



Chess club, p.3



Aquatic & Fitness Center, p.11

Pinsky: Goodbye to District 22; Will Lead Energy Administration

On Tuesday, December 20, Senator Paul Pinsky announced that he has accepted the invitation from Governor-elect Wes Moore to serve as director of the Maryland Energy Administration. Pinsky has been a long-time advocate of environmental issues and addressing climate change. Pinsky will be stepping down from his position as senator, representing District 22, which includes Greenbelt. It's a position to which he's been elected eight times and has held since 1994.



Paul Pinsky

PHOTO COURTESY MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES

Among the improvements to District 22, Pinsky noted that he'd secured state bond bills to invest in the communities in his district, including the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Pinsky recently sponsored the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 that requires a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2031. A former teacher, he has also been a strong advocate for education and was particularly instrumental in adopting the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.

a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse gases by 2031. A former teacher, he has also been a strong advocate for education and was particularly instrumental in adopting the Blueprint for Maryland's Future.



Greenbelters Celebrate Kwanzaa

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, December 26 around 20 Greenbelters celebrated the first day of Kwanzaa at the Kwanzaa and Kulture Unity Breakfast at the Greenbelt Youth Center, organized by Greenbelt Station resident Chiquita Jackson. Kwanzaa, first celebrated in 1966, is an annual celebration of African American culture, drawing on African traditions.

Last year Jackson hosted a celebration with about eight close family members and friends at her apartment in Greenbelt Station. This year she rented space at the Youth Center to be able to include more people in the celebration. "I wanted to take it to the next level," said Jackson, who publicized the event through social media and interviews on

WAMU. As an event planner, she is skilled at bringing people together and organizing celebrations. Jackson even cooked the soul food for the event herself, beginning early in the morning on Monday.

At the unity breakfast, most of those who attended already celebrated Kwanzaa but they were looking for a space to celebrate together, especially after the online celebrations of recent years, Jackson told the News Review. "I had great conversations with people who are now planning to incorporate more community events into their celebration," said Jackson.

Kwanzaa is organized around seven principles, one for each day of the holiday. They are:

1. Umoja (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.
2. Kujichagulia (Self-determination): To define and name

See KWANZAA, page 12



PHOTO BY JENNIFER STERLING

Table decor at the Kwanzaa celebration on December 26

Testing Gravity

Fearless Greenbelter Lambert Shares Regular Folks' Wants

by Stephanie Quinn

Lying on the padded floor of a modified Boeing 727, Greenbelter Denna Lambert began to float as the plane crested the apex of its parabola and the effects of gravity receded.

Lambert said she was always a "fangirl" when it came to spaceflight, from the time she was growing up in Little Rock, Ark., and science fiction films showed her more inclusive and cooperative worlds.

"Oh my goodness, what if we could get to that place – where everyone is treated equitably?" Lambert remembers thinking. "It didn't matter how you looked or where you came from or whatever. You're set on this common mission."

Lambert participated in the parabolic flight mission Thursday, December 15, in Houston, pursuing her vision of spaceflight as a way to build a more inclusive world, in space and on Earth.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA AND ASTROACCESS

From left, Denna Lambert, Victoria Garcia and Dr. K Renee Horton experience microgravity.

The flight, which created conditions of microgravity, demonstrated technologies and techniques to support people with disabilities when they go to space. Lambert, who is blind, joined a group of 16 flyers with diverse disabilities on the second weightless flight run by AstroAccess, a project of the nonprofit SciAccess, which advances disability inclusion in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). No astronaut with a known disability has flown in space to date.

Lambert, who is Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion lead for NASA's Early Stage Innovation & Partnerships (ESIP) portfolio in Washington, D.C., tested tactile graphics and personalized hearing technology on the flight. But she said the flight's most important result was contributing to the body of knowledge on weightless flight

with a crew including people with disabilities.

"If we do it once, that's cool," she said. "But if we do it twice, with a larger crew, with even a wider range of disabilities, then it's like, 'Okay, now we've got replicability.'"

Sheri Wells-Jensen, a member of AstroAccess's organizing team, an associate professor of linguistics at Bowling Green State University and leader of the blind crew on the flight, said, "Disabled people drink a lot of Kool Aid about what we can and can't do."

AstroAccess missions remind crew members not to drink that Kool Aid. "All day long you're hearing, 'Please sit down, and I'll get that for you, honey,' instead of, 'Come over here. I need you,'" Wells-Jensen said. "And those messages are really different."

See LAMBERT, page 12

Report of a Cutting Incident Leads Police to Say: Lock Doors

On Thursday evening, December 22, residents were advised by police to secure their homes and lock doors after a report of a cutting on Crescent Road and reports of a man matching the description of the suspect knocking on doors of homes along Crescent and asking to be let in.

At 9:17 p.m. near 28 Crescent Road, officers responded for what was initially reported as a cutting. Two people sustained minor injuries, after an argument between people who knew each other had taken place inside the home. The argument was over property and

resulted in a fight in which two people were injured. Though a bladed weapon was present, it caused none of the minor injuries. The suspect took the victims' property and ran from the residence prior to police officers' arrival.

Further investigation determined that the event was not random. The suspect is described as a tall Black man wearing a black jacket, light-colored shirt and blue jeans. Officers searched the area but did not locate the suspect. The crime is now being investigated as a robbery. This is an active and open investigation.

Letters to the Editor

Focus on Inclusion

I appreciate Susan Taylor's detailed account of council's latest decisions related to the Reparations Commission initiative, which meetings are set to begin in January 2023.

As a relatively new Greenbelt resident, walking through Old Greenbelt or around Greenbelt Lake is a disturbing experience, affected by the presence of historical markers promoting a particular time in this planned community's history, yet failing to refer to the segregation endured by African Americans at the time.

The Reparations Commission initiative, like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa and Canada, is undoubtedly a process which carries high hope and expectations for the future of our city.

Council has to be lauded for its sustained effort. In the article, references are made only to Mayor Emmett Jordan and Councilmember Colin Byrd. Yet, at the last regular council meeting prior to finalizing the selection of the members, I was most impressed by a remarkably progressive proposition made by Councilmember Rodney Rob-

erts to not reject any of the 30 uniquely qualified applicants, a simple thoughtful act of inclusion that would have set the tone, model inclusive behaviors and call people to account!

Xavier Courouble

Call A Friend, Not Just on the Day

December 28 is National Call a Friend Day. Don't underestimate the power of a phone call just to say, "How are you?" This can be an immediate mood boost, especially for someone living alone.

Betty Timer
Senior Citizens
Advisory Committee

Grief

I found the article about dealing with grief very appropriate this season as my sister's husband died a few weeks ago. The article addresses how to deal with grief, but it doesn't touch on the ways family/friends can support those grieving without adding to the feelings of loss. I wondered if Gloria Walters-Flowers has any other suggestions.

Kathryn Beard

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.



On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

The Fabelmans

In this story from Steven Spielberg, young Sammy Fabelman falls in love with movies after his parents take him to see The Greatest Show on Earth. Armed with a camera, Sammy starts to make his own films at home, much to the delight of his supportive mother. "Spielberg's semi-autobiographical drama celebrates the magic of the moviemaking while reflecting on the important balance between art and family," says critic Rene Sanchez of Cine Sin Fronteras.

Empire of Light

Set in an English seaside town in the early 1980s, the film is a powerful and poignant story about human connection and the magic of cinema, from Academy Award-winning director Sam Mendes. Empire of Light features a stellar cast led by Academy Award winner Olivia Colman (The Favourite, The Lost Daughter), BAFTA winner Micheal Ward (Blue Story, Top Boy) and Academy Award winner Colin Firth (The King's Speech, A Single Man). It also reunites Mendes with Academy Award-winning cinematographer Roger Deakins (1917, Skyfall).

Paper Moon

In this 1973 classic, real-life father and daughter Ryan and Tatum O'Neal team up as slick con artists Moses Pray and Addie Loggins in 1930s Kansas. When "Moze" is unexpectedly saddled with getting 9-year-old Addie to relatives in Missouri after the death of her mother, his attempt to dupe her out of her money backfires and he's forced to take her on as a partner. Swindling their way through farm country, the pair is nearly done in by a burlesque dancer (Madeline Kahn) and an angry bootlegger.

Inspection

In Elegance Bratton's moving film inspired by his own story, a young, gay Black man, rejected by his mother and with few options for his future, decides to join the Marine Corps, doing whatever it takes to succeed in a system that would cast him aside. But even as he battles deep-seated prejudice and the grueling routines of basic training, he finds unexpected camaraderie, strength and support in this new community, giving him a hard-earned sense of belonging that will shape his identity and forever change his life.



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 30th – January 5th
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
The Fabelmans (PG-13) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (151 mins)

Fri. 7:45 PM
Sat. 4:45 PM
Sun. 1:45 PM (OC)
Mon. 4:00 PM
Tues. 7:45 PM
Wed. 5:00 PM
Thurs. 4:45 PM

Empire of Light (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (113 mins)
Fri. 5:00 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC) in Screen 2
Tues. 5:00 PM
Wed. 8:15 PM
Thurs. 2:00 PM

Monday Matinee: FREE
Paper Moon (PG) (1973)
(105 mins)
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
The Inspection (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2022) (95 mins)
Fri. 5:15 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 5:00 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:00 PM, 5:15 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM (OC)
Tues. 8:00 PM
Wed. 8:00 PM
Thurs. 7:30 PM



PHOTO BY SANDY RODGERS

Drop us a Line!
Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

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.

Community Events

At the Library

The library will be closed Saturday, December 31, through Monday, January 2, for the New Year's holiday.

Books at Bedtime

Wednesday, January 4, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPs Infants and Toddlers Program for up to 12 community families. (Register at pgcmls.info/event/7741817.)

Passport Services

Greenbelt Library serves as a U.S. passport acceptance facility. Applications are accepted by appointment only; schedule a 30-minute appointment by calling 240-455-5451 or visiting pgcmls.info/passport-services. All applicants regardless of age must be present at their appointment, with minors accompanied by their parent(s)/guardian(s). Families with multiple applicants must schedule separate appointments for each applicant.

Passport acceptance service hours at the Library: Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 1 to 6 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reading Challenge

In conjunction with the Washington Wizards NBA team, the county library system once again offers its Winter Reading Challenge, from December 12 through March 31, 2023. Activities include reading, watching Wizards games, attending virtual library programs and staying active and engaged with the library and the Washington Wizards. Readers who complete the challenge will be entered into a raffle to win a variety of prizes. Books to read for children in various age groups (K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8) will be featured. Visit pgcmls.info for more information and to register for the Winter Reading Challenge.

The Greenbelt Library's regular 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.; Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the library's schedule are posted at pgcmls.info/alerts.

New Deal Hosts Two Band & Book Events

The Reilly Goulait Band, which has been a regular act at the New Deal Café for years, will be back again in January with a special twist. On Thursday, January 19, from 7 to 9 p.m., the band will perform live music, including new original songs inspired by Bob Reilly's book, *Rideshare* by Robert: Every Ride's a Short Story. Reilly, of Laurel, has heard approximately 33,000 stories from passengers during the past seven years while driving for Uber and Lyft.

On Sunday, January 22, from 1 to 3 p.m., Reilly will be at the New Deal for a Meet the Author event, with a book introduction, Q & A, storytelling and an acoustic musical presentation of original songs inspired by stories in the book and the rideshare experience. Reilly will be joined by Joe Goulait of the Reilly Goulait Band for this special event.



GHI Launches Search For General Manager

On December 16, GHI officially launched the search for a new general manager with the release of a board-approved position profile. This search is necessary because current General Manager Eldon Ralph will retire soon.

Those interested in learning more or applying for the general manager position can find a detailed description of the position as well as application requirements at <https://tinyurl.com/tnykr9a6>. Review of submitted resumes will begin in early January. Questions about the search can be directed to the GHI Transition and Search Committee at ghitransitionandsearch@ghi.coop.

Volunteers, Students In Compost Workday

All are invited to join the Wigglers on Saturday, January 7, starting at 9 a.m., for an outdoor workday at the three-bin hot-composting station behind Roosevelt Center, alongside the Aquatic & Fitness Center. High school students are encouraged to earn volunteer hours while learning how to prepare food waste diverted from Greenbelt's own Co-op Supermarket, for rapid hot-composting. Volunteers can also enjoy snacks and conversation while they work.

On workdays, the Wigglers (a group of volunteer humans) pre-compost food for their red wiggler worm workers, who live on the loading dock of the New Deal Café, producing vermicompost, a highly prized soil amendment and nutrient load for plants – including bulbs, shrubs, fruit, vegetables and house plants. The Wigglers were honored on September 30 by a visit from EPA officials and also received the Jim Cassels Award presented by the Co-op Supermarket.

To learn more about how hot composting works and help to turn food waste into a valuable resource used to grow plants and sequester carbon – instead of producing methane at the landfill – come by anytime between 9 and 11 a.m. on Saturday morning, January 7. Email NewDealWigglers@gmail.com with any questions.

Arts Advisory Board Meets January 3

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, January 3 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include the space study and plans for the year. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, contact alarsen@greenbeltmd.gov.

A Game of Chess, Anyone?

by Gloria Walters-Flowers



PHOTO COURTESY EFFIE LEVNER

Players Jefe Garba, left, and Juan Green focus on a game during a December Chess Club meeting at the New Deal Café.

Walk into the New Deal Café on a Monday night, and a bunch of bent heads will greet you. Sunday's usual sounds of lively music and chatter, silverware clatter and finger-snapping have long since faded. On Monday evenings, the tabletops become cerebral battlefields on various chess sets where plastic kings, wooden pawns, stately queens and good bishops battle and advance toward victory. Strategy, patience and focus are the common traits of players, and words like castling, sacrifice, Fianchetto, Sicilian Defense and checkmate are common terms.

Organizer Effie Levner started the club in May of this year. She saw a need and addressed it. First introduced to chess while living abroad over 40 years ago, Levner created the club to bring Greenbelters out of isolation and provide a safe activity that brings the community together. "With Covid, so many people are dealing with depression and loneliness. This is a way to get out and play," she said. "We are a welcoming group with no judgment or competitiveness."

A Success

The diverse group of 45 mem-

bers, with about 18 regulars, are of mixed ages and skill levels. Seasoned chess players like Gary Fok are happy to share teaching strategies with the less skilled player, and newbies often surprise themselves with a win. Alicia Deligianis, a social worker who has been playing for two months, recently received a new chess set for Christmas. "I love it. It sharpens my brain and forces me to focus, not just on the current move, but also a few moves ahead." Still considered a beginner, she was happy that she was able to share tips with her younger opponent. "I've learned a lot since coming and could even teach a little today!"

With so many public appearances this holiday season, Mayor Emmett Jordan did something just for himself. With no council meeting on his calendar, the mayor chose to spend his evening in a friendly game of chess. With hot chocolate in hand, he sat down with a club member for a few games. A short while later, as he donned his hat, he left with two wins and two losses and a satisfied, relaxed look.

The group meets at the New See **CHESS**, page 7



Greenbelt Access Television Dec. 31, Sat. – Jan. 6, Fri

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

THIS WEEK on GATe • Your Community Access Station

7am	Greenbelt This Year	Community submissions from 2022
8am	Democracy Now!	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	Classic Movies	The Snow Queen • 1957 Sandra Dee
11am	Greenbelt This Year	Community submissions from 2022
Noon	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Greenbelt Middle v. Kenmoor Middle
2pm	Music at the New Deal *NEW* SEASON SIX	Strangers that Clique • Hip Hop, Rock, Jazz
3pm	Classic Movies	The Snow Queen • 1957 Sandra Dee
5pm	PGCPS Science Bowl 2022-23	Greenbelt Middle v. Kenmoor Middle
6pm	Greenbelt This Year	Community submissions from 2022
7pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	Classic Movies	The Snow Queen • 1957 Sandra Dee
10pm	Music at the New Deal *NEW* SEASON SIX	Strangers that Clique • Hip Hop, Rock, Jazz
11pm	Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	Greenbelt This Year	Community submissions from 2022

Connect with GATe [f](https://www.facebook.com/gate) [y](https://www.youtube.com/gate) [i](https://www.instagram.com/gate) www.greenbeltaccessstv.org

This Week at the New Deal Café

The ONLY Greenbelt venue with BOTH dinner AND a show!



Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD. Reservations: 301-474-5642
Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 12/29	FRI 12/30	SAT 12/31	SUN 1/1/23	MON 1/2
The Brothers Bill Quintet 7-9pm Blues & Gospel Inspired Jazz	Bad Influence With Mary Shaver 8-11pm Blues and Roots Music	New Deal New Year's Eve Party With Soulified Village 9pm-12:30am	Organized Five-Piece Funky Organ Trio 6-8pm	The Monday Mauveness Karaoke Night Hosted by Mike Bennett 6-9pm
TUES 1/3	WED 1/4	THURS 1/5	FRI 1/6	MON - FRI
S.A.W. Open Mic Hosted by Lynn Hollyfield 7-9pm	The Campfire Sessions A Monthly "Listening Room" 7-9pm	Wolf's Blues Show and Jam Big, Bodacious Boogie Blues Jam 6:30-9pm	Dirty Soul Low-down Funk meets Bluesy Soul 8-11pm	Happy Hour 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

It's easy to become a member or renew your membership.

GO to NewDealCafe.com, click on Become a Member. Follow us on Facebook.

Obituaries

Vincent Gigliotti

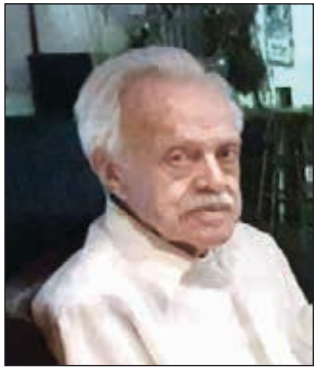


PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Vincent Gigliotti

Vincent Joseph Gigliotti, 94, died from natural causes on December 17, 2022, at his home in Lanham.

Vincent was born December 23, 1927, in Norristown, Pa., to Angelo and Elizabeth Gigliotti. He attended Temple University.

Truly a member of the "Great-est Generation," Vincent honorably served this nation for over 50 years embodying the U.S. Army core values of Duty, Honor and Selfless Service. His military service spanned nearly two generations from 1946 to 1989, supporting the aftermath of World War II and operations in every major conflict of the United States for 43 years. His accolades most notably include the Meritorious Service Medals, World War II Victory Medal and Army of Occupation Medal-Japan. After his Army service, he joined the Maryland Defense Forces where he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 1963, Vincent and his family moved to Greenbelt where they lived on Hedgewood Drive for 27 years. During his 47-year career as a contract specialist at Goddard Space Flight Center he supported historic space satellite missions, retiring in 2012 at the age of 84. He spent his final years, joined by wife Rita and his dog Coco, watching old westerns.

Vincent is survived by his wife Rita; his three sons, Gregory Gigliotti (Kathy), Steven Gigliotti

and Vinny Gigliotti (Joan); six grandchildren, Anthony Gigliotti (Sarah), Craig May, Jake Gigliotti (Lindsay), Nicholas Gigliotti, Sophia Dippel (Andrew), and Gabriel Gigliotti; seven great-grandchildren, Ryan May, Joshua May, Anthony Gigliotti, Andrew Gigliotti, Owen Gigliotti, Emilia Gigliotti and Giana Gigliotti; sister Gloria Ninke and brother Felix P Gigliotti. He was preceded in death by his parents Angelo and Elizabeth and his sister Mary Gaimo.

Interment was in the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery in Crownsville, Md.

Taunya (Toni) L. Smith



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Taunya (Toni) L. Smith

Taunya (Toni) L. Smith died in her Greenbriar home on December 14, 2022. She had lived in Greenbelt since November 1991 and in Greenbriar since June 1996. Toni was born on July 27, 1957, and raised in Washington, D.C., attending the former Woodridge Elementary and Taft Junior High Schools and graduating from McKinley Tech High School in N.E. Washington.

She utilized city services such as Greenbelt CARES and the Greenbelt Connection in recent years. Her son, Renaud Brown, continues work with the Prince George's Peace and Justice Coalition and was a 25-year resident of Greenbelt.

Services are January 10, 2023, at the Dupont Park Seventh Day Adventist Church. Contact rdbtenor@gmail.com for more information.



PHOTO BY CHERYL LANDIS

On Saturday, December 17, Emmett Jordan was sworn in as a member of the Maryland Democratic Party Central Committee representing State Legislative District 22. On the left is Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis.



Longtime residents and NASA employees will be sad to hear of the death of Vincent Gigliotti. He and his family lived on Hedgewood Drive from 1963 until 1990; Mr. Gigliotti worked at Goddard Space Flight Center until his retirement in 2012.

Our condolences to the family and friends of Taunya (Toni) Smith, who died on December 14.

Greenbelt News Review member Laura Bonkosky found a beautiful ornament identified as number 12 in a series, hanging on the door of the News Review office on Monday, December 26. Following the hashtag #GBBalls on Facebook suggests that at least 23 balls have been hidden across the city.



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

GB Ball #12 was found on the News Review's office door.

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



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT MASS
Sundays 10:00 a.m.
City Council Room
25 Crescent Road
ALL ARE WELCOME!

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
FDeBernardo@aol.com

The Bible Says...
Happy New Year!
This is what the Lord Almighty says:
"Give Careful Thought To Your Ways."
Haggai 1:7
What will you do to make 2023 your best year yet?

MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH
IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
MCFcc.org

Greenbelt Community Church
One Hillside Road
Join Us Sunday 10:15 AM for Worship and Church School

We are an Open and Affirming Church

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org



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

"Be ye the helpers of every victim of oppression, the patrons of the disadvantaged." – 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community
www.greenbeltbahais.org

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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

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

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301-474-9410
Pastor Evelyn Romero
In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Come as you are

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm.
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

*Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.

CELEBRATE WITH US
135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 1, 2023 at 3:00 pm
Kwanzaa: The Value of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

Carmelita Carter-Sykes, PBUUC Diversity/Anti-Racism Transformation Team (DARTT) with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

We celebrate Kwanzaa giving thanks for the harvest which brings us good food from the earth and expressing appreciation for the wisdom and strength of our ancestors who provided nurturing homes, communities, and institutions against tremendous odds. We reflect on how we can build a better future for all.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 at:
University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD

GAIL Caregiver Support Program

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is hosting a program both online and in-person for caregiver support groups. The group provides support for adult children, spouses, family or friends who provide care to a loved one.

In-person meetings begin in January. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Community Center, Ground Floor East. The virtual session will be on the third Wednesday from 2 to 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required and groups are limited to 10 participants. Contact Sharon Johnson, group facilitator, at 240-542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov. A Zoom link will be provided to registered participants.

Homeschoolers Meet At Youth Center

Monday meet-ups at the Greenbelt Youth Center are coming back for the Greenbelt homeschoolers. Every Monday from January 23 through May 22, except for federal holidays, the group will gather from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with play for children and support for parents. All ages are invited.

The group will meet in the Youth Center Multipurpose Room for play, socialization, age-appropriate activities and games and a brown bag lunch. All families in and near Greenbelt are invited to join. This is not a drop-off program; children must be directly supervised by their adult.

Contact Li'l Dan, parent volunteer/city liaison, at dceldran@hotmail.com or 240-643-3768 with questions or to RSVP before January 23.

City Notes

Three cats and two kittens were adopted and three dogs were impounded, so the Animal Shelter now hosts eight cats, three kittens, five dogs and three bunnies.

Street Maintenance/Special Details repaired potholes, cleaned storm drains and salted icy pavement. Horticulture/Parks removed eight loads of curbside leaves, pruned hazardous limbs and checked for icy sidewalks. Refuse/Recycling collected 24.84 tons of refuse and 10.60 tons of recyclables. Sustainability/Environmental received a U.S. Department of Agriculture composting grant. Building/Maintenance installed a new outside security light at the Community Center.

The Aquatic & Fitness Center hosted county swift-water training, concluded the fall session of water exercise and held swim lesson pre-evaluation.

The Community Center provided free space to GAIL, Golden Age Club and Board of Appeals. Therapeutic Recreation took seniors to Toby's Dinner Theatre to see It's a Wonderful Life. Park rangers welcomed the Chesapeake Education, Arts and Research Society to Schrom Hills Park for their annual Winter Solstice celebration.

**GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE**



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.

MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 2-6

Monday, January 2, **NO MEETING, CITY OFFICES CLOSED**

Tuesday, January 3 at 7 pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD (ZOOM)**,
On the Agenda: Approval of November Minutes; Space Study; AAB Statement Revisions; Schedule Items for the New Year: Arts Crawl 2023, Arts Mixer 2023, AAB Project Suggestions; Round Robin; Adjourn

Wednesday, January 4 at 7:10 pm, **REPARATIONS COMMISSION INTERVIEW**

Wednesday, January 4 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - COMPENSATION STUDY**

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Advisory Planning Board
- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Forest Preserve Advisory Board
- Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

City Offices will be closed Monday, January 2 in observance of the New Year.

REFUSE/RECYCLING SCHEDULE - WEEK OF JANUARY 2

- Monday Route – collected Tuesday
- Tuesday Route – collected Wednesday
- Wednesday Route – collected Thursday
- Thursday Route – collected Friday

There will be no appliance or yard waste collections on Friday, January 6.

GREENBELT CONNECTION

The Greenbelt Connection will not operate on Sunday & Monday, January 1 & 2.

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM AND PAINT RECYCLING

Saturday, January 28 from 9 am until 12 pm
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road

Paint Recycling \$5 per container

- NO Alkaline Batteries or CFLs
- NO Tube TVs/Questions?

For more information, call (301) 474-8004.

Greenbelt ARPA Funds Assistance Programs Update (as of 12/5/22)

Rent and Utility Assistance
· 396 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$1,958,253.04

Mortgage and HOA fee Assistance
· 17 Greenbelt Households were granted assistance totaling \$61,856.17

GREENBELT RECREATION'S 2023 WINTER ACTIVITY GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide to view and register.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

FREE MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

CARES currently has daytime hours available from 9 am-4 pm for individual counseling for ages 16+. Waitlist available for evening hours starting at 5 pm.

Call (301) 345-6660 or email cares@greenbeltmd.gov.

GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

This FREE program is available for Greenbelt families with newborns to 2 years old. Service includes monthly diapers, formula, baby milestone progress review, and more.

Call (240) 542-2019 or email kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) is offering support groups online or in-person beginning January 2023. Registration required.

In-person: Every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 6-7 pm at Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East

Online: Every 3rd Wednesday of the month from 2-3 pm.

Call (240) 542-2029 or email sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

This FREE program occurs every 3rd Thursday of the month from 1-3 pm. Look at this section of the GNR or the City calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar for information.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 RECOGNITION GROUP APPLICATIONS AND POLICY AND INFORMATION GUIDES NOW AVAILABLE

on the City of Greenbelt website at

www.greenbeltmd.gov/groups

Completed applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm Monday, February 6.

For questions or more information, please email cpracht@greenbeltmd.gov or call (240) 542-2196.

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.

BECA DE EDUCACIÓN GREENBELT

El período de solicitud está abierto del 15 de diciembre de 2022 al 31 de marzo de 2023.

GREENBELT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

Application period open December 15, 2022 until March 31, 2023.

Scan here to apply!



¡Escanea aquí para aplicar!

For more information visit www.greenbeltmd.gov

City Council OKs IT Upgrades, Comcast Agreement, Security

by Deb Daniel

On Monday, December 12, the Greenbelt City Council approved the Comcast franchise agreement and upgrades for city building security systems.

With the new Comcast franchise agreement, Mayor Emmett Jordan noted that payment percentages remain the same but there are some other changes from the previous agreement. The term of the franchise agreement is 10 years. This agreement was negotiated as a group including the county and all its 27 municipalities. Jordan mentioned that the agreement supports Greenbelt's broadcast of city meetings on television and enables Greenbelt Access Television to provide training and other community broadcasts.

Director of Information Technology Dale Worley compared the services under the new and old agreements. Most significant are the public, educational and government access television channels, which provide the services Jordan described for broadcasting council meetings and community events. The city will continue to have eight county and three municipal channels for 10 years. This agreement will also support C-Net, which connects Greenbelt to other jurisdictions until the C-Net links are transitioned to a government network. Comcast will also continue to provide the existing drops to government buildings with a provision to "price at cost," which probably will be negligible.

To Councilmember Judith Davis's inquiry about additional fees, Worley replied that the issue involved the definition of "gross revenue" and this agreement ties Comcast to a generally accepted gross revenue definition. Worley mentioned that his legal counsel had said that, across the whole

country, this was one of the best agreements he had seen. To Jordan's question about broadband versus cable access agreements across the county, Worley replied that Federal Communications Commission rulings do not allow such combined agreements, meaning that content delivery over the airwaves or over the internet is precluded from cable agreements.

Council approved the Comcast franchise agreement unanimously.

Petitbon Alarm System

The Community Center, which is not under the same alarm system as the rest of the city-owned buildings, will be upgraded to the Petitbon alarm system. This upgrade will provide a better user management system, will include upgrades to all the city fire alarms and will transition the city away from unreliable copper wire systems.

Worley started the discussion by saying all city buildings are wired for alarms and those alarms communicate back to Petitbon over old copper wires. Substituting cellular and internet communications can improve connectivity. Using uninterruptible power supplies will restart communication during a power outage.

Mayor Pro Tem Kristen Weaver asked if the alarm systems had to be powered up for the smoke detectors to work and Worley said he would check into that.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts suggested that the wiring in cellular and internet systems is as vulnerable as copper wiring. Worley explained that currently, with the phone systems, one system serves as backup to the other phone system. Similar backup capability in the cellular and internet communications networks would also be part of the alarm system.

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

Final Pub Quiz of 2022



A full house of teams enjoyed the final Pub Quiz of 2022 at the New Deal Café. The Ukulele Ladies (Kathy Bartolomeo, Ellie Clark, Mary Moien and Joellen Sarff) at the far left table, led a sing-along of holiday tunes at intermission and We Are the Champions to celebrate the awarding of the Taft Trophy. A new season of Pub Quiz, which is held at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month, begins on Wednesday, January 18.



The Taft Trophy is awarded to the team with the cumulative high score for the year at the New Deal Café's monthly Pub Quiz. The Delusions of Grandeur, with the winning scoreboard, hoist the trophy high in front of the New Deal stage to celebrate their victory in 2022. Back row: Todd Sauer (Baltimore), E. J. Reynolds (Greenbelt), Chuck Bury (Greenbelt) and Andrew Sauer (Olney); front row: Pat Scully (Greenbelt), Ed Sauer (Olney) and Barb Tymann (Hyattsville).

- Photos by Greg Frock



Preliminary Agenda Items for Board Meetings on January 5, 2023

- A. GHI Closed Meeting – (closed to members and visitors) – starts at 7:00 pm
 - a) 2023-2025 Pest Control Contract – 2nd reading
 - b) Contract with a Firm to Undertake the 2022 External Audit and Prepare Tax Returns
 - c) Approve Minutes of a Formal Hearing Held on October 27, 2022
 - d) Approve Minutes of a Closed Meeting Held on November 17, 2022
 - e) Member Financial Matters
 - f) Complaint Matters
- B. GDC Open Meeting – (open to members and visitors) - starts at 7:45 pm
Review GDC's 2022 3rd quarter Financial Statements
- C. GHI Open Meeting – (open to members and visitors) starts after the GDC Meeting adjourns
 - a) Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on December 15, 2022
 - b) Statement of a Closed Meeting Held on January 5, 2023
 - c) Approve Minutes of the Open Meeting Held on November 17, 2022
 - d) Bicycle Committee's 2022 Year-end Report
 - e) Review GHI's 2022 3rd quarter Financial Statements
 - f) Review Status of the Board's 2022-2023 Action Plan
 - g) Motion to Hold a Closed Meeting on January 19, 2023

2023 GHI Fee Increase Letters

All 2023 Fee Increase letters were sent to Quadient (our third party bulk mailer), on December 16, 2022 for mailing to GHI's members; however, due to the holiday season, delivery times may be delayed beyond what is typical.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused to members through the late receipt of the fee assessment letters. GHI's staff anticipates that all letters should be received by the end of this week. In the interim, the Finance and Member Services teams are available to provide verbal confirmation of fee amounts for 2023. If you have not received your letter by January 3, 2023, you may contact our office for a copy.

Those Short of New Booster Risk Being Short of Breath

by Cathie Meetre

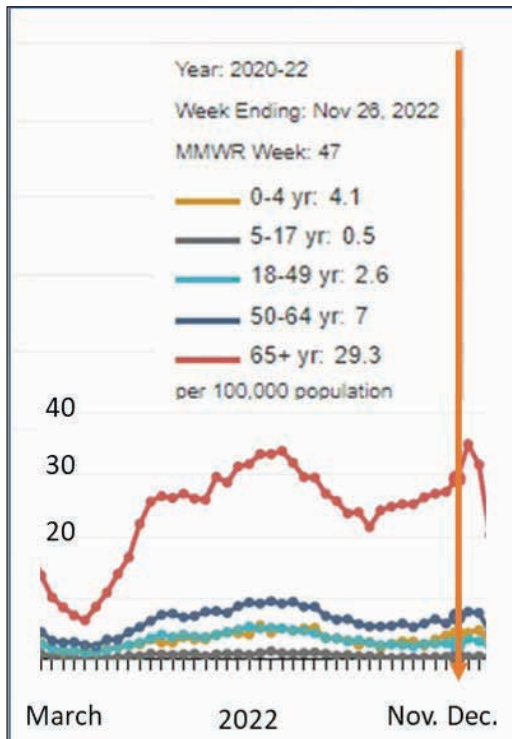
It is noticeable in reports from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC, see graph) that adults over 65 who catch Covid remain disproportionately vulnerable. Infected seniors are hospitalized and die in far greater proportions than younger infected people. It's important to note, however, that the seniors who are hospitalized and who die are much less likely to have had all available boosters than their age-mates who are not in the hospital (although this is not in itself enough to explain the entire disparity). Boosters clearly reduce the risk of hospitalization and death at all ages, but the effect is most noticeable among the most vulnerable.

Recent Prince George's County data show some increase in overall cases — though in the county the number of hospitalized patients is currently under 50, but the status for cases and resources remains at a "medium" level between high and low.

Bi-Valent Booster

The new bi-valent booster became available September 2, 2022. Those who have not had a booster since that time have outdated protection. Even if science can't guess what the virus will do next, it can at least race closer to neck and neck.

The new booster has been adapted by manufacturers to address the variants that replaced the earlier forms of the Covid-19 virus. The original shots were de-



The proportion of older people hospitalized for Covid is getting higher. Over one third of those hospitalized in December are over 65.

died in such numbers, the rate of hospitalizations of seniors was about three times that of younger people. But now seniors are hospitalized at a rate almost four times higher than younger groups and, though lack of up-to-date vaccination is not the only factor, it is at least one under the individual's control.

And, think of this. Young people continuously turn into old ones and soon three-years-worth of people who weren't seniors in 2020 will have achieved this landmark status.

Keep Boosting

Older adults are not getting the boosters that help them keep up with the evolving virus, even though shots are still free and widely available. CDC reports that only about one-third of those over 65 have received an updated booster shot.

The determinedly unvaccinated continue to rely, presumably, on catching the virus from time to time to keep their immunity up or not catching it at all. As they age into the ranks of seniors, their first or next time around the track may be spent in a hospital bed.

Booster shots are available at local pharmacies. Call the Co-op, 301-474-4400; Giant, 301-982-2359; CVS, 301-441-8811; Safeway, 301-345-8777; or Demmy's, 301-220-3124.

Data used are drawn from the CDC and from the Prince George's County Covid-19 Dashboard.

signed for the original virus and the new generation of boosters has been re-tailored to meet the threat of its ongoing evolution as well. The booster people received until September of 2022 is much less effective than the booster available today and will have also partly worn off as the protective effect reduces with time. It's necessary to face the fact that Covid, like the flu, is an ongoing threat that needs at least annual attention. Each update in boosters stays only one step behind the new antics of Covid-19.

Age Gap Widens

During the first wave of Covid, when those in nursing homes

Local High-Rise Condo Owners Get Bad News about Building

by Catherine Shearing

The owners of a local high-rise condo bordering the city recently got a big shock as an engineering company reported that millions of dollars of work would be required to replace all the condo elements that are beyond their estimated life.

Condominium ownership was all the rage in the early 1970s. This then-new form of ownership gave each owner, usually in multifamily housing like a townhouse or a low- or high-rise apartment, a deed to their own unit and the opportunity to own a home, even if they couldn't afford or didn't need a house.

In a condominium, the deeded owner is responsible for the wall or floor or ceiling of their unit and all inside it — plumbing, windows, doors and electrical service.

In a condo, an elected homeowners' association (HOA) board oversees maintenance of the building structure and facilities shared by all. They usually hire a specialized management company to do this day-to-day.

GHI Learned its Lesson

Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI), a housing cooperative rather than a condominium, learned a hard lesson in the late 1970s when the original structures were 40 or

so years old. GHI had to borrow millions of dollars because, in the quest to keep monthly fees low, it had not built sufficient reserves to cover replacement of major systems nor had it invested sufficiently in ongoing preventive maintenance. In 1979, the piper had to be paid.

To its credit, GHI has not repeated this mistake and its most recent makeover was paid for out of reserves without borrowing anything. GHI owners had paid in a fair proportion over the years as part of their monthly co-op fee, unlike recent purchasers in the high-rise condo who will have to foot the bill for those already gone.

But, as the collapse of the Miami high-rise in 2021 showed, the condo boom is now facing its own crisis as the buildings of the 1970s reach their 50th birthday. Generations of condo owners have not paid enough into reserves for refurbishing buildings in which plumbing, electrical, roofing, windows and hallways are now often well beyond their estimated lifespans.

Local Condo Status

Greenbelt buildings don't have the salty Atlantic lapping at their

See CONDOS, page 8

CHES continued from page 3

Deal Café every second, third and fourth Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. New players of all ages and skill levels are welcome to

stop by for a quick game or stay for the entire session. For more information, contact Effie Levner at 443-415-1053.



PHOTO COURTESY EFFIE LEVNER

Emmett Jordan was among those enjoying chess at the New Deal Café in December.



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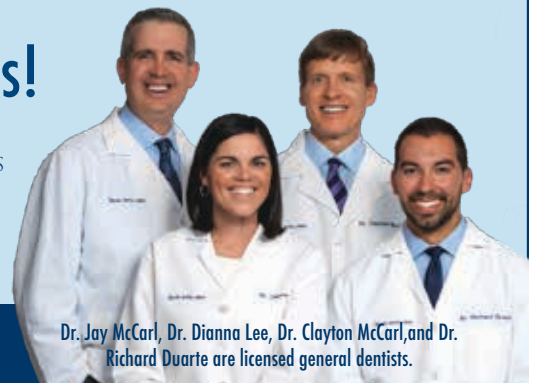
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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, and Dr. Richard Duarte are licensed general dentists.

CONDOS continued from page 7

foundations, rusting out the structural steel. But surrounded by Greenbelt Park, in an inexplicable bite out of Greenbelt's western margin on Kenilworth Avenue, is the 18-story Westchester Park development. While one of the tall buildings is a rental facility, the other is a condo with approximately 350 units.

When fears generated by the Miami collapse spurred high-rise condo HOAs to seek professional evaluation of their buildings, the results were generally shocking. Westchester was no exception. Its owners were told that to replace all the elements judged to be beyond their estimated life would cost ~\$45,000 per two-bedroom unit and ~\$15,000 for an efficiency.

It's important to note that being beyond estimated life doesn't necessarily mean dangerous or damaged, just older than a fairly conservative estimate. For example, the estimate for a dishwasher is 10 years and for an elevator mechanism, 20 to 25 years. Patio doors are estimated at 30 years. Unsurprisingly, however, owners were horrified at the cost and freaked out by the idea that they and their homes might be at risk.

After years of keeping monthly payments down (and with board members even running for office on a track record of no increases for several years), the HOA was suddenly faced with a potential huge payment to their particular piper. In particular, the newest buyers were slammed with a huge assessment that

should have been paid for gradually in accumulating reserves by their predecessors. Those who had sold units escaped scot-free. Those that bought recently got slammed with a cost equivalent to about 15 percent of what they just paid for the condo.

Are the Condos Safe?

The report did not investigate safety per se, just listed building components beyond their estimated life. Some, inevitably, are related to safety but their actual condition wasn't ascertained. It is probable that a phased approach to fixing these elements, with the riskiest first, and an ongoing commitment to increasing reserves – learning GHI's lesson, in fact – would avoid the need to borrow as much up front.

But HOA board members aren't building specialists or financial wizards and their reaction is to borrow enough to fix everything. But if they do that, because their residents are paying off the loan, they can't also build reserves – and the cycle begins again.

Ironically, perhaps, American Rescue Plan Act funds are currently available that may possibly give grants and no-interest loans to lower-income building residents who get into arrears on their payments.

Low-Rise Developments

There's no indication that garden-style apartments have been similarly assessed. The fear engendered by the Miami collapse – of a complete tower of buildings falling – is not as much a factor,

but it's hard to imagine that the many condos within the city's boundaries have no age-related problems, even though they are not prone to such a one-shot devastation. The determination of HOAs to keep costs low, however, may mean that reserves are inadequate for major renovations.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD



PHOTO BY JOE ROBBINS

A bald eagle feeds while perched on the ice-covered Lake beside the peninsula.

This squirrel knows that winter is coming.

COUNCIL continued from page 6

Resident Bill Orleans recounted some of the difficulties he encountered trying to get into the Municipal Building and asked if the security and door systems could work together. He also asked if Public Works, Information Technology and the city Police Department could find a system that worked for security and alarms without separate vendors.

Worley responded that two systems are at work here: the security/code alarm system will notify someone and may eventually notify the police about a security breach, while the door pass system with a lock/unlock schedule is programmed by the

information technology team. The two systems work together to provide layers of security.

Council approved the Petition Alarm purchase unanimously.

Door System Purchase

The Community Center and the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center will be included in the city door pass system so that one card will open any city building door (except Schrom Hills Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center). The buzzer system for the Community Center will be part of this system installation. Council unanimously approved the purchase of the door/pass system installation.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred from December 19 through December 25. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Armed Person

On December 19 at 12:15 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, an employee reported a customer brandished a firearm. Officers responded and searched the customer, but did not locate a firearm.

Arrest for Trespassing

On December 24 at 1:09 a.m. near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, an adult woman was arrested after refusing to leave the Metro station and damaging a police cruiser by swinging a belt at officers, leaving the cruiser scratched and dented.

Assault

On December 20 at 2:24 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a fight occurred between 10-year-old boys. The school was notified for follow-up.

Break-in

On December 20 at 7:04 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, the reporting party noticed smudges in wet paint and believed someone was in the store without permission. Nothing taken.

DUI Arrest

On December 23 at 2:43 a.m. near Greenbelt Road /Kenilworth Avenue and on December 25 at 2:09 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue/Capital Beltway.

Fraud

On December 20 at 3:47 p.m. near 9300 Edmonston Road, EBT fraud. On December 21 at 11:11 p.m. near Ridge Road, wire fraud. On December 22 at 2:28 p.m. near Laurel Hill Road, EBT fraud.

Missing person

On December 24 at 8:47 p.m. near 7800 Lakecrest Drive, a juvenile was reported missing; located the following day.

Suicide

On December 20 at 8:47 a.m. near Greenbelt Lake Trail, a mental health emergency occurred at Buddy Attick Park.

Theft

On December 21 at 2:18 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a package theft. On December 21 at 3:25 p.m. near 5300 N. Center Drive, six package thefts. On December 22 at 2:07 p.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a commercial theft. On December 23 at 5:24 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, a shoplifting. On December 23 at 7:09 p.m. near 5200 Stream Bank Lane, a package theft. On December 24 at 5:19 p.m. near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a package theft. On December 24 at 6:17 p.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, a commercial theft.

Vandalism

On December 19 at 7:22 a.m. near 7500 Hanover Parkway, a brick front business sign was destroyed by a car. On December 22 at 2:00 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, residence window was broken.

Vehicle Crimes Plate Recovered

On December 24 at 1:37 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, a license plate stolen out of Fairfax County, Va., was found.

Stolen Vehicles

On December 19 at 6:52 a.m. near 7300 Morrison Drive, a 2018 silver Hyundai Elantra (MD plate: 4DF4184) was stolen. On December 19 at 6:58 a.m. near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a 2013 white Ford Econoline (MD plate: 1BX0621) was stolen. On December 21 at 7:11 a.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, a 2020 Honda CRV (MD plate: 2EM6636) was stolen. On December 24 at 5:50 a.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a 2008 BMW 328I (MD plate: 8FD1771) was stolen. On December 24 at 10:26 a.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, a 2020 Hyundai Elantra was stolen and later located by PGPD in Laurel, MD with no damage; released back

to owner. On December 24 at 11:30 a.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a 2007 Honda Accord (MD plate: 4FA3934) was stolen. On December 24 at 11:35 p.m. near 200 Lakeside Drive, a blue 2016 Hyundai Elantra (MD plate: 5CF1365) was stolen. On December 25 at 8:27 a.m. near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a 2013 Kia Forte had ignition damaged; no signs of forced entry.

Theft from Auto

On December 19 at 3:47 a.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, all four wheels were stolen from a 2021 Toyota RAV4. On December 19 at 8:05 a.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a license plate was stolen. On December 19 at 9:26 a.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, the steering wheel airbag was stolen from a 2019 Honda Civic. On December 20 at 2:08 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, the steering wheel airbag was stolen from a 2016 Honda Civic. On December 22 at 2:41 a.m. near 9100 Edmonston Terrace, all four tires were stolen from a 2020 Honda Accord. On December 22 at 3:40 p.m. near 9100 Edmonston Road, the rear passenger-side window was broken; personal property stolen. On December 23 at 4:23 a.m. near 7900 Greenbury Drive, the rear passenger-side window was broken; personal property stolen. On December 23 at 8:39 p.m. near 7700 Greenbrook Drive, a car was rummaged through; no signs of forced entry. On December 24 at 9:55 a.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a rear tire was stolen from a 2019 Ford Explorer. On December 24 at 1:34 p.m. near 5900 Springhill Drive, a rear window was broken; personal property stolen. On December 25 at 5:51 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a front passenger-side window was broken; vehicle rum-

maged through.

Vandalism of Auto

On December 20 at 1:11 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road, a front passenger-side window was broken; nothing was taken.

Christmas Day Shooting

A 15-year-old boy was shot in Greenbelt on Christmas Day. Greenbelt police officers responded to the 9000 block of Breezewood Terrace at 1:17 p.m. for the report of gunshots. There they found evidence of a shooting.

At 1:51 p.m., a 15-year-old boy arrived at a local hospital suffering from a gunshot wound. During the initial investigation, it was determined the boy was injured during the Breezewood Terrace incident. Initial appearances are that the child's injury is non-life-threatening.

Anyone with information about this shooting is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.



Santa seems stuck.

PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.

Become a Plogger: Make Greenbelt Sparkle

What is "plogging"? It's an eco-friendly exercise that involves picking up trash while jogging or walking – taking care of one's health at the same time. Plogging was coined by Swedish outdoorsman and environmentalist Erik Ahlstrom and comes from plocka, the Swedish word for pick up.

Greenbelt Plogs, a RUAK initiative, is a fun and engaging way to clean up litter from the streets, paths, streams and ponds while raising awareness on the importance of preventing storm-water pollution.

Join fellow Greenbelters in helping make Greenbelt sparkle.

Those interested in joining Greenbelt Plogs should email Robert Goldberg-Strassler at spreadruak@gmail.com.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

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.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.

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Crisis Hotline's New Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code has changed, effective July 16. The new three-digit dialing code is 988 and it's available for phone calls and text messages.

The former Lifeline phone number (1-800-273-8255) will continue to be accessible.

Calls and text messages are confidential and free.

"No matter what problems you're dealing with, whether or not you're thinking about suicide, if you need someone to lean on for emotional support, call the Lifeline," the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline says on its website at samhsa.gov/find-help/988.



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BOXED: \$10.60/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15.90). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.

NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.

DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Sports

One If by Land, Two If by Pool? Aquatic & Fitness Center Welcomes All

by Susan Taylor

The bright blue roof welcomes Greenbelt residents of all ages and abilities to the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC).

Part of Greenbelt History

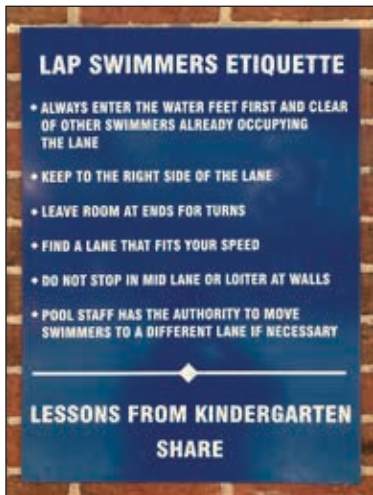
Located behind the Municipal Building and next to the Youth Center, GAFC has been a central part of Greenbelt life from the beginning. When the public pool opened in 1939, it was the first in the Washington, D.C., area. Now as then, like the News Review, the pool supports the founding ideals of community-building and healthy living.

Community Fitness

Swim students, weightlifters, lap swimmers, bike riders, aqua power-movers, local fire/rescue and police departments, yogic stretchers and the swim team share the facility. While safety comes first, being together as a community is not far behind.

Stephen Parks, GAFC supervisor, points to a sign in the pool area that highlights lessons from kindergarten about community. "We want to share with everyone and that requires the patrons to share with each other."

The GAFC offers group and individual fitness options for folks of all ages. Each week, people from infants to elders find exercise, fun, relaxation, new skills and challenge there. Neighbors greet each other warmly and support the ways other



GAFC builds community through sharing.

- Photos by Susan Taylor

Greenbelters are caring for themselves.

Land-based Exercise

Fitness attendants are stationed in the exercise wing to help. "If anyone has a question about how to use a machine, if they're looking for a workout, all they have to do is ask," Parks explains.

Sessions with certified personal trainers are also available. Bravo System weight machines even have scannable bar codes for information.

Water-based Fitness

"Water fitness is coming back," declares Parks. GAFC reduced its hours during the height of the pandemic but, while it



Fitness attendant Harriet Taylor, left, and front desk staff member Janet Manson-Celestine greet patrons at the Aquatic & Fitness Center.

retains cleaning protocols, the facility has returned to fuller hours.

On a recent morning, lap lanes were filled, people were scattered throughout the pool using the water as resistance and students from a recently ended water-fitness class filled the hot tub with a shared sense of pride, laughter and relief.


Open Daily

GAFC is open seven days a week. The fitness wing offers

patrons access to state-of-the-art exercise equipment, stationary bikes, rowing machines, treadmills, stretching mats and much more.

While the outdoor pool is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the indoor pool is open all year round. Admission fees are discounted for Greenbelt residents. Patrons can pay for daily, monthly, seasonal and annual access.

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Your Greenbelt Specialists
In Roosevelt Center

KWANZAA continued from page 1

ourselves, as well as to create and speak for ourselves.

3. Ujima (Collective work and responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems and to solve them together.

4. Ujamaa (Cooperative economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

5. Nia (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

6. Kuumba (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

7. Imani (Faith): To believe with all our hearts in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Jackson says she likes to kick off the Kwanzaa holiday celebrations on the first day, reflecting on the principle of unity, which for her means community. The event was a great success and one of the enjoyable aspects was the diversity of ages of participants, including children, teens, young and older people. The youth were playing games, families gathered and ate together, participants had great conversations about why they started celebrating Kwanzaa and how they have been inspired to incorporate community events into their cel-



PHOTO BY THOMAS JACKSON

Chiquita Jackson, right, resident of Verde at Greenbelt Station and member of Greenbelt Reparations Commission, pictured here with City Councilmember Ric Gordon, organized a well-attended celebration of Kwanzaa on Monday, December 26, at the Youth Center.

brations.

"There aren't any other Kwanzaa celebrations in Greenbelt that I know of," said Councilmember Ric Gordon, who attended Monday. "This may have been the first public event. Certainly, in a city building – that's never been done before," he told the News Review.

For Gordon the breakfast was the only Kwanzaa event he'll attend during the period, which runs from December 26 to January 1. For the rest of the holiday, he says he'll observe Kwanzaa by taking each day, incorporating the principles of Kwanzaa and what it means.

As for Jackson, she's already planning for a bigger celebration next year, exploring the possibility of partnering with the City of Greenbelt, and considering a space that could accommodate more people than the Youth Center.

Chiquita Jackson has just been appointed to the Greenbelt Reparations Commission.



PHOTO BY RIC GORDON

Games are provided for the little ones to play at the Kwanzaa celebration on December 26.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE DORAN

A fallen tree in the frozen Lake on Christmas Day

LAMBERT continued from page 1

Flight day started unremarkably enough, with flyers passing through the Transportation Security Administration before their early morning departure from Houston. But once the plane reached an altitude of 25,000 feet, the plan for the flight was precise choreography. Flyers lie down on the floor of the plane's 60-foot "floating area," which is covered in squishy material like wrestling mats in a high school gym, said Wells-Jensen.

Then the plane arced into repeated parabolic motion, ascending 18 steep hills and navigating 18 sharp descents. Twenty parabolas were planned, Lambert said, but the plane ran out of airspace in the 100-square-mile box allotted by the Federal Aviation Administration.

During the ascents, flyers experience gravitational forces that make them feel almost twice their weight on Earth. Then, when the plane noses over the top of its hill of atmosphere, flyers slowly, gently lift off the floor. From the peak of each parabola to its valley, crew members had 20 to 30 seconds to conduct their experiments.

Anna Voelker, AstroAccess co-founder and executive director, who participated in the first AstroAccess flight, said the tactile graphics and personalized hearing technology that Lambert helped test are both examples of universal design – the principle that systems designed for diverse groups of users are better for all users.

"By creating access for those who have been historically excluded, that really just benefits science and discovery itself," they said.

Lambert said the tactile graphics were overwhelmingly successful. In an environment lacking tactile stimuli, hand-sized panels with raised lines and markings mounted on the plane walls relayed messages to help low-vision and blind flyers orient themselves. But these graphics could also benefit sighted flyers in the event of a smoky fire or power outage on future voyages.

Blind and sighted AstroAccess flyers underwent training to read these tactile graphics with a swipe of their hands, Voelker said. To test whether flyers could "read" the graphics, the graphics lied. If flyers could see or use environmental cues to orient themselves without the graphics, they had to be able to interpret the graphics correctly to reproduce the lie.

"So where it says the front of the cabin is, where the back of the cabin is and which wall you're on, none of that is necessarily true," said Voelker. "The only thing that's always true is down."

Lambert was also one of six flyers who participated in a seat-belt docking test, successfully fastening and unfastening a five-point seat harness in microgravity within 15 seconds – currently a required capability to fly in space.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA AND ASTROACCESS

AstroAccess flight participants take off from Houston on December 15 to test technologies to support disabled individuals in space.

Lambert added that Sonic-Cloud audio-assist software, which allows users to adjust sound to their individual hearing needs, enabled her to better hear flight instructions through her headphones.

The rise of commercial spaceflight may help democratize space travel. "Because we're at the very beginning of spaceflight becoming more available to not just government agencies," Lambert said, "the whole point is to make sure that all of the human experience is included from the very beginning."

The European Space Agency announced in November the selection of its first astronaut with a disability, John McFall, whose leg was amputated after a motorcycle accident. NASA has not announced plans to send an astronaut with a disability to space.

But ESIP Director Jenn Gustetic said Lambert's work will play a crucial part in furthering equity and inclusion at NASA. Since joining ESIP a year ago, Lambert has been building a multi-year strategy and a team to engage diverse space technology proposals across ESIP's programs. "Our hypothesis is that by embedding this capability within our organization," said Gustetic, "it will result in more sustainable and impactful and program-cus-

tomized solutions to this work." Lambert said that in the week of rehearsals before the flight, NASA astronauts and physicians, as well as representatives from the space tourism companies Blue Origin, Sierra Space and Virgin Galactic, showed up to pitch in with errands and to observe.

"I think they genuinely want to see, 'How can we make this work?'" Lambert said.

She said she feels lucky to have pursued a lifelong interest through AstroAccess. But, she said, "I don't want to be seen as this awe-inspiring person. If we only see people with disabilities being just inspiring, then it takes us out of being just regular folks with regular interests."

Lambert said the flight combined the focus and seriousness of scientific experimentation with the childlike joy of flipping and spinning in microgravity. Lambert's son, seeing photos of his mom floating during the flight, said he wanted to float too.

Lambert, whom Wells-Jensen described as "good at learning new things fast" and "an exquisite team player," said the desires and experiences of individuals with disabilities reflect a full spectrum: "We should be expected to engage in all aspects of what humans want to do, from the normal to the crazy."



PHOTO BY SUSAN TAYLOR

Trees along Research Road glow in the winter afternoon sunlight.