	Music at the New Deal	Open Mic • with Host Tom Gleason
3pm	NEW • Utopia Film Festival 2021	Music Docs: RJohnson • MConn • JThorp
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl	Robert Goddard v Thomas Johnson
6pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	NEW • Utopia Film Festival 2021	Music Docs: RJohnson • MConn • JThorp
10pm	Music at the New Deal	Open Mic • with Host Tom Gleason
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt Newsreel	Holiday Programming

Connect with GATE [f](#) [y](#) [i](#) [o](#) [t](#) [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

# Obituaries

## Mary Chapman



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

### Mary X. Chapman

Mary Xakellis Chapman, a longtime resident of 6 Court Ridge Road, died from progressive heart failure at the age of 88 on Monday, December 6, 2021. Born in Lancaster, Pa., she grew up in a Lancaster-based, Greek immigrant family, all of whom worked at times in their family-owned restaurant. It will surprise no one who knew Mary, however, that she also had a passion for reading and learning about the world around her. She received her bachelor's degree from Millersville University and then took up a career as a math teacher in the Prince George's County schools.

In 1954, Mary started her family with her first husband, Peter Serlemitsos. Subsequent to a divorce, she married the now-late Thomas Chapman, with whom she lived many happy years in Greenbelt.

Mary was a devoted teacher, and she eventually received a master's degree. Both in and out of the classroom, she worked to help her students. She was always actively involved with her children and grandchildren and played a key role in their upbringing and development.

She was also actively involved in the Greenbelt community and always maintained her interest in city affairs. For years the city

council appointed her to a committee that was then called the Recycling and Environmental Advisory Committee. And from nearly its inception she served as the secretary to the Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES).

Mary was preceded in death by her brother, George Xakellis. She is survived by two children, John Serlemitsos and Louann Day; her sister Dolores; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life and a funeral service were held earlier this week. Contributions in Mary's memory may be made to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Membership Dept., 6 Herndon Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403 or to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, P.O. Box 49104, Baltimore, MD 21297.

## Mowatt UMC Invites All on Christmas Eve

All are welcome at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church for an old-fashioned Christmas Eve celebration. With traditional candlelight, there will be a children's sermon, carol singing and a Christmas story reading. A short "gathering" is planned that will elicit fond memories and bring participants back to their faith ... that Jesus is the reason for the season. Join in on Friday, December 24, beginning at 5 p.m. Masks will be required and safe social distancing practiced.

# BSA Venture Crew 746 Hosts Winter Wonderland Saturday

by Ilona Horchler

Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Venturing Crew 746 are hosting a Winter Wonderland on Saturday, December 18 from 5 to 9 p.m. at Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church, 40 Ridge Road. The event will include live music and singing, twinkling lights, a story-telling elf, an interactive nativity, a magical guided walk through the woods and a display of different ways people of different traditions and religions celebrate. Santa and the Greenbelt Fire Department's antique fire truck will be there, weather permitting, and there will be fire pits and hot chocolate to warm up after the walk.

The planning and preparation for the event have been done by Venture Crew members with adult advisors helping. Crew members cleared and laid fresh mulch on the trail behind the church on Sunday. Greenbelt Public Works delivered the mulch for the crew, and many friends and neighbors came to help.

This outdoor celebration is the first community event and fundraiser sponsored

by the new Venture Crew and proceeds will be used to support outdoor adventures and leadership opportunities for crew members. There is a recommended donation for individuals and a family of four. Venturing is an inclusive program through the BSA for males and females aged 14 to 21 (or 13 and completed the 8th grade).

For more information about the Winter Wonderland or about joining the crew, email [venturecrew746@gmail.com](mailto:venturecrew746@gmail.com).



Our condolences to the family and friends of Mary Chapman, longtime Greenbelt resident who was active with the earliest city recycling committee and with GIVES.

Congratulations to Delegate Alonzo Washington and his partner Rohey Washington on their December 5 nuptials.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).



Venture Crew members clear and lay fresh mulch.

PHOTO BY LIZ MURRAY

  
**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)

**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  
**Reverend Rivera, Pastor**  
**In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.**  
**Christmas Eve Service. 5 pm**

"The world of humanity has two wings—one is women and the other men. Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible."  
 — 'Abdu'l-Bahá  
  
**Greenbelt Bahá'í Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

The Bible Says...  
 She will bear a Son;  
 and you shall call His name Jesus,  
 for He will save His people from their sins."  
 Matthew 1:21  
  
**IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services**  
 10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
**MCFcc.org**

**Greenbelt Community Church UCC**  
 Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.  
**This Sunday's Sermon on Facebook Live at 10:15**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent Mary's Blessedness**  
[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://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  
 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

**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  
**December 19 10 a.m.**  
**Welcome Yule!**  
 Abi Hanley, Eldritch, Penny Hughes with Worship Associate Polly Pettit  
 We explore ancient and modern ways of celebrating this time when we stand on the cusp between day and night.  
 And, as always, if you have a joy or sorrow that you would like shared aloud during this service, please email it to [joys-sorrows@pbuuc.org](mailto:joys-sorrows@pbuuc.org) by noon on Friday.

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed  
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am  
 Sunday School 9:15am  
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm  
 101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**Celebrate CHRISTMAS**  
**December 24**  
 five o'clock in the evening  
 eleven o'clock at night  
 livestreamed on Facebook  
**December 25**  
 eight o'clock in the morning  
 eleven o'clock in the morning  
**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
 135 CRESCENT ROAD  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)  
*O come let us adore him!*

**At the Library**

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

**Covid-19 Test Kits**

Covid-19 test kits are available at all Prince George's County libraries while supplies last. These tests are Abbott BinaxNOW AG At-Home Covid-19 Test Kits (two tests per kit). The supply at each location is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Customers are asked to limit themselves to one kit per person so that the supply can serve as many Prince Georgians as possible. The kits will be replenished on a weekly basis as supplies allow through the state of Maryland's program.

**Library@The SPACE**

Suggested Library programs for viewing on the laptops while visiting The SPACE are: Café a las Cuatro, Kids Achieve Club, English Conversation Club and Crafternoons. Suggested services to access on Library laptops include: Mango Languages; Brainfuse JobNow; Brainfuse HelpNow, which offers live tutoring to students; and Spanish-language resources for children, such as Lectorum by Make Make. All resources are free with a library card, and The SPACE continues to offer free WiFi as part of a generous ongoing grant from an outside partner. In-person indoor programming will eventually be offered at The SPACE when Covid-19 conditions permit. Future programs will include monthly bilingual storytime sessions, STEM programs for kids and wellness programs for families.

**Library Services**

The Library offers unlimited browsing, computers for extendable one-hour sessions with no appointment needed, printing/scanning self-service, self-check-out, staff assistance at the circulation and information desks, book drop for returning items, free study rooms (five small, one group) available for two-hour sessions per day and meeting room reservations for a fee.

The Library also has passport services, on an appointment basis. Applicants must schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgmls.info/passport-services.

**Safety Measures**

PGCMLS continues to require face masks and physical distancing at its facilities until further notice, regardless of vaccination status. These additional library safety measures are available: plexiglass shields at service desks, hand sanitizer dispensers and single-use keyboard and mouse covers.



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www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com



**Send Holiday Greetings**  
The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 23 issue.



# 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.

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 20-24**

Monday, December 20 at 8 pm, **WORK SESSION – ARPA ENGAGEMENT PLAN SESSION**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and streaming on our website at [greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Wednesday, December 22 at 8 pm, **WORK SESSION – PRE-BUDGET MEETING (COUNCIL AND MANAGER PRIORITIES)**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and streaming on our website at [greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

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

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

City Offices will be closed Friday, December 24, and Friday, December 31, in observance of the Christmas and New Year's Holidays.

**REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE**

Week of December 20 and December 27  
Monday Route – no change  
Tuesday Route – no change  
Wednesday Route – no change  
Thursday Route – no change  
**There will be no appliance, metals, hard plastics, nor yard waste collections on Friday, December 24, and Friday, December 31.**

**GREENBELT CONNECTION**

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Friday, December 24, and Friday, December 31.

**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
- Park & Recreation Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301-474-8000

**GRAB & GO HOLIDAY SEASON SENIOR MEALS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM**  
Green Ridge House  
22 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

One box of frozen pre-packaged holiday meal items  
Holiday Meal includes: 3 holiday dinner meals and a dessert

**REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY!**  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY DECEMBER 17

Please return your forms to:  
Katherine Farzin: (240) 542-2019 or [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov)

For Green Ridge House Residents Only, Contact:  
Flora Li: (301) 412-2480 or [flil@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:flil@greenbeltmd.gov)



**Greenbelt American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund Assistance Update:**  
(as of 12/13/21)

**Rent and Utility Assistance:**  
136 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$431,661.76

**Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance:** 2 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$5,519.56

**Electronics, Styrofoam & Paint Recycling**

**Saturday, January 22, 2022 9 AM - 12 NOON**

Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent

NO Alkaline Batteries  
NO Tube TVs

\$5 per paint container

Questions? Call 301-474-8004

**FISCAL YEAR 2023 RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS & RECOGNITION GROUP POLICY AND INFORMATION GUIDE**

Available Online at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov)

For more information, call 240-542-2196 or email [cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov)

**GREENBELT JURIED ART AND CRAFT FAIR**

Shop online:  
Now thru December 19

Housewares, clothing and accessories, books, toys and more!

Direct from local makers!

[www.greenbeltmd.gov/craft](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/craft)



**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

**GOOD SAMARITAN FUND:** This fund provides financial assistance to Greenbelt residents facing food insecurity and financial difficulty in paying for utilities (Electric, Phone, Internet, Water and Gas).. This program receives funding from generous individuals, as well as Greenbelt faith communities and other civic associations. During the Coronavirus Pandemic, the Good Samaritan Fund is collecting monies to support the St. Hugh's Food Pantry and residents struggling to pay their utility bills.

**EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND:** Established to accept and disburse donations received to assist Greenbelt residents to pay rent to avoid possible eviction. Approximately a dozen individuals receive assistance from these funds each fiscal year.

**GREENBELT RECREATION:** Greenbelt Recreation receives contributions from various sources. The monetary donations are used to support camp scholarships, special events and other designated programs as specified by the donor. Monies are transferred to the General Fund to offset the program as appropriate.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION:** Contributions are made to the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). These monies fund ACE initiatives such as its scholarship fund.

**NOW YOU MAY DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/DONATIONS**

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



Does your pre-school aged child enjoy helping you cook, like exploring, and love to learn? Then check out Greenbelt Recreation's pre-school programs **Mom's Morning Out** and **Pre-School Enrichment and Fun**.

Mom's Morning Out is a licensed traditional pre-school program that focuses on social development, fine and gross motor skills, listening, and following instructions. The Pre-School Enrichment and Fun program focuses on group games, sports skills, cooking classes, nature walks, science experiments, and much more. Both programs have a heavy emphasis on learning in a fun way! We offer pre-school programs Monday through Friday at the Youth Center. Financial aid is available for eligible Greenbelt residents.

For more information, visit our Virtual Recreation Center online at [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) or give us a call at 301-397-2200.

**DECEMBER FREE HOLIDAY FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION**

Monday, December 20  
1 - 4 PM

Springhill Lake Recreation Center, Greenbelt, MD

Registration due Monday, December 6, 5:00pm

Register at <https://forms.gle/mbVFwZXbX9yvP1Kc6> or call 240-542-2033

**GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT**

Starts on Wednesday, January 12

**Free services offered:**

Diapers, formula, baby accessories monthly; baby wellness nursing assessment; baby milestone progress review; information/resource linkage; healthy eating education

This program is available to:  
Families living in the city limits of Greenbelt  
Children ages newborn to 3 years old  
Children who wear diapers or pull-ups

To register, call 240-542-2019 or email [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov)

**GIVE THE GIFT OF FUN!**

Classes for children and adults!  
Fitness, Art, Swimming, Dance, Yoga, Ceramics, & More...

Check out our Winter 2022 Activity Guide for gift ideas or call Greenbelt Recreation at 301-397-2200

[greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)

**WINTER 2022 ACTIVITY GUIDE**

Now Available Online

Register at <https://bit.ly/3o6r0A1>

Classes begin the week of January 3, 2022



# RIDE-ALONG continued from page 1

was only 48, and that it would be on a Sunday afternoon in the back of a fire truck, yet here we are. An actual transcript of the phone call that led to this moment follows.

Greenbelt News Review (GNR): Hi Kyla. Question. Santa will be riding around town on a fire truck-

Kyla: YES!

GNR: How about we write to the fire department and see if you can -

Kyla: I'll sign a waiver! I'll sign away my life! I'll sign away my kids!

And so it came to pass that on Sunday afternoon I sat in the back of a Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) fire engine as it drove Santa around Franklin Park. Did I start to cry a little bit when they turned the sirens on?

Yes.

All that 5-year-old Kyla ever wanted was to be on a fire truck. Or to be with Santa. Or to hear sirens. But to be on a fire truck, with sirens on, with SANTA CLAUS? It was more than 5-year-old Kyla could take, never mind that 5-year-old Kyla is now housed in 48-year-old Kyla's body.

It wasn't until Sunday afternoon I realized the truth of my life, that it was not that my life goals were to do with generous friendship, parenting or volunteering. Rather, my life goals were to be in a fire truck with the lights and sirens on HANGING OUT WITH SANTA. Santa, on the other hand, maintained his focus on the greater good, spreading cheer around Greenbelt.

With help from the GVFD and the Greenbelt Police Department who escorted him, Santa made an extensive tour of the Franklin Park neighborhood before stopping for photos with community members in front of the leasing office. GVFD member Lisa Hegwood explained that because the Franklin Park complex is a "first do" for the Berwyn Heights Fire Department, historically Berwyn Heights has brought Santa to Franklin Park. Beginning last year, however, GVFD expanded their Santa Run to include Franklin Park at the request of Master Police Officer Sharnise Hawkins, the police department community liaison officer assigned to Frank-

lin Park. Because of the pandemic, last year GVFD offered drive-thru photos with Santa, a way to safely engage the community. They intend to continue providing the opportunity in different locations throughout the city going forward. This year, photos with Santa happened at Franklin Park, and next year they'll be held in an area yet to be determined.

Since I have lived in Greenbelt, I have looked forward to the Santa Run. I am out there on my porch waving just as mightily as any small child, hoping Santa will turn his attention, his wave, onto me. But having now sat in the fire truck, let me tell you a secret.

It is even better from the fire truck.

From my porch, I see Santa, maybe a helper or two. I see a handful of children and their parents - the ones I can see from my home as they line the street for their chance to wave. But from the fire truck? From the fire truck I could see all of you. I could see children running to the edge of the curb, faces alight with joy. I saw a woman holding her puppy up to see Santa. I saw the attendees of a baby shower - mother-to-be included - stream out of a building, laughing, waving, taking photos. I saw three young girls dancing. I saw more children and bounding dogs than I could count. I saw drivers grin and wave. As a person inside the fire truck, I was awash with joy. The joy of community. The joy of neighbors. The joy of playfulness. Joy, it turns out, is contagious.

So from this lucky fire engine passenger, thank you. Thank you to Santa and his helpers, GVFD members including Hegwood and Silas Fishburne, the police department's MPOs Hawkins, Yomayra Rodriguez, Carl Roberston and Rakibur Rahman, and more. Thank you for

spreading joy throughout the community. And thank you to the good people of Franklin Park for your joy, your engagement, your presence, yourselves.

Joy is no small thing.

Thank you for sharing it.

It appears I have completed all of my life goals. Now there is little left to do but sit around eating cookies and watching Hallmark movies until I die. Feel free to come over and watch some with me.

But if you are inspired to be like Santa and make a difference in your community, the GVFD is always looking for volunteers. Call 301-345-7000, check out their website at engine35.com or email recruitment@engine35.com for more information.

Wondering when you can see Santa next? The Santa Run continues at 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 23 in the Greenbriar, Windsor Green and Greenbelt Lake Village areas of town, while on Friday, December 24 Santa will be traveling through the Old Town, Lakewood, University Square, Boxwood and Lakeside North neighborhoods. You can follow Santa's progress on your phone those evenings at glympse.com!/GVFDSANTA.



Kyla poses with Santa and the fire truck.

PHOTO BY DANIEL R. HAMLIN



Children dance and wave as the Santa procession moves slowly through Franklin Park.



Ryen, Ariela and Alya Polanco pose with Santa at Franklin Park.

- Photos by Amy Hansen

**Triple T Dog Walking LLC**  
(Insured and Ready to Walk)

Hey, I'm Tyler and I love DOGS! We all know life has been different lately, but dogs still deserve the best that we can give them. With more than 3 years of dog walking experience, I'm very comfortable with walking any breed, age, or sized dog.

To schedule an in-person visit or virtual call, or if you have questions, Call/Txt 240-676-7188. You can also e-mail: tripletdogwalking@gmail.com. Visit www.tripletdogwalking.com.

Looking forward to meeting you! Thank you for your time and I look forward to meeting you and your dog(s)!



## MAKE CO-OP YOUR GO TO STORE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS!

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- Batteries, Wrapping Supplies, Bows & Gift Bags
- Andes Gifts - Handmade by Artisans in Peru & Bolivia
- 2022 Calendars, Wooden Cutting Boards & Cute Shopping Bags

# Letters continued from page 2

compacted. And if the piles are piled high and tightly around a tree trunk, it can starve the roots of the oxygen the tree needs. (Besides carbon dioxide, trees do need some oxygen.) In addition, dumping piles of leaves in neighborhood woods can obliterate plants that are valuable to the wildlife and the woods, or plants that are unusual or interesting, such as the wintergreen or the native azalea that are growing in at least one patch of neighborhood woods in Greenbelt.

*Susan Cahill*

## Thanks for Help Moving Tools

Thanks to Paul Lindsay of Lindsay Roofing, for his serendipitous help with getting the Greenbelt MakerSpace tool library set up. We were moving the MakerSpace equipment from garage storage on Parkway to our new space in The Granite Building in Roosevelt Center. We moved all the tools and were left with several large shelf units that we were going to try to walk over on a floor dolly. As we arrived at the garage, we saw a pickup truck pulling up with a large flatbed trailer; we said to each other that's exactly what we need. The driver agreed immediately and helped maneuver the shelves out of the garage onto his trailer, and then into The Granite Building. He said our timing was perfect, since he was just about to put sides on the trailer for a job.

*Robert Candey and Phillip Stratton*

## Granite Building Opens Mid-Century Memories

The Granite Building's grand opening brings back so many fun memories. Remember when telephone numbers started with letters? Every telephone "exchange" (up to 10,000 or so numbers) shared an exchange name. Greenbelt's was "Granite." Really! Seasoned Greenbelters will remember calling friends at numbers such as Granite4-6677, the telephone number I memorized as a preschooler after my family moved to Greenbelt in 1957.

And who else remembers the Post Office, right in the Center where the New Deal is now? Above it was our Dad's real estate business, Kash Realtors; those overlooking windows very inconveniently precluded my ambitions of hanging out in the Center smoking with the cool kids (a.k.a. The Center Bums). That old Post Office (soon to move under the Co-op) had outgrown its space. I guess anybody could rent a post office box there, but if they got packages? How could everything fit in the back room or ever be found again? Now (back to the future!) with The Granite Building's new post office boxes, today's mail carrier just leaves a key in the P.O. box that will open one of several big locked bins below. A lot more secure than loot from Amazon left unattended on a doorstep!

What fun to remember the Center over the years, from the bustling 50s and 60s (High's nickel ice cream cones! the candy store! Saturday afternoon at the movies with dreamy Elvis!) to the seedy 70s and 80s (peeling paint, vacancies, leaky theater, so

sad...) to our now-more-appreciated-than-ever Roosevelt Center!

My heartfelt thanks and admiration to new generations of Greenbelt believers at the Old Greenbelt Theatre, the Co-op, the Museum, the New Deal, the Greenbelt Arts Center, Bee Yoga, Cedars, MakerSpace and now the reanimated Granite Building full of energetic young entrepreneurs, creators and health professionals. Thank you all for building your wonderful dreams in Greenbelt!

*Lesley Kash*

## Thanks, Public Works

Public Works crews do a great job. I left a large pile of cut branches to be picked up. Then I realized because the crews were busy with leaf removal the unsightly pile might be there for a couple of weeks. I was wrong. The next morning a crew removed the pile and raked the area clean. Thank you.

*Martin Murray*

## Remembering Tom Simon

I was very sorry to learn of the death of Tom Simon. When working on my book Greenbelt, Maryland: A Living Legacy of the New Deal (yes, that is where the phrase came from that the town has used much over the years), I got to know him well. His obituary failed to mention his stewardship of the Tugwell Room. This part of the Greenbelt Library contains the archives of the town and Tom knew every bit, where to find it, and never failed to help this author.

*Cathy D. Knepper*

## Thanks from Beauchamp Scholarship Recipient

The News Review recently received this letter of thanks for our part in securing the Virginia W. Beauchamp Scholarship at University of Maryland. Since many of our readers contributed to the fund we wanted to share it with everyone.

The letter forwarded by Norah Quinn McCormick, Assistant Director of Development University of Maryland, said that the thank you note from a recent recipient of the Virginia W. Beauchamp Scholarship is addressed to Campus Club, "I would be remiss not to acknowledge the vital role you and the Greenbelt News Review played in endowing this scholarship. The Campus Club Board shares my sentiments."

McCormick added, "Many thanks again for helping to make this endowment possible!"



Office of Donor Relations and Stewardship  
4100 Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center  
College Park, MD 20742  
301.405.7751 TEL 301.314.7456 FAX

2020 - 2021 Scholar:

*Cheyenne Stevens*

Class of 2022

Hometown: San Jose, CA

Major: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## VIRGINIA W. BEAUCHAMP SCHOLARSHIP

Dear University of Maryland Campus Club,

I would like to thank you for your support and generosity in granting me the Virginia W. Beauchamp Scholarship.

I appreciate the continued support as I take the next steps in the dissertation process and make progress towards achieving my Ph.D. As our communities continue to explore how to build a better world, I am assured more than ever that my research on social, environmental, and animal justice is important in making a difference. It is deeply meaningful to me that the department believes in and supports this work.

I know that Dr. Beauchamp demonstrated a relentless dedication to furthering the scholarly contributions and influence of women, gender, and sexuality studies. I will honor her work by doing the same.

Thank you again for your generosity. In these difficult times, I am especially grateful for your commitment to ensure that I receive support as a graduate student.

Sincerely,

*Cheyenne Stevens '22*

Letter from Beauchamp Scholarship recipient



*Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!!*

*From my family to yours, wishing you happiness and joy this holiday season & many thanks for your continued support.*

*Silke Pope - City Council Member*



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

# Retired Councilmembers Lauded For Their Many Years of Service

by Benjamin Ferraro

The Greenbelt City Council presented an award to former members Leta M. Mach and Edward V.J. Putens on Monday, December 13.

Tom Reynolds, the former director of education resources for the Maryland Municipal League, formally acknowledged the award honoring Mach and Putens for their years of service during a virtual council meeting.

Mach served on the city council for 18 years. Putens served for over 40.

“Just when you think about the sacrifices, number of years with meetings and worksessions and all the things that go on in between here in the city of



PHOTO BY DARRELL MACH

**Leta Mach**

rebuilding, it’s really quite the achievement,” Mayor Emmett Jordan said during the meeting.



PHOTO BY SHARON NATOLI

**Ed Putens**

Other local officials praised Mach and Putens for their achievements while holding office.

“She [Mach] was the voice of co-ops on council,” said Michael Hartman of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Hartman called her a leader for her role on the National Co-op board.

Former councilmember Konrad Herling complimented Putens’ “long-going support of the arts.” Putens also was known for serving on the convention committee board for many years.

Council hopes to hold an in-person celebration of the awarded former councilmembers once Covid-19 mandates are lifted.

*Benjamin Ferraro is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.*



# Vatican Apologizes This Week For Removing LGBTQ Video

by Lesley Kash



PHOTO COURTESY FRANK DEBERNARDO

**Frank DeBernardo**

An official from the Vatican’s Synod of Bishops’ office apologized on December 12 for removing from the Vatican website a link to a video by the New Ways Ministries Catholic LGBTQ outreach organization, earning praise from longtime Greenbelter Francis DeBernardo, New Ways Ministry’s executive director. DeBernardo’s statement commended this “historic” move to repair the painful rift between the Catholic hierarchy and the gay community offered by Thierry Bonaventura, communication manager of the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops, who apologized, took responsibility and re-published the original video.

“We thank him for recognizing the harm that such a slight would have caused LGBTQ people and the entire church,” said DeBernardo in a detailed statement on the ministry’s website. “His actions are an example of the amazing grace which can be brought to life when one practices honesty and humility, and is concerned about how one’s actions may harm other people.”

DeBernardo is a founding member of Greenbelt Pride as well as working on LGBTQ rights on a national and international stage. In July 2021, DeBernardo spoke as a guest lecturer for the Greenbelt Museum, recalling the history of the LGBTQ community in Greenbelt.

DeBernardo’s New Ways Ministry published the 75-minute video, *From the Margins to the Center: a Webinar on LGBTQ Catholics and Synodality*, which had been linked to the Vatican’s website. The link to the video was removed on December 7, accord-

ing to a National Catholic Review article on December 13.

Catholic News Agency quoted Bonaventura as saying he had “personally taken the initiative to de-publish a post promoted by the reality ‘New Ways Ministries’ for internal procedural reasons.” He apologized and rectified the situation saying, “This brought pain to the entire LGBTQ community who once again felt left out.”

Pope Francis, the head of the Catholic Church, is more supportive of the LGBTQ than his predecessors. In 2013, he responded to a reporter asking about gay priests saying, “who am I to judge?” In September 2020, he told a group of Italian parents of LGBTQ children that “God loves your children as they are.”

**Ultimate Christmas Party**

You are invited!

Free!  
Ideal for ages 5-12!  
Bible Story!  
Games!  
Snacks!  
Songs!

Hosted by: Greenbelt Baptist Church

Where: 101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

When: Saturday, December 18th from 1:00-3:00PM

Phone: greenbeltbaptistchurchoffice@gmail.com

Note to Parents: Your child is invited to attend a fun, interactive Christmas party sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship, a Bible-centered ministry. All Teachers and helpers have been trained and screened to ensure your child’s safety. Parents are welcome to attend!

Visit [ChristmasAcrossAmerica.com](http://ChristmasAcrossAmerica.com) for more information.

CEFF CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP Since 1937

Christmas Across America Child Evangelism Fellowship

## My Perspective

# Remembrances of Mach, Putens

by Konrad Herling

As we give thanks to our hard-working city staff and city council, I wish to express my profound thanks to the two councilmembers who recently retired, Ed Putens and Leta Mach. Former councilmember Putens was the first elected from Greenbelt East, breaking new ground in our city’s history. Aside from his strong support for our police and fire departments, environmental improvements and the arts, as the council’s liaison to the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB), he was very helpful in fine tuning the city’s Community Pledge in 2001, which CRAB forwarded to council for its consideration and approval.

Many Greenbelters probably do not realize that Ed encouraged the Greenbelt Arts Center and other Roosevelt Center merchants to explore a planning charrette in which approximately 75 or so residents participated in drawing alternatives to the makeup of the Center in the early 1980s. While this did not result in changing the Center in any way, it demonstrated the potential for positive changes the city, developers and citizens could make to enhance business and community activity there. Further, Ed’s strong advocacy of installing a traffic light at Frankfort Drive and Route 193/Greenbelt Road made auto travel at that site considerably safer. These efforts, and others, reflect Ed’s commitment of 40 years to our community.

Leta Mach, who served for 18 years on council, was the liaison to the Advisory Committee on Education for which she provided guidance in steering the process of consideration and approval of scholarship awards to area high

school students and recognition of dedicated teachers. She was a very strong advocate that Greenbelt resident students should attend schools in our city. While that has not yet occurred, her efforts increase the chances that one day it will. Leta also has been a very strong advocate for cooperatives, be it Greenbelt Homes, Inc., the News Review or other commercial entities for all of her professional life. As a councilmember, she was a “lion” for co-ops as well. Her passion for the cooperative movement continues since retiring from council.

In her effort to unify the various geographic areas of the city, Leta was a leading advocate of signage at the main intersections of Greenbelt so residents and visitors will recognize that the different geographic areas of our town are all part of Greenbelt. In her last six years, she was a champion of the city adding a kiosk to highlight events taking place at the Roosevelt Center, of value to frequent visitors to town, as well as to those visiting from out of town to attend a film, play or musical performance.

I was honored to serve as a councilmember for 14 years with both of these good people.

With great appreciation to both former councilmember Ed Putens and former councilmember Leta Mach, I wish them good luck in their efforts as citizens of our community to further enhance our quality of life in our wonderful city of Greenbelt. Further, I wish them, our newly elected council, our many community organizations and volunteers, dedicated city employees and folks working with our businesses a very happy holiday.

Kim Kash  
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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.

At this time, our police blotter service is being resynchronized with the Greenbelt Police Department's reporting cycle. The material in the first part of this report was initially published in the issue of December 9 in a summary form and here more detail is provided. Also included, courtesy of fast work by the police department, is the report for December 6 through 12. We are hopeful of being able to bring you this more rapid response going forward.

Newly included at the start of the report are media advisories that describe serious crimes reported since the end of the weekly tabulation.

### Media Advisory

On December 9, at approximately 10:11 a.m., Greenbelt police officers responded to a report of an attempted carjacking in the 5300 block of South Center Dr. The caller advised the suspect was armed with a handgun and had attempted to take the vehicle but fled on foot.

Officers located and arrested the juvenile male suspect, and recovered the firearm.

The first part of this report spans the period from November 29 through December 5.

### Assault

In the 5900 block of Springhill Dr.: Neighbor dispute became physical.

In the 6100 block of Breezewood Dr.: Officers responded to a report of an assault in the 5800 block of Cherrywood Ter. The victim reported he was approached by two unknown males in their late teens, wearing all black and black ski masks, who asked the victim if he had any money. When the victim declined, the two males assaulted him.

In the 7700 block of Belle Point Dr.: A storm window frame to a business was removed but nothing was broken or stolen.

In the vicinity of Cherrywood Ln. / Springhill Dr.: Officers responded to a request for assistance and located and arrested an individual with an unregistered firearm, body armor and an assortment of illegal pills.

### Driving While Intoxicated

In the 6500 block of Lake Park Dr. and on Greenbelt Rd., three DUI arrests were made.

### Fraud

In the 8 Court of Research Rd., the 33 Court of Ridge Rd. and the 500 block of Crescent Rd. checks were altered after being left in the mailbox.

In the 100 block of Westway an individual invested money in a purported business and has not heard from them since.

### Robbery

In the 9100 block of Edmonston Ct. on November 30 at approximately 6:28 p.m., the Greenbelt Police Department responded to reports of an armed citizen robbery in the 9100 block of Edmonston Ct. The suspect is described as an adult male, approximately 6 feet tall, 180 pounds, wearing a black ski mask, red sweater, black pants and armed with a small, black firearm.

In the 5700 block of Greenbelt Metro Dr.: Greenbelt police officers went to the bus stop located at 5717 Greenbelt Metro Dr. in response to a report of an armed robbery. An individual had

personal property taken by three adult males, one of whom had a knife.

Officers responded to the 6200 block of Breezewood Ct. for reports of shots fired. When officers arrived, they located shell casings and evidence that an apartment had been struck. No injuries were reported.

### Vehicle Crime

In the 7200 block of Morrison Dr.: Two vehicles were reported stolen, one had been repossessed and the other had been removed by the towing company for a parking violation.

In the 7600 block of Greenbelt Rd.: silver Toyota Venza (MD reg 1DD3979) was stolen after it was left unattended while running and unlocked.

In the 9100 block of Springhill Ln.: red 2016 Mitsubishi Outlander (MD reg: 1DP4898) stolen.

In the 200 block of Lakeside Dr.: 2007 black Saturn ION driver side front window broken and handicap placard taken.

In the 7800 block of Mandan Rd.: silver Cadillac passenger side window smashed, vehicle rummaged through, nothing stolen. Black Honda Accord passenger side window was smashed, and a wallet stolen.

In the 2 court of Gardenway a rear tag was stolen and in the 5800 block of Cherrywood Ln. the front temporary license plate was taken.

In the 7200 block of Hanover Dr.: white Chevy Silverado driver window was shattered and a firearm stolen from center console. Two other vehicles' windows were also shattered, but nothing was taken.

In the 6100 block of Breezewood Ct.: a stolen auto was recovered and in the 9000 block of Breezewood Ter.: a stolen New York license plate was found.

### Theft

An individual was arrested for shoplifting and trespassing after being previously banned from a property in the 6000 block of Greenbelt Rd. Another shoplifting incident occurred in the 7500 block of Greenbelt Rd. A package was taken in the 5900 block of Cherrywood Ln.

In the 7600 block of Greenbelt Rd.: While the driver was pumping gas, someone opened an unlocked door and stole a purse.

Property was taken from apartments in the 6200 block of Springhill Dr. and the 5800 block of Cherrywood Lane. No forced entry was made.

Property was taken in the 7400 block of Greenway Center Dr. and 7200 block of Hanover Dr.

In the 200 block of Lakeside Dr.: a Greenbelt Animal Control cat trap was stolen.

### Vandalism

The following occurrences were reported: 6200 block of Springhill Ct.: living room window broken; 5800 block of Cherrywood Ln.: vehicle had all four tires damaged by a sharp object; 9100 block of Springhill Ln.: kitchen window broken; 7900 block of Mandan Rd.: apartment lock damaged; 6 Court of Research Rd.: property damaged; 12 Court of Crescent Rd.: residence "egged;" 100 block of Crescent Rd.: juveniles spray-painted door

of St. Hugh's Church, there was one arrest; 6200 block of Springhill Ct.: back bedroom window broken.

The following activities are from December 6 through 12.

### Controlled Substance

In the 7600 block of Greenbelt Rd., a disorderly adult female was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

### Fraud

In the 2 Court of Laurel Hill Rd., during an attempted fraud, an unknown individual called the victim and attempted to get them to provide bank information.

In the 8100 block of Lakecrest Dr. a fraud was perpetrated involving a gift card and in the vicinity of 7500 Greenway Center Dr., an adult female was arrested for attempting to cash fraudulent checks.

### Shoplifting

Two instances of shoplifting occurred in the 5900 block and one each in the 6000 and 7500 blocks of Greenbelt Rd., respectively.

### Theft

In the 9000 block of Breezewood Ter. a burglary resulted in losses from a residence. There were no signs of forced entry.

Two bicycles were reported stolen from a balcony in the 200 block of Lakeside Dr.

In the 7400 block of Greenbelt Rd. two individuals ordered food, ate and left without paying.

In the 9100 block of Edmonston Ct., a front tag stolen on December 6 was recovered on December 11.

Two reports of delivery packages stolen were received from the 9300 block of Edmonston Rd. and the 8200 block of Miner St.

### Vehicle Crime

A blue and black 2021 Kawasaki ZX6R was stolen from Cherrywood Ter.

An attempted theft from a vehicle was reported from Mandan Rd./Mathew St. The passenger side door was open and the window pulled out, and though the vehicle was rummaged through, nothing was taken. Mandan Rd. also was the site of a theft from a vehicle - in this case the passenger side window was ripped out and items taken. This pattern was repeated on the 7900 block of Mandan Rd., the 7800 block of Hanover Parkway (a 2018 gray Honda Civic was relieved of an airbag) and on 6800 Landon Ct. all four tires and rims were taken.

In the 9100 block of Springhill Ln. a front tag was stolen.

### Vandalism

Six incidents involving vandalism to vehicles occurred during the period. Punctured tires (9 Court of Hillside Rd.), 6900 Hanover Parkway (damage), Cherrywood Ln./Breezewood Drive (rear window shattered by a pedestrian after a dispute with the driver), 6000 block of Springhill Dr. (two flat passenger side tires and shattered windshield), 8000 Mandan Rd. (vehicle's ignition and front right passenger door lock damaged), 100 block Lakeside Dr. (side mirror damaged).

In addition, at 12 Court of Crescent Rd., the door handle and lock of a residence were broken and in the 7300 block of Hanover Parkway a window near a banker cubicle was broken.

## POLICE continued from page 1

strategy to perpetrators, the department has increased patrols and redeployed officers to various hot spots at particular times according to the pattern that has developed for most of the occurrences and is working with property owners at Franklin Park, Beltway Plaza and Greenway Center, along with several homeowner associations, to stem this rise. Bowers reassured residents that the normal police coverage that the city has known will not be curtailed in this effort.

Bowers explained that most of the carjackings are "crimes of opportunities," and not premeditated. Often they occur when residents leave their cars unattended to warm them up while stopped or at a traffic light. No one group is being targeted.

Bowers and his team said that the best way to prevent an incident is by being aware of one's surroundings and not getting distracted. If a situation doesn't feel or look right, take heed to avoid it, and report one's observations to the police.

GPD is working closely with the county, especially their Carjacking Task Force, as well as neighboring jurisdictions on this regionwide problem. Bowers said that arrests are being made.

He stated that 50 percent of the perpetrators are juveniles under the age of 16. This fact lay at the heart of what the GPD feels

is the most difficult and systemic issue, that being how to mentor and influence youth out of a path to criminality. Having adults take an interest in a young person's development and struggles, as well as providing engaging recreation and sports experiences were presented as ways of addressing this issue. GPD is eager to be part of any such effort, in partnership with the school system (including efforts by School Resource Officer Michael Thomas at Eleanor Roosevelt High School), Greenbelt Recreation, the Boys and Girls Club and social service support groups like Greenbelt CARES. Gullidge praised city employees like Brian Butler at Springhill Lake Recreation Center for his "amazing" efforts at outreach and being "part of the lives" of Greenbelt's youth. The point was made at the meeting that ultimately outreach is not enough. For it to be effective, youth must truly want to change.

Bowers said that while the GPD is "a strong department," with sufficient funding from the city, GPD continues to be understaffed, with there being currently 53 officers. GPD is endeavoring to retain its staff and to recruit more. Bowers stated that a life in law enforcement goes beyond just the investigation of crime and is truly "the ultimate customer service job."



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# Reel and Meal Screens Yael Bridge's The Big Scary 'S' Word

by Donna Hoffmeister

On Monday, December 20, Reel and Meal screens Yael Bridge's *The Big Scary 'S' Word* (2021) about the long history of American socialism, which brought about beneficial changes to our society. These include taxpayer-funded fire departments, rural electric cooperatives, the interstate highway system and Social Security. The policies of socialism helped lift the country out of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

American socialism has little to do with old Soviet Union-style communism, although the far-right tries to scare voters by fuzzing the differences between them. The film advocates not the end of capitalism, but rather government funding for infrastructure and services for the common good, provided by the government and paid for by taxpayer dollars.

The Peace and Justice Coalition and the Prince George's County Branch of the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) co-sponsor this month's film. Kurt Stand, a member of DSA since 1983, will lead the discussion. He served as the North American regional secretary of the International Union of Food and Allied Workers until 1997. He is also a member of Progressive Cheverly and serves as a Portside Labor Moderator. He will be joined by Irene Koo, who is a member of DSA in the D.C. Metro area.

The film begins at 7 p.m. either live in the New Deal Café or via Zoom. The Café uses a UV light filtration system that kills viruses. Everyone is asked



PHOTO COURTESY REEL AND MEAL

The movie shows protestors advocating for education.

to wear a mask and practice social distancing for live viewing of the film in the Café. Come enjoy the new wide-screen film projection system. Registration for virtual viewing via Zoom is required – use this link: [tinyurl.com/ReelMealDec](https://tinyurl.com/ReelMealDec).

Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket will again offer a vegan meal for a fee. This week's selection is macro vegetarian creamy cashew carbonara with Tofurky sausage and a side salad. Phone in pre-orders to 301-474-0522 by 1 p.m. on December 20, for pickup between 4 and 7 p.m. at the Co-op deli. Depending on demand, there may be dinners on a walk-in basis, if not pre-ordered. People may also choose from a varied menu in-person at the Café.

Reel and Meal is organized by the Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition. For further information on this month's program, see the Reel and Meal Facebook page, [facebook.com/reelandmealNDC](https://facebook.com/reelandmealNDC), or contact Vijay Parameshwaran, 650-336-4994 or [vijay.pwn@gmail.com](mailto:vijay.pwn@gmail.com).



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**WAGS**  
(Well-Wishers for the Animals of the Greenbelt Shelter) thanks all who supported our bake/wreath sale on December 5th. Special thanks to the Greenbelt CO-OP Supermarket for giving us ramp space! WAGS and the Shelter Animals are grateful!

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

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**Brick Townhome** 2 Bedroom GHI townhome w/ hardwood flrs. throughout. Modern kitchen w/ stainless steel washer. Hardwood flooring on both levels.

**Upper Level One Bedroom** GHI home with full kitchen, washer/dryer in separate room. Hardwood finished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

**2 BR Townhome** Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Don't miss this one!

**Full Attached Inlaw apartment** 5 BR, 4 Bath home w/ 2nd floor Elevator to basement. 2 Full kitchens, generator, fireplace & more.

**SOLD**

**Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center**

# Greenbelt Library Gives Out Free Rapid Covid-19 Tests

by Shannon Clark

As the holiday season approaches and the opportunity for in-person family gatherings returns, Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) is now providing rapid Covid-19 test kits at all 19 branch locations, including Greenbelt.

"The library system has served as a trusted community organization throughout the pandemic," said Chief Operating Officer for Communication and Outreach Nicholas A. Brown. "It is important that residents have access to the information and resources they truly need."

Since the end of November, PGCMLS branches have received a total of 4,500 test kits from the Maryland Department of Health, and expect more to be delivered in the coming weeks.



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

**When the library has another shipment of quick tests, they will be available on this table near the door.**

"We told [the state] that we would take as many as they could give us," said Brown. "Shipments are shifting from weekly to biweekly now, but we have given out over 4,500 kits."

Each test kit contains two Abbott BinaxNOW rapid Covid-19 self-test kits. Tables are set up at each library, where residents can walk in and take as many kits as needed. Brown noted residents

are advised to call ahead to their local library, to check the quantity of remaining test kits.

Symptomatic customers are asked to send another person on their behalf to pick up a kit. In addition to the test kits, library systems have been actively trying to meet residents' needs even before the pandemic by providing meals for K-12 students, free brand-new coats and a vaccine-hunter hotline.

"One of our library's pillars is on healthy living – specifically health and wellness has been our main priority," said Brown. "Even before the pandemic, we have been providing for our community through different free resources."

*Shannon Clark is a University of Maryland journalism student writing for the News Review.*

## DECEMBER 1941 continued from page 1

was ready to teach Greenbelt men and women to handle and drive heavy equipment such as trucks, trailers, etc. Volunteers already had participated in an air-raid practice from October 9 to 16, 1941, with army planes conducting maneuvers throughout the Eastern seaboard for observers to spot and report on.

### Community Concerns

Fall of 1941 was a time of transition and unease in Greenbelt, even aside from worries about war. The first batch of defense housing (now Greenbelt Homes, Inc. frame houses) was almost ready for occupancy, with families expected to start moving in before the end of December. While residents were looking forward to having new neighbors, they were anxious about how the eventual influx of 1,000 new families would affect the community (Cooperator, December 26, 1941). At the same time, as many as 300 Greenbelt families were threatened with eviction under a new Farm Security Administration order that compelled residents to move out if their present income exceeded the maximum allowed to qualify for entrance by more than 25 percent (Cooperator, November 7, 1941). The order was to go into effect on March 31, 1942, with income to be reported and reviewed semi-annually after that.

### War Preparations

After the December 7 attack, emergency measures were stepped up and more residents came forward to volunteer. Greenbelt's proximity to Washington made an air attack seem like a real possibility and, according to the county air warden, "Greenbelt is one spot that stands out more than any other in the county," making it an easy target (Cooperator, December 26, 1941). A list of air-raid precautions – keep cool, stay home, put out lights, lie down, stay away from windows – was printed on the front page of the December 12, 1941, Cooperator. Residents were advised to tape windows and leave the screens in place to prevent or contain breaking glass. The community practiced blackout drills and residents



PHOTO BY ARTHUR ROTHSTEIN, COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

**New residents are welcomed to Greenbelt in December 1941. Twenty-five families had moved into the new defense housing by the end of that month.**

were urged by Panagoulis to not even light a cigarette or open a refrigerator door until the "all clear" was given. A survey was made to identify spaces through town that could serve as bomb shelters, with the apartment house basements deemed the best blast-proof shelters available. Panagoulis reported that sufficient space was available for all residents, and that each family would be assigned to one of the spaces.

The Greenbelt American Legion Post organized an airplane observation station atop the drugstore, which went into operation on December 15, 1941, staffed by a volunteer force of 178, each of whom worked two hours per week (Cooperator, January 23, 1942). Housewives did the "spotting" from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and high school students spotted from 6 to 8 p.m. and on weekends. Greenbelt men took the night shift, with some paper boys relieving the men in the early morning hours before heading off to school.

Approximately 300 defense volunteers took part in air-raid defense classes that included instructions on air-raid warnings, shelters, the effects of chemical warfare and the handling of bombs – to put an incendiary bomb out of commission smother it with sand or spray it with water to make it burn faster (a

direct splash of water may cause the bomb to explode). Eighty-three residents enrolled in first-aid training, with the understanding that minor injuries that might result from an air attack would be treated at first-aid stations set up in the air-raid shelters. And, anyone with a four-door sedan that could be used to transport injured persons to hospitals was asked to notify the authorities.

### Holiday Festivities

But Greenbelters also celebrated the holiday season. Children at Greenbelt Elementary sang carols and staged the operetta *The Gift of the Magi* as their Christmas program. At the high school, the Glee Club sang Christmas tunes at a holiday assembly, followed by a talent show organized by the Student Council and a carol sing. The Washington Mormon Choir presented excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* at the Community Center on December 14. Santa made several visits to the local variety store and appeared also at the lighting of Greenbelt's Christmas tree on December 19, which 350 people attended. And Greenbelt's official New Year's Eve dance, held in the school auditorium with music by Ray King's 12-piece band, surpassed the previous year's gala affair by bringing in 1942 on a high note, regardless of what the new year might bring.

## UTOPIA continued from page 1



PHOTO BY CLAUDE AUBERT

**Moviegoers await the next film at the New Deal Café venue.**



PHOTO BY CLAUDE AUBERT

**After the film, a few of the filmmakers speak about their work. From left are Chris Haley, Brad Bennett and Sally Davies.**

Theatre and a second new great home, the back room of the New Deal Café, which has been beautifully renovated with a new UV air filtration system installed. Using blackout curtains, it became a good movie theater for our daytime shows. A brand-new projector, on back order for months, arrived just a few days before the festival. Scott Stark installed it and had all the technical needs solved in time for the opening screening Saturday at 10 a.m.

Once advanced ticket sales started, we breathed a bit easier when we found that the shows all had good-sized audiences. The weekend evening shows at the Café sold out.

A number of filmmakers, both local and from out-of-state, were present for the screening of their movies and to take questions from the audience. The question-and-answer part of the program is some of what makes film festivals so enjoyable.

The films were unique, non-commercial creations from people with compelling stories to tell. The hard work and skill to create these quality films were evident.

This year we were honored to screen an academy-award-nominated film, *Feeling Through*. The film is a short story of a young homeless man who helps a blind and deaf person. The actor performing the blind and deaf role, for the first time ever in film history, was an actual blind and deaf actor. The film was both beautifully made and heartwarming.

All of the 35 films were either educational, entertaining or both. *Unmarked* tells the story of neglected and forgotten African American cemeteries. *The Rumba Kings*, a film about using the power of music to fight colonial oppression, sold out two nights in a row at the Café. *Who Cares About DC* talks about the struggle for statehood for our next-door neighbors. These are just a few of the excellent films screened in November.

Susan Harris's article in the News Review last week reviewed

the Utopian Visions award-winning film *Bicentennial Bonsai: Visions of Peace*. This film and a few others will be shown again, some with a question-and-answer session, at the Old Greenbelt Theatre in January.

Some of the films will also be broadcast on the Greenbelt Access Television station. This week you can see *Ecstasy and Death: Keats and Shelley in Rome*, with question-and-answer highlights, on the GATE channel.

The eye-opening film from Myanmar, *The Purple Thanaka of the Angels*, made by a French filmmaker, presented stories of the harsh realities today in Myanmar. It ends with a plea – please help us. This film will be re-shown, sponsored by the festival, at an upcoming Reel and Meal at the New Deal.

The Utopia Film Festival, a production of Greenbelt Access Television, has the motto "Seeking a better world through film," and sends proceeds from ticket sales for these screenings to UNICEF, an organization doing wonderful work with so many of the places and people we learn about in the films.

We are delighted to be able to continue this work and thank all the many volunteers who make it happen. Our gratitude goes out to our utopian community of Greenbelt who continue to come out and support the festival. We look forward to more repeat showings of this year's festival and to the 18th annual Utopia Film Festival next year.



### Send Holiday Greetings

The News Review will publish holiday greetings in the December 23 issue.