



Summer soccer, p.11



WETA films Karim, p.12

## A Community Concerned: Police Search for Teacher

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Mariame Toure Sylla, a Greenbelt resident and beloved teacher at Dora Kennedy French Immersion school went missing on Saturday, July 29. She was last seen by her son around 8 p.m. on Saturday when she left her home in the 6500 block of Lake Park Drive in the apartment complex across from Schrom Hills Park. Sylla, who is Muslim, usually went for a daily walk after late afternoon prayer, said her friend Dougo Nana Sidibe. During those walks she would usually call Sidibe to talk but that evening she didn't call because Sidibe was working. Instead around 11 p.m. Sidibe got a call from Sylla's son, who is currently living with Sylla, to tell his mother's friend that she did not return from her walk. They then called 911 to report her missing. Sylla is 59 years old, described as a 5'5" Black woman weighing approximately 135 pounds, and was



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT POLICE

Mariame Toure Sylla, 59, has been missing since Saturday, July 29.

wearing a long dress and a scarf when she went out that evening.

On Tuesday morning, Greenbelt Police closed Schrom Hills

See **TEACHER**, page 9

## Josué Salmerón Selected New Greenbelt City Manager

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Wednesday, August 2, Greenbelt City Council announced the selection of Josué Salmerón as the new Greenbelt city manager. After a year-long nationwide search, Salmerón was one of three finalists that also included Interim City Manager Tim George and Assistant City Manager of College Park Bill Gardiner. Salmerón will be coming to Greenbelt from Yellow Springs, Ohio, where he has served as village manager for four years.

"Council is excited to welcome Mr. Salmerón to Greenbelt as our city manager. In making this choice, we solicited input from the public and conducted an extensive national search. We interviewed several highly qualified candidates and allowed city staff and the public to meet the finalists," said Mayor Emmett Jordan. "In the end, Mr. Salmerón's lead-



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE QUINN

Greenbelt residents Johanna Goderre, left, and Michael Hartman, right, talk with City Manager Candidate Josué Salmerón.

ership abilities and varied experience with municipal government, in the District of Columbia and with the private sector, unified council in making the selection."

While village manager of Yellow Springs, which has a population of almost 3,700 (compared to Greenbelt's 25,000) Salmerón has managed the village's operations: public safety, public works, utilities, capital and infrastructure improvements and economic/community development and oversaw

a budget of \$18 million and a team of over 50. He was also charged with executing policies of elected officials, while serving as a conduit to the community to address needs and concerns. In 2022, Salmerón was selected as a 40 under 40 award recipient by the Dayton Business Journal.

"I am deeply honored to accept the role of city manager for the City of Greenbelt," said

See **MANAGER**, page 6

## Greenbelt Bamboo Heads to Smithsonian's National Zoo

by Kristen Bullard

The next time you visit the elephants at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, D.C., they might be eating bamboo from Greenbelt. As a new Greenbelter who has joined others across the city in removing bamboo – an aggressive, non-native invasive plant that deprives other plants and wildlife of the space and nutrients they need – I wondered if the Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute (NZCBI), might be interested in harvesting it. Based on my work with the Smithsonian I learned that they manage, grow and harvest bamboo to feed the Asian animals in their care, including giant pandas, red pandas and Asian elephants.

After I reached out to the Zoo's Department of Nutrition Science, they came to Greenbelt, in May, to assess the bamboo thickets. Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll, environmental coordinator in the City of Greenbelt Department of Public Works, and Ben Fischler, chair of the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Woodlands Committee, gave us a tour of the bamboo locations. We went from one thicket to another, where the bamboo was evaluated based on health and species (pandas are picky eaters), as well as the ease of access and density of the growth for harvesting.

Thanks to the hard work by so many volunteers in our community, bamboo in many of the thickets has been eradicated or

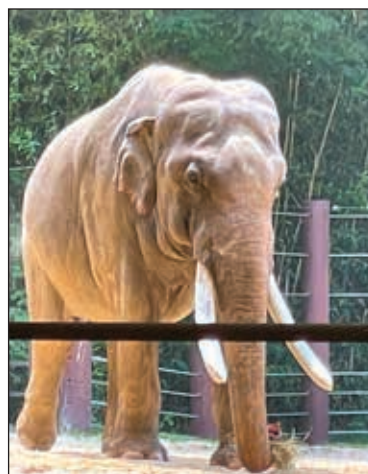


Smithsonian staff are ready to take the first harvest from Greenbelt back to the Zoo.

- Photos by Kristen Bullard

controlled to the point that the Zoo couldn't use it – but finally, success! The Smithsonian team identified two robust, easy-to-access locations for harvest. On June 13, NZCBI completed the first harvest of bamboo from the area. They will harvest from these sites several times over the next couple of years. The result will be bamboo thickets that are thinned enough for our community of volunteers to prevent regrowth for a few more years, and then add native plants and begin restoring the ecosystem for the wildlife living in our area.

See **BAMBOO**, page 12



Male Asian elephant Spike munches on some Greenbelt bamboo on his 42nd birthday. The Asian elephants receive bamboo as an enrichment activity and to supplement their diet.

## Several Greenbelters Discuss Youth Delinquency Concerns

by Lois Rosado

*Like most communities, Greenbelt works toward identifying the issue of youth delinquencies and finding solutions. Here are some thoughts from an activist, our police chief and state legislator as interviewed by the reporter.*

Greenbelt resident and activist LaWann Stribling suggests that adults have often failed to comprehend the needs of youth. Today's youth, she believes, see murder, theft and corruption rewarded at the highest levels in America. They don't hear about community services, job training

and environmental cleanup on the news. Youth and their parents need hope that there can be a better way to live.

Greenbelt's Chief of Police Richard Bowers believes that emphasis has to be placed on the community environment where children live and especially the home environment. He thinks that parents need to be held more accountable for juvenile behavior. The increasing number of carjackings post-pandemic by 13- to 16-year-olds leads to speculation that there is either an organized car theft ring or that someone is paying youths to bring certain types of cars in order to obtain specific parts.

Bowers worries that not being able to interrogate youth about these issues is preventing the police from breaking up carjacking rings. He is concerned that a nonviolent youth offender can be arrested in the morning, released to their parents and rearrested again that same evening.

According to Delegate Nicole Williams, who serves as chair of the Public Safety Committee, the Maryland Juvenile Justice Reform Bill of 2021, the Interrogation Protection Act of 2022 and the

See **JUSTICE**, page 8

### What Goes On

**Monday, August 7**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Hotels (stakeholder), Municipal Building  
**Wednesday, August 9**  
7:30 p.m., Council Worksession: Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for more information.



# Letters to the Editor

## Light at Night

I wholeheartedly agree with Sandra Miller's letter in the July 20 issue regarding the need to modify nighttime lighting. Our night skies are now ablaze with lights.

Twenty-nine years ago, I viewed a comet collision with Jupiter from a telescope on my front porch. I could see dark spots on its disk. Now, my view of the night sky from my porch has been quenched. One by one, my neighbors installed porch lights, left on all night, that scatter light in all directions. My pleas to modify this behavior have gotten mixed results.

Further, I know that any attempt to lobby for a dark sky ordinance in Greenbelt would not be popular. Surely porch lights and commercial lights can be mandated to have shielding to deflect the light downward.

Perhaps Greenbelt could provide a fund to compensate home-

owners and small businesses for the expense of installing shielded lighting.

The impact of our current blaze of outdoor lights on our wildlife and our forests has been profound.

Shalom Fisher

## More Ball Lightning

Read the article about the lady who saw ball lightning in her living room ... not the first time ball lightning has been seen in Greenbelt.

Back in the late '60s, when my brother and I were kids, we observed the ball-lightning phenomenon hovering over our #11 red brick apartment building on Parkway. We still talk about it all these years later. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience! Too bad we didn't have cellphone cameras (or cellphones) back then!

Sharon Kimbleton  
Dallas, N.C.

## Correction

Two of the photos accompanying the story last week on the Sodality Tea at St. Hugh's were misattributed. The bottom two were taken by Robin Olson.



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:  
AUGUST 4TH - 10TH

**Oppenheimer**  
(R) (CC) (DVS) (2023)  
(180 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 4:00 PM  
Sat. 4:00 PM  
Sun. 12:00 PM (OC)

Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 7:30 PM  
Sat. 7:30 PM  
Sun. 3:30 PM  
Mon. 1:30 PM  
Tues. 6:30 PM  
Wed. 6:30 PM  
Thurs. 6:00 PM

**Barbie** (PG-13) (CC)  
(DVS) (2023) (114 mins)

Screen 1 - Main Auditorium  
Fri. 8:00 PM  
Sat. 8:00 PM  
Sun. 4:00 PM

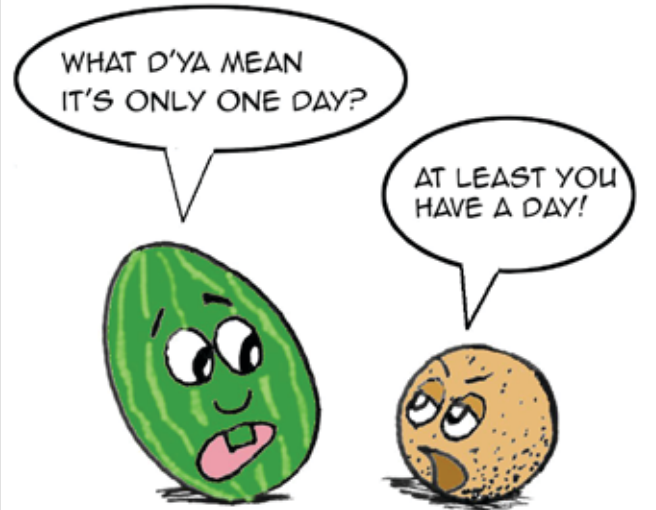
Screen 2 - The Screening Room  
Fri. 4:30 PM  
Sat. 4:30 PM  
Sun. 12:30 PM  
Mon. 5:30 PM

**North By Northwest** (NR)  
(1959) (136 mins)  
FREE Monday Matinee!  
Mon. 1:00 PM  
Thurs. 8:00 PM

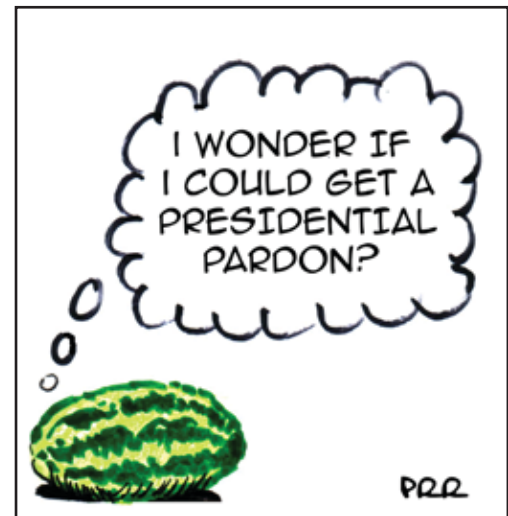
**Squaring the Circle**  
(NR) (2023) (101 mins)  
Wed. 8:00 PM

**The Iron Giant**  
(PG) (1999) (86 mins)  
FREE School's Out screening  
sponsored by McCarl Dental  
Group!  
Thurs. 1:00 PM

## AUGUST 3 - NATIONAL WATERMELON DAY



PETE REPERT



PRR



## On Screen at Old Greenbelt Theatre

### Oppenheimer

Physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) works with a team of scientists to develop the atomic bomb. Also starring Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Robert Downey Jr., Kenneth Branagh and Florence Pugh. Writer-Director Paul Schrader (Taxi Driver, Raging Bull and Last Temptation of Christ), writing on Facebook, says the Christopher Nolan film is the "best, most important film of this century. If you see one film in cinemas this year it should be Oppenheimer. I'm not a Nolan groupie but this one blows the doors off the hinges."

### Barbie

To live in Barbie Land is to be a perfect being in a perfect place. Unless you have a full-on existential crisis. Or you're a Ken. Directed by Greta Gerwig and starring Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling, America Ferrera, Kate McKinnon and Michael Cera. "Barbie first reactions: witty, impeccably designed, overblown fun," says Christopher Campbell of Rotten Tomatoes.

### North by Northwest

This classic suspense film finds New York City ad executive Roger O. Thornhill (Cary Grant) pursued by ruthless spy Phillip Vandamm (James Mason) after Thornhill is mistaken for a government agent. Hunted relentlessly by Vandamm's associates, the harried Thornhill ends up on a cross-country journey, meeting the beautiful and mysterious Eve Kendall (Eva Marie Saint) along the way. Soon Vandamm's henchmen close in on Thornhill, resulting in a number of iconic action sequences.

### Squaring the Circle

This feature documentary tells the story of Storm Thorgerson and Aubrey "Po" Powell, the creative geniuses behind the iconic album art design studio, Hipgnosis, responsible for some of the most recognizable album covers of all time. They formed Hipgnosis in Cambridge during the ferment of the '60s and became rock royalty during the boom time of the '70s. They conjured into existence sights that no one had previously thought possible, produced visuals which popularized music that had previously been considered fringe and were at the white-hot center of the maddest, funniest and most creative era in the history of popular music. During this period, record companies didn't dictate to acts like Peter Gabriel, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Paul McCartney what their LP covers should look like - Storm and Po did. They never played a note, but they changed music.

### The Iron Giant

In this animated adaptation of Ted Hughes' Cold War fable, a giant alien robot (Vin Diesel) crash-lands near the small town of Rockwell, Maine, in 1957. Exploring the area, a local 9-year-old boy, Hogarth, discovers the robot and soon forms an unlikely friendship with him. When a paranoid government agent, Kent Mansley, becomes determined to destroy the robot, Hogarth and beatnik Dean McCoppin (Harry Connick Jr.) must do what they can to save the misunderstood machine.

# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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#### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 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

All Prince George's County Memorial Library System branches will be closed Monday, August 7 for staff day. Regular hours at the Greenbelt Library 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. In case of inclement weather or an emergency, real-time updates to the Greenbelt Library's schedule are posted at [pgcmls.info/alerts](http://pgcmls.info/alerts).

The Teen Action Group at the Greenbelt Library is on hiatus until the fall.

### Storytimes

Friday, August 4, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8555436](http://pgcmls.info/event/8555436).

Tuesday, August 8, 6:30 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8555472](http://pgcmls.info/event/8555472).

### Rain Forest Discovery

Tuesday, August 8, 6 p.m., ages 5 to 12. Register at [pgcmls.info/event/8246465](http://pgcmls.info/event/8246465). Presented by the National Aquarium. Investigate plant and animal interactions and adaptations for survival in the South American rain forest. Discover the importance of this unique habitat, threats to its survival, and how to influence its future.

## Greenbelt Violinist Plays on August 4

Greenbelt violinist Natalie Rose Kress will give a free performance on Friday, August 4, as part of Quartet Salonnières. The group will present their program, called In the Shadows of Mozart, at 7:30 p.m. at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park. The concert will feature works by lesser-known composers from Mozart's time played on period instruments and will be followed by a wine and cheese reception. Sponsored by College Park Arts Exchange.

## See Creative Kids Camp Performances and Art

The final performances of Greenbelt Recreation's Creative Kids Camp will take place at 10 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. in the Community Center gym on Friday, August 11. Community members are welcome to attend. See youth ages 6 to 12 and select staffers perform Hidden Lands, an original musical written and directed by Performing Arts Coordinator Chris Cherry. Also enjoy an art show after the performances, as campers show off skills and creations from their elective afternoon classes. For free tickets, visit the Community Center business office or call 301-397-2208.

## GHI Gathers Thanks For Eldon Ralph

The Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) general manager (GM) transition is going well. James Claggett began as the new GM on Monday, July 10. Eldon Ralph, departing GM, is continuing to serve by being available to orient Claggett to GHI and the position. There will be a board-staff thank you for Ralph in September.

GHI is inviting its members and friends in the community who want to express thanks to Ralph for his years of service to do so in several ways:

Stop by the GHI office during business hours and add a short note and sign a Thank You Book at the reception desk.

Mail a note to Eldon Ralph, c/o Everett Hitchener, GHI Office, 1 Hamilton Place, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

Email a note to [EldonRalphFarewell@gmail.com](mailto:EldonRalphFarewell@gmail.com).

Record a short 10- to 60-second video message at [bit.ly/EldonVideos](http://bit.ly/EldonVideos). This is simpler than one would think. The website will allow users to record a video or upload one recorded previously, and all the short videos will be edited into one big one for Ralph. The recording can be done on a phone or a computer with a camera. More than one person can do the video together if desired. Anyone who is having difficulties with the technology can email [EldonVideoHelp@gmail.com](mailto:EldonVideoHelp@gmail.com) for assistance.

The Thank You Book, notes, emails and videos will be presented to Ralph at the September event. The deadline for all forms of Thank You is Thursday, August 31.

## GREA Meets August 8

The Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA) will meet by Zoom (audio-only option available) on Tuesday, August 8 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Agenda items include updates about the Greenbelt City Equity Audit, Reparations Commission and the May 2023 Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers event. They will also discuss the format for future GREA meetings, which are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month. For meeting access information, visit the GREA website, [greenbeltracialequity.org/events](http://greenbeltracialequity.org/events).

## Français, s'il vous plaît: French at the Café

A French conversation group meets at the New Deal Café on Thursdays at 6 p.m. All levels and ages welcome.

## Parker Art Reception At New Deal Café

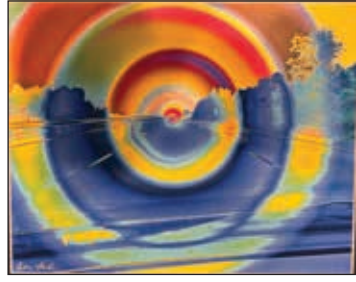


PHOTO COURTESY THE ARTIST

### Art by Alan Parker

An art reception will be held at the New Deal Café for artist Alan Parker on Sunday, August 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. Stop by to meet the artist and enjoy his eclectic body of artwork.

Light refreshments will be served. Parker's artwork will be on display through Monday, August 28.

## CCI Health Services Hosts Block Party

On Saturday, August 12 from noon to 3 p.m., CCI Health Services Greenbelt will host its Third Annual Block Party, at 9220 Springhill Lane. In collaboration with the City of Greenbelt, the festive block party will include food, prizes, music and more.

The Block Party encourages youth in the community to take control of their health. It will highlight CCI's services, including confidential and free resources. Also included will be representation from other health, fitness, career and education organizations in the community.

Link to learn more: <https://cciweb.org/event/cci-2023-block-party>.

## Charlestowne HOA Hosts Food Truck

On Saturday, August 12, the Charlestowne Village Homeowners Association will host Good to Da Bone food truck from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Enter on St. James Place.



## Donate School Supplies For Springhill Students

Donate school Supplies for kids in need. Both Greenbelt Federal Credit Union and the Co-op Supermarket are collecting school supplies for kids in need at Springhill Lake Elementary School. There are dropboxes at the Credit Union and the Co-op.

Donation boxes will be available until Wednesday, August 23. Cash donations will be accepted at the Credit Union. Make checks payable to SHLES.

## Greenbelt Elementary Seeks Used Books

Greenbelt Elementary School Parent Teacher Association's (PTA) biggest fundraiser of the year is approaching and help is needed.

Every year, the PTA sells used books over Greenbelt's biggest four-day weekend at the Labor Day Festival. All proceeds support Greenbelt Elementary School.

Books may be dropped off at Beltway Plaza on two Saturdays, August 5 and 12, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The book collection point and sorting site is at the Beltway Plaza, upper level: drive to the top deck of parking behind Beltway Plaza next to the Laugh Out Loud Stations. The address is 6250 Greenbelt Road.

Do not take books to Greenbelt Elementary School or to the Co-op Supermarket. Those who would like to set up their own collection and sorting point in the neighborhood, make an appointment for a book pick-up, or both, or who have questions can email the PTA at [greenbeltespta@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltespta@gmail.com).

Middle school and high school students can earn service-learning hours by volunteering with the book sale.

## Mosquito Tip: Unleash the Bats

They have a bad reputation, but are actually amazing creatures: Bats are the only mammals capable of flying, with some species flying even faster than 100 mph. Their sonar navigation system allows them to effortlessly avoid collisions, and is thus closely studied by engineers working on self-driving cars. On top of that, bats work ferociously to pollinate more than 750 different crops all over the world and eat tons of insects every night, among them mosquitoes.



So it's actually the bats that help protect one from the real vampires, the mosquitoes.

Bats are an important part of the ecosystem, and they struggle in an increasingly toxic environment, plagued by diseases, habitat loss, wind turbines and overuse of pesticides. Welcome bats to the yard by leaving dead trees (as long as they don't pose a hazard), planting trees and vines to provide roosting areas and planting herbs and flowers that attract night-flying insects. But even bats cannot kill all mosquitoes, so remain committed to destroying mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water.

To learn more, to support this work and/or to volunteer, email [GreenCAPS - Greenbelt Citizens Avoiding Pesticides, at GreenbeltGreenCAPS@yahoo.com](mailto:GreenCAPS-GreenbeltCitizensAvoidingPesticides@yahoo.com).

## Motiva Public Art: A Virtual Meeting

The Greenbelt community is invited to attend a virtual meeting with artists under consideration for a public art commission at the Motiva apartment community located on Cherrywood Lane. The meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, August 8 at 7 p.m. To receive the meeting link, sign up online: <https://tinyurl.com/3vx4ny22>.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## This Week at the New Deal Café

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

RESERVATIONS: 301-474-5642



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

### Nourished by the Greenbelt Co-op

113 Centerway, Roosevelt Center, Greenbelt, MD

Hours: Monday – Thursday 8am – 9pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – midnight; Sunday 9am – 9pm

TH 8/03	FRI 8/04	SAT 8/05	SUN 8/06	
<b>Wolf's Blues Sit-In Jam</b> 6:30-10pm A bodacious boogie blues jam	<b>Stacy Brooks Band</b> 8-11pm Featuring DC's Queen of the Blues	<b>COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE w/ KATY GAUGHAN*</b> 3:30-5pm <b>Ursula Ricks Project</b> 8-11pm Powerhouse soul & blues	<b>ARTIST RECEPTION: JAMIE PARKER*</b> 1-3pm <b>THIS COULD GO BOOM!*</b> 5:30-8pm Bottom/Top; Avery & Ella; Devon	
MON 8/07	TUES 8/08	WED 8/09	TH 8/10	MON - FRI
<b>The Monday Mauveness Karaoke Night</b> 6-9pm Hosted by Mike Bennett	<b>New Deal Open Mic w/ Tom Gleason</b> 7-9:30pm Music, poetry, or express yourself!	<b>Name that Tune!</b> 6:30-8:30pm Hosted by P.G. County Library. Compete for prizes!	<b>Dar Stellabotta</b> CIGAR BOX GUITARS and <b>Tossing &amp; Turning</b> INTENSE ROCK/SOUL 7-9pm	<b>Happy Hour</b> 4-7pm \$1.00 off beer and wine

Join or renew your membership. Go to [www.newdealcafe.com](http://www.newdealcafe.com), click on "ABOUT", then "BECOME A MEMBER OR RENEW."

\*For more information on these and other events, visit the NDC CALENDAR page on our website.

FUNDING FOR THESE ADS COURTESY OF A GENEROUS DONOR.

**Greenbelt Access Television**  
**Aug. 5, Sat - Aug. 11, Fri**  
 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**

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)  
**The Last Time I Saw Paris (1954)**  
 A story of finding yourself, your artistic voice, and love, all against the picturesque backdrop of Paris. Join us for this beautiful and engrossing Technicolor film, starring Elizabeth Taylor and Van Johnson!

New This Week (2pm, 10pm)  
**TeaFairy Season 3 Episode 2: Brave Cats and Kids**  
 Stop by this week for some more fun, including sing-alongs and story-time adventures with TeaFairy and friends!

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check [greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://greenbeltaccessstv.org) for the full broadcast schedule, and visit [Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube](http://Greenbelt Access Television on YouTube) for new video productions.



# Obituaries

## Dolores Downs



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

**Dolores Downs with her husband, Jack**

Dolores M. Downs of 4 Court Crescent Road died on July 19, 2023, surrounded by family at Riderwood in Silver Spring. Dolores (Dee) and her husband Jack lived in Greenbelt for the last 70 years.

Dee met Jack Downs in 1946 at a teen dance. They had their first date in 1951— a dance to celebrate Maryland beating Navy in the first game ever played at the new Byrd Stadium. In the spring of 1952 in the Greyhound Bus Station, Dee accepted Jack's marriage proposal. They married on November 22, 1952, at St. Jerome's Catholic Church in Hyattsville.

The couple then settled into the business of raising eight children. Along the way, Dee returned to college at Trinity Washington University and got her BA in theology.

As founding members of the 38-year-old Catholic Community of Greenbelt, Jack and Dee enjoyed the fellowship of very committed members, and a range of traveling Catholic priests. The group began services in the Old Greenbelt Theatre, later moving to the Municipal Building.

In their early years in Greenbelt, Dee and Jack devoted time to the Cana Club. They were active in Marriage Encounter and

Handicapped Encounter Christ, as well as a local meditation group.

The two traveled extensively, including trips with Trinity College, such as Travels in the Footsteps of Paul and visits to Greece and Turkey, and made their first trip to Israel. Traveling with Elderhostel, they spent time on the Navajo and Hopi Indian reservations; in Alaska, Ireland and Quebec; as well as attending the Augusta Music Festival in West Virginia.

Dee and Jack volksmarched (10-kilometer walks) in all 50 states.

Dee was preceded in death by her husband Jack, mother Norene, father Charles and stepmother Elva, as well as brothers Richard and William and sisters Renee and Barbara.

Dee is survived by her children and other family members: Jack B. (Jennifer) Downs, Brendan, Collin, and Devin; Mike (Resa) Downs, Kelle, Matt and Jen, Mackenzie and Zoey; Tom (Marge) Downs, Patrick and Jamie, James, Lauren and Sean, Braden, Nora Rose and Joe; Dave (Lori) Downs, Jamie, Young Dave, Isabel, Mia, Anabelle and Josh; Paul Downs and Susan Barnett; Eileen (Bill) Osborne, Nicole and Madison, Wesley and Andrea, Selena, Tony and Bianca; Christy, Jay and Riley; Teresa (Rich) Downs Shattuck, Zachary and Casey; Chris (Mary) Downs, Jack and Molly.

A community celebration is being planned for October.

## Community Church Cedar Tree To Honor Rabbi Cohen

On August 20, Greenbelt Community Church (GCC), United Church of Christ, will honor Rabbi Jonathan Cohen with the planting of a cedar tree on the church lawn. Rabbi Cohen, who served Mishkan Torah Synagogue for 19 years, died in February 2023. He was a staunch supporter of interfaith projects with the Community Church, advocating for the two congregations to accomplish more together than either one could separately. Some of the joint projects include Safe Haven and Empty Bowls.


The dedication of the tree will be at the concluding part of the morning worship service. Everyone is welcome to join the worship service at its start at 10:15 a.m. or to join at 11 a.m. as the service moves outside. Once outside, Reverend Daniel Hamlin, former minister of GCC, will join the current minister, Reverend

Clara Young, in offering brief remembrances and prayers. After the benediction, all are invited to the Social Hall for refreshments. The church is located at 1 Hillside Road.



### Crisis Hotline's Number is 988

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline dialing code is now 988 and is available for phone calls and text messages. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.




**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](mailto:FDeBernardo@aol.com)

The Bible Says...

Then they cried out to the Lord  
in their trouble;  
He saved them out of their distresses.  
Psalm 107:19



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

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
 One Hillside Road

We are an  
Open and Affirming  
Church

[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](http://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**

---

Christ-centered  
Biblical  
& Reformed

---

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am  
 Sunday School 9:15am  
 Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

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101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)






**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](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

“No goodly deed was or will ever be lost, for benevolent acts are treasures preserved with God for the benefit of those who act.” – Bahá’u’lláh




**Greenbelt Bahá’i Community**  
[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

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



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors


Find us on  [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://facebook.com/mowattumc)


301-474-9410

**Pastor Evelyn Romero**

**In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.**

**Come as you are**





**Thy Word is a Lamp  
Unto My Feet**

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. I have sworn and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments. [Psalm 119: 105, 106]

Heavenly hidden treasure...  
 The whole Bible is a revelation of the glory  
 of YHWH in Messiah.  
<http://thywordisalamp.faith>

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**




10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
 Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

*An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.*

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
 Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
 Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities  
 For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](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  
 August 6, 2023 at 3:00 pm  
**Finding Mr. Rogers**  
 Andy McIntire with Worship Associate Lula Beatty

What do you do when the urge to go on pilgrimage overcomes you, but you don't know where to go? Maybe take a look at your formative influences.

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



RESTORATION CENTER  
 A CHURCH WHERE HOPE IS RESTORED

301-345-0007  
[info@rccgreenbelt.org](mailto:info@rccgreenbelt.org)

**FELLOWSHIP WITH US ON:**

MORNING DEW (SUNDAY SCHOOL) @9am

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE @10am

VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY ON Tuesday @ 7:30pm  
 Zoom ID: 874-0017-0242  
 Password: 828469

FOOD BANK WEDNESDAY @11am-1pm  
 Sunday 12nd and 4th @ 12pm

THRASHING FLOOR @9pm on 2nd Fridays

**We Care**  
 LOVING GOD...CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

CAN WE PRAY WITH YOU?  
[prayer@rccgreenbelt.org](mailto:prayer@rccgreenbelt.org) 240-467-1788

**119 CENTERWAY GREENBELT MD 20770**

[www.facebook.com/rccgreenbelt](https://www.facebook.com/rccgreenbelt) [www.youtube.com/rccgreenbelt](https://www.youtube.com/rccgreenbelt) [www.instagram.com/rccgreenbelt](https://www.instagram.com/rccgreenbelt)

**St. John's Episcopal/Anglican Church**

11040 Baltimore Avenue Beltsville, MD 20704  
 301-937-4292 [www.saintjohnsbeltville.org](http://www.saintjohnsbeltville.org)

The Reverend Joseph M. Constant, Rector  
 Join us for In-Person Worship every Sunday at 10 AM  
 Youth Sunday School 11:15 AM

To view services online:  
 Go to <https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsZionParish/Live/>  
 Other services online via Zoom: Wednesday Noonday;  
 Thursday Bible Study and Compline 7 PM via Zoom

Please contact the church office if you are interested in any of these resources.

Our Mission: To share God's love with everyone to bring hope and change lives.






# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

**GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR**  
 Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at [greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).



**MEETINGS FOR AUGUST 7 - 11**

Monday, August 7 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**  
 Monday, August 7 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - HOTELS**  
 Tuesday, August 8 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES, On the Agenda: Review Past Meeting Minutes, Update on the Tree Canopy Grant Recipients, Discuss Significant Tree Walk for Fall Fest 2023**  
 Wednesday, August 9 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - DEPARTMENT OF PERMITTING, INSPECTIONS, & ENFORCEMENT (DPIE)**  
 Thursday, August 10 at 7:30 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)**  
*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 meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar).*

**CURRENT FREE CARES PROGRAMS**

**BACK TO SCHOOL FAMILY HEALTH FAIR**  
 August 22, 10 am - 3 pm  
 Sign-up required. To register: <https://forms.gle/AoXwyNna5XcHNYbU8>. Contact Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov)  
**EMERGENCY DIAPER PROGRAM**  
 Supporting Greenbelt families in need of diapers. Greenbelt residents only, you must sign-up each month. To register: <https://forms.gle/xMhpkL765xGdN2W56>. Questions? Call (240) 542-2019.  
**NURSING PROGRAM**  
 Starts in mid September  
 Services include bathing assistance, medication management, and more. Contact Sharon Johnson at (240) 542-2029 or [sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:sjohnson@greenbeltmd.gov).  
**MY GROCERIES TO GO**  
 Limited slots available. Participants 60+ will receive a monthly grocery box. Contact Brendy at (240) 424-0302 or [bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov).

**BUDDY ATTICK PARK MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Thursday, August 17, 7 pm**  
 Greenbelt Municipal Building, Council Chambers  
 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt MD 20770  
 The City has contracted with Mahan Rykiel and Associates to update the 1992 Buddy Attick Park Master Plan. The City invites community input in developing a system wide approach in evaluating Buddy Attick Park in order to determine goals, policies, guidelines and achievable strategies. The Buddy Attick Park Master Plan is meant to create a vision for the future utilization of the park in order to guide the City regarding the implementation of desired improvements in the future while remaining sensitive to the natural environment.

**COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES:**

- Advisory Committee on Education
  - Advisory Planning Board
  - Arts Advisory Board
  - Board of Appeals
  - Board of Elections
  - Community Relations Advisory Board
  - Employee Relations Board
  - Forest Preserve Advisory Board
  - Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability
  - Park and Recreation Advisory Board
  - Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
  - Youth Advisory Committee
- FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (301) 474-8000.**

**PINK PANTRY**



Assists low-income residents with access to menstrual products. To receive please register: <https://forms.gle/tUkz6k7PdvbnHDD7>. Seeking donations and volunteers. Contact Katherine at (240) 542-2019 or [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov).  
**POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS**  
 Session 7 - September 19 - October 31  
 This 6-week class series helps caregivers take better care of themselves while caring for a friend or relative.  
**HELP LOWERING HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES**  
 Need help lowering household expenses? Call or email to see if you qualify to apply for Energy or Water Assistance, Renters', Homeowners', Senior or Home Modification Tax Credit programs. We will help you complete the program applications and mail them off. Contact Dominique Kheav [dkheav@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:dkheav@greenbeltmd.gov) or (301) 615-1225.

**GREENBELT ARTS**

**CREATIVE KIDS CAMP PRESENTS: HIDDEN LANDS**  
 All ages. FREE. Friday 8/11, 10 am & 2:15 pm  
 Enjoy the original musical written and directed by Chris Cherry and performed by Creative Kids Camp. For free tickets, visit the Greenbelt Community Center business office or call (301) 397-2208.  
**ARTFUL AFTERNOON WORKSHOP**  
 Sunday, August 6, 1 - 3 pm  
 Greenbelt Community Center Front Lawn  
 Learn how to tie dye with artist Vanessa Zanin. All ages. FREE. Details and sign-up: <https://bit.ly/3IG02ZX>.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS**

Thanks to the generous donations from our sponsors, **Law Offices of Johnine Clark and Master's Touch, Inc.**, Greenbelt elementary and middle school students will receive backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year!  
 To find out how you can help, call Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or email [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov).

**GIANT PUPPET BUILD**

The Greenbelt Recreation ARTS program is collecting supplies for a giant puppet build, one of three FREE community workshops being offered in the run-up to this year's Wild Rumpus Halloween celebration in Roosevelt Center on 10/27.  
**WANTED:** used backpacks with padded straps (adult or youth sizes); unused paper goods (plates, cups and bowls - not plastic); unused plastic table cloths in solid colors; pool noodles and other extruded foam (leftover pipe insulation, caulk saver, etc).  
 Materials can be placed in the blue barrel in the Greenbelt Community Center lobby between Monday, 7/31 and Labor Day (9/4). For details about the Wild Rumpus and associated workshops, see the Greenbelt Recreation Fall Activity Guide, coming soon.



**TRINITY CHURCH / COMPOSTING SITE CLEANUP**

**AUGUST 5, 10 AM - 1 PM**  
 TRINITY ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 7800 GOOD LUCK RD, LANHAM  
 Be a part of the community effort to remove illegally dumped tires from the environment. Volunteers will work with Public Works and Compost Crew staff to remove illegally dumped tires from the future location of a new composting site.  
 Register by contacting Luisa Robles at [lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov).

**GREENBELT LITTLES PRESCHOOL PROGRAM**

Does your pre-school aged child enjoy helping you cook, like exploring, and love to learn? Then check out Greenbelt Recreation's preschool program Greenbelt Littles Preschool.  
 Greenbelt Littles Preschool is a licensed traditional preschool program that focuses on social development, fine and gross motor skills, listening, and following instructions. Greenbelt Littles has a heavy emphasis on learning in a fun way! We offer preschool our program Monday through Friday at the Youth Center. Financial aid is available for eligible Greenbelt residents.  
 For more information, please visit our Virtual Recreation Center online at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) or give us a call at (301) 397-2200.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION**


Volunteers are needed every third Thursday of the month at the Spring Hill Lake Recreation Center & the Greenbelt Community Center. Volunteers will assist with setting up tables, sorting and organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and distributing them to families in need.  
**Springhill Lake Recreation Center Volunteers** - For information, contact Katherine Farzin (240) 524-2019. To register, please use the link: <https://forms.gle/AqNxCARjwioCntWf9>.  
**Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers** - For more information, contact Flora Li (301) 412-2480.

**FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION**

**AUGUST 17, TWO EVENTS/ LOCATIONS**  
**Community Center:** 1 - 3 pm  
**Springhill Lake Recreation Center:** 12 - 1:30 pm, must live in: Verde at Greenbelt Station, Greenbelt Station Master Association, Franklin Park, Motiva. Register by visiting <http://ow.ly/uGnV50OHgTN>.

**ASK ME ABOUT ARPA**

Your website for all of **Greenbelt's ARPA projects & grants**, including:  
 • Greenbelt Education Scholarship Grant  
 • Homebuyer Grant Program  
 • Tree Canopy Grant  
 • Micro Grant  
 • Business Improvement Recovery Fund, Round III  
 • Business Capital Infrastructure Grant Program  
 View all grant programs at a glance at [www.engagegreenbelt.org/grants](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org/grants). View the most recently updated ARPA programs by visiting [www.engagegreenbelt.org/updates](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org/updates).  
 For all up-to-date ARPA program information including project selection, project updates, department information, and more, visit [www.engagegreenbelt.org](http://www.engagegreenbelt.org).



**CITY ELECTION INFORMATION**  
 Dates & Deadlines for 2023 City Council Elections

First day to receive papers and file nomination petition	8/21
Last day to file nomination petition (5 pm)	9/26
Date of drawing for placement on ballot (7:30 pm)	9/26
First interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12 pm)	9/29
First day to send out mail-in ballots	10/06
Last day to register to vote (must be received by 4:30 pm in Upper Marlboro)	10/09
Second interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12 pm)	10/27
Early voting begins	11/04
Training session for election judges and clerks	11/06
Election (7 am - 8 pm)	11/07
Mail-in ballots must be received (by 6 pm)	11/07
Final Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (12 pm)	11/10
Charter meeting for swearing-in (7:30 pm)	11/13

For additional information, contact Bonita Anderson, City Clerk, at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov).



## Recreation Arts, Greenbelt East Trail Receive Grant Boost

According to the Anacostia Trails Heritage organization, 100 matching grants were recently announced by Governor Wes Moore, totaling \$5 million, including two for Greenbelt. These grants were awarded to nonprofits, local jurisdictions and other heritage tourism organizations by the Maryland Heritage Areas

Authority. The funds will help encourage tourism and other activities that attract visitors and support economic development and related jobs throughout Maryland.

Among groups who received awards in Greenbelt were: Recreation Arts Program (\$1,000) and Friends of Greenbelt East Trail (\$5,000) for trail design.

## MANAGER continued from page 1

Salmerón. “The vibrant history and strong sense of community spirit have drawn me to this exceptional city. I am eager to join the talented team and the dedicated councilmembers who have paved the way for the city’s remarkable success,” he said. “Together, we can continue Greenbelt’s success which makes it so special. I am thrilled to embark on this new journey focusing on collaboration, innovation and continued prosperity for all Greenbelt residents.”

Salmerón’s last day as village manager for Yellow Springs is September 3, after which he will be moving to Greenbelt with his family, which includes his two children. He will assume his new role of city manager sometime after Labor Day, said Jordan. During a recent meet-and-greet with residents, Salmerón listed housing, social equity and stormwater infrastructure as Greenbelt’s most pressing issues, as Stephanie Quinn reported in our July 13 issue.



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

**Josué Salmerón**

While the city manager search was underway, Tim George served as interim city manager for almost two years. “The council is extremely grateful for his service and excellent work,” said Jordan, who stated that George will continue his work with the City of Greenbelt in the role of assistant city manager.

# Advisory Boards, Committees Report to Council on Their Work

by Erik Hanson

Representatives of the city’s advisory boards and committees reported to the Greenbelt City Council at its July 12 worksession.

Advisory boards and committees, filled by Greenbelt resident volunteers, provide a range of advice and service to the city council. Vacancies are publicized and new members are interviewed by council.

### Trees

Charles Jackman, chair of the Advisory Committee on Trees, noted that July 12 represented the one-year anniversary of the storm that blew down hundreds of trees in and near Greenbelt. He reported that council had set aside \$100,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to improve the tree canopy of Greenbelt. The committee is now reviewing 11 applications for funds to buy and plant new trees. They plan to make recommendations on these applications to council by the end of July. The committee also developed a list of recommended tree species to be planted near streets.

### Employee Relations

Bob Rudd, chair of the Employee Relations Board, reported that an issue facing his board was closing loopholes in employee training documents. Much of their work is on individual employee cases which must remain confidential, but they send recommendations to council, which is responsible for final decisions.

### Planning

Chair Ben Friedman reported that the Advisory Planning Board had been reviewing the 7010 Greenbelt Road project,

the Neighborhood Design Center and ARPA funding for the Bike/Pedestrian plan.

Following his report, Friedman asked whether or not advisory boards could raise their own issues that had not been introduced by council. Councilmembers responded that they believed this practice was good as long as the issues raised were germane to the work of the advisory board.

### Forest Preserves

Donna Hoffmeister, co-chair, reported that the Forest Preserve Advisory Board had submitted their Trail Maintenance Plan. Their recommendation for a stream naming is being worked on by staff. Another issue that the committee is dealing with is teenagers riding bikes into the woods and cutting down plant material. Councilmember Judith Davis recommended that the board post signs at all entrances to the preserve indicating what is or is not allowed.

### Environmental Sustainability

John Lippert reported that the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES) had been advocating for the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance. Now that it has passed, they have a lot of work to do to get ready for the January 1, 2024, implementation. Council gave them \$1,000 for 300 organic cotton canvas bags that the committee is planning to distribute to low-income Greenbelters. Also, Green ACES/Green Teams submitted an application to get Greenbelt recognized for another three years as a Sustainable Maryland municipality.

### Education

Janet Mirsky reported that the Advisory Committee on Education had been selecting their teacher and student of the year who will walk with them in the Labor Day parade. They had their annual meeting with principals and PTA presidents. They finished distributing grants to schools, which had been delayed by Covid, and are planning to move to block grants so the schools could have more discretion on how the funds are used. The committee is assisting the city in rating the applications for ARPA scholarships. Mayor Emmett Jordan suggested they set up a meeting with the new superintendent of schools.

### Ethics

David Shapiro reported that the Ethics Commission reviews financial disclosures. They have been hoping to make the financial disclosure documents more user-friendly. Councilmember Kristen Weaver suggested a training session for people needing to fill out the disclosure forms.

### Appeals

David Whaples reported that the Board of Appeals typically hears appeals about zoning issues on an as-needed basis. As one of the members of the board he had to recuse himself from a hearing this year. Since the board is only made up of three members, a suggestion was made to increase the size of the board.

### Senior Citizens

Vice Chair Mary Wade reported that, as in past years, the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee offered two main

See COUNCIL, page 7

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**ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA, INC.**  
Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George’s County!  
Curated routes and trail maps: [anacostiatrails.org](http://anacostiatrails.org)

**Auto Auction**  
Location – 4E JP Morgan Court, Waldorf Md.20601  
Time: 10 am-11:30 AM  
Date: July 20 – Aug 3, 2023  
1999 VW BEETLE  
3VWBB61C5WM045761  
1987 PONTIAC FIREBIRD  
1G2FW21H3HL228677  
2015 MERCEDES BENZ  
WDCGG8JB2FG394894  
2000 MITSUBISHI GALANT  
4A3AA46G32E093581  
1975 OLDSMOBILE 88  
3N67K5M295814  
2021 INFINITY Q50  
JNIFYV7DR8MM880640  
1995 BMW 320  
4USCC8327SLA08370

**Open House**  
5318 N CENTER DRIVE, GREENBELT, MD 20770  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH FROM 12PM TO 2PM  
LIST PRICE: \$410,000

- 3 BED/ 2.5 BATH/ 2 LEVEL TOWNHOUSE STYLE CONDO
- 1650 SQ FT
- HARDWOOD FLOORS
- STAINLESS STEEL APPLIANCES
- ENSUITE WITH SOAKING TUB/ STANDING SHOWER/ DOUBLE SINK VANITY
- PRIVATE BALCONY OFF OF 2ND BEDROOM
- LAUNDRY ON 2ND FLOOR
- 1 CAR GARAGE & DRIVEWAY & MUCH MORE!

**LONG & FOSTER REAL ESTATE**

FOR RENT: 5022 BRANCHVILLE ROAD, COLLEGE PARK  
2 bed/ 2 bath, single family home.  
Detached renovated garage with 250 add'l sq ft for office/studio/ rec space. Large back yard!  
\$2,700/ month

**MELANIE CANTWELL**  
— Long and Foster Real Estate —  
Melanie Cantwell, Realtor MD & DC  
9094 Baltimore Ave, College Park, MD 20740  
C: 240-470-5911/ O: 301-441-9511  
Melanie.Cantwell@LNF.com  
melaniecantwell.com



# Demolition to Start on BARC Buildings, BEP to Build in 2024

by Deanna Dawson

Demolition work is about to begin on the 21 buildings on the 104-acre site on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) where a Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) currency production facility is to be built. The site is at the north end of Poultry Road, which heads northward from the four-way stop a short distance to the west of where Research Road meets Powder Mill Road. The buildings include various small poultry houses and four multistory laboratories that were used for poultry research for many decades but had largely been abandoned by 2012. Most of the buildings were constructed in the 1930s, the oldest being a house built around 1914. BEP coordinated with the Maryland Historical Trust, National Capital Planning Commission, Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Anacostia Trails Heritage Area and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding this demolition.



These abandoned laboratories, built in the 1930s for poultry research and photographed on July 23, 2023, will be demolished soon. They are located on the site for a Bureau of Engraving and Printing currency production facility that will replace BEP's aging facility in Washington, D.C.

- Photos by Deanna Dawson

Vegetation growing near the foundation of this 1930s poultry laboratory is being cleared prior to demolition. Photo taken on July 23, 2023.



Fencing has been erected around the buildings, one of which has been posted and outfitted for asbestos removal, and signs now designate the areas as demolition sites. It appears that teardown will begin soon. This is the first on-the-ground indication that the new facility will be built.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced last fall that it was moving forward to construct the BEP facility on the BARC site. Congress authorized the transfer of the land from USDA to BEP in the 2018 Farm Bill. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has been coordinating the environmental reviews and design plans for the facility through an interagency agreement with BEP, and will oversee the site preparation and construction. During the past several months, USACE met with utility companies and permitting agencies to amend the water and sewer plan for the facility

([nab.usace.army.mil/Portals/63/BEP\\_Newsletter\\_JUL2023.pdf](http://nab.usace.army.mil/Portals/63/BEP_Newsletter_JUL2023.pdf)) and continued to finalize design details. The design is expected to be 95 percent complete in December 2023. A supplemental environmental assessment evaluating the potential impacts of traffic and utilities mitigation will be released for public review in early 2024. Construction will start in 2024 and end in 2027, and the new facility is expected to be fully operational in 2030.

The final environmental impact statement for the project is avail-

able at [nab.usace.army.mil/BEP/](http://nab.usace.army.mil/BEP/), along with many other associated documents. More information about the buildings to be demolished is contained in the Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum, available from a link on the project website.



Among the buildings to be demolished are some poultry houses.

## COUNCIL continued from page 6

activities: the Open Forum and Not for Seniors Only. The September Forum gets feedback from seniors about what is working for them, their concerns and recommendations. The Greenbelt Day Not for Seniors Only event offers information about a topic relevant to seniors and others. This year's topic was Don't Get Scammed.

### Public Safety

Peggy Higgins reported that the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC) submitted a report to council with information gained from an online survey and five community police forums held last year. They met with the fire chief and learned of their serious building space needs. They also met with the Hyattsville Public Safety group to share information. PSAC is also reviewing its 2017 report on security cameras. The committee suggested that a police liaison attend their meetings.

### Park and Recreation

Jacob Chesnutt thanked council for funding facility enhancements in ballfields, Springhill Lake Recreation Center and Greenbelt Station's Central Park. He also thanked council for funding the Buddy Attick Park Master Plan and noted that the board will be providing ongoing input as the plan is carried out.

### Arts

Kristin Stenson reported that the Arts Advisory Board held

both an Arts Mixer and an Arts Crawl. The Arts Mixer, designed for artists and arts organizations, drew 40 to 60 participants. The Arts Crawl, an open house for all the arts organizations in Roosevelt Center, drew approximately 80 participants. The next Arts Crawl is scheduled for October 1. The board will be providing grant-writing instruction for arts organizations. They have also submitted a signage report, advice on public art and a request for space in the east wing of the Community Center.

### Elections

Steven Gilbert, co-chair of the Board of Elections, reported that it has been working to prepare for the 2023 election. Members have been working with the contractor responsible for mail-in balloting to address issues from the 2021 election. Davis commended the committee for its work and noted that this year residents will be able to vote from any precinct.

### Community Relations

Rick Ransom reported that the Community Relations Advisory Board has finished two referrals. The first dealt with the need for employees of the city to be unionized like the police and the second related to the issue of allowing non-citizens to vote in municipal elections. The committee has also been looking at fire alarms and mass shooting safety concerns.

Following these reports was a discussion of issues facing the boards and committees, such as communication with council and staff and recruitment for boards and committees.



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JUSTICE continued from page 1

# Greenbelt, Prince George's County And State Respond to Delinquency

by Lois Rosado

## Restorative Justice

Restorative justice programs bring together the victim, offender, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Child Protective Services, Prosecution Departments and Probation Services. They place the emphasis on the victim of a crime. The current criminal justice system is retributive, meaning systems place emphasis on consequences for the offender rather than on helping the victim. Using restorative justice practices, the offender learns from the victim about the impact that his/her criminal behavior has caused, and a process is designed for them to pay restitution or do something to repair the damage caused to the victim, family and community.

### Casey Foundation

The human brain does not fully develop an understanding of the consequences of actions until about age 25, according to studies by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and others. Adolescent youths are risk takers, without the clarity of thought a more mature person might possess. It is one of the reasons that the Supreme Court struck down life sentences without parole for teenagers.

### School-to-Prison

Schools attended by many non-white youths tend to be heavily policed, and many times teens who act out are referred to law enforcement rather than counseling services. White youths are much less likely to be arrested for similar infractions at similar rates, studies show.

The Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, spearheaded by the Casey Foundation, aims to intervene in nonviolent crimes by youth offenders and to support and redirect them toward positive behaviors. The initiative has helped to reduce pretrial detentions in the more than 300 counties and 40 states in which it operates.

The Casey Foundation argues restorative justice or diversionary models can improve and positively change youngsters. Early interventions and wrap-around services can further deter destructive behavior, they find. The parents of the juveniles may also need economic or mental health services in order to cope with difficult circumstances that may have contributed to delinquent child behavior.

Child Safe Harbor – Abuse-Trafficking Act of 2023 are three acts designed to protect juveniles from being exploited or over-policed. The Maryland Juvenile Justice Reform Bill enables teenagers given life sentences to apply for release. The Interrogation Protection Act prevents juveniles from being interrogated without a parent or lawyer present. Williams told the News Review that, without a lawyer, a child cannot be interrogated and must be released to the parent. If there is enough evidence of probable cause the child can be arrested, but still cannot be questioned. However, youths arrested with guns face adult charges and can be held without bail. The Child Safe Harbor – Abuse-Trafficking Act helps prevent sexual exploitation or the trafficking of minors.

Williams believes some modification is needed in the gang statute to deal with one-off situations, like carjacking. Due to the current shortage in car parts some chop-shop owners are believed to be paying youth in cash, clothes or sneakers in exchange for them stealing certain types of vehicles. This particular statute needs to reflect that new reality, says Williams.

One part of a solution might be to modify truancy statutes in education law to help reduce juvenile delinquency and to work with whole families, Williams says. In order to hold a parent accountable, prosecutors have to prove that the parent knows about their child's criminal activity. However, under truancy laws, it may be possible to hold parents more accountable for the child's absences from school, while also providing appropriate supports for the entire family. Williams also says more funds are needed for violence interrupters who work in the streets to deter youth crimes.



There are several programs in Greenbelt to help curb the increasing number of youth offenders. In 1973, the City of Greenbelt and Leo Walder, a behavioral psychologist, established the CARES program to divert youth from criminal and other behavior problems. CARES receives funding through both the city and Prince George's County as a Youth Services Bureau for programs it offers to individuals, families and youth. At-risk youths are referred by the schools, community and police departments. CARES works with the whole family and serves youth through age 18. They provide mental health, anger management and family counseling free for an unlimited time. They also refer adults to job training or job resource agencies. CARES offers GED and ESOL tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Darren Stephenson, who runs the delinquency prevention program, offers life skills and does individual and family counseling with participants.

Dr. Liz Park, director of CARES, told the News Review that the whole family must be involved in order to increase the possibility of success. Both child and parent need to be addressed in order for youth diversion approaches to work.

### State Response

Research from the Maryland Commission on the School-to-Prison Pipeline, established by the Maryland General Assembly in 2018, showed the damage done to Black and Brown youth who were being arrested at higher rates than any other youth for similar behaviors. Restorative justice models enable youth to be accountable for their actions and help to avoid high recidivism

rates and separations from home, school and community. State Senator Alonzo Washington says he is very disturbed by the increase in youth crime and violence and plans to meet with other legislative groups in the next session to discuss new statutes to increase accountability measures in the Juvenile Crime Bill and go after those who encourage youth criminal behavior.

### County Response

Prince George's County State's Attorney Aisha Braveboy explained that there are multiple agencies involved with the Juvenile Justice System, including the Department of Juvenile Services, Child Protective Services and Social Work services. These agencies together can provide wrap-around services to youth and their families. Braveboy has also emphasized that in many cases involving youthful offenders, punishment is a necessary part of the restorative justice and rehabilitation process. Nevertheless, the need for and access to effective services is also a critical part.

With the assistance of Governor Wes Moore's office, Braveboy's office has formed the Saturday Family Justice Academy, designed to reach non-violent young people in the justice system and those who are truant. The school resource officer will be able to refer students who are habitually truant. The program was launched earlier this year and will focus on physical, emotional, financial and social challenges confronting young people and their families. Workshops for physical fitness will be taught by a trainer, and nutrition services will also be available, as will those on character development, how the criminal justice system operates, conflict resolution, emotional

well-being and future planning.

Additional workshops will be done by the Department of Juvenile Services and Prince George's County Police Department. Therapists will provide needed mental health sessions for participants. The Academy began with 10 families referred by the Department of Juvenile Services and the courts. This new program is a partnership with the State's Attorney's Office, the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office and the Community Public Awareness Council, a nonprofit organization.

Braveboy gave several reasons why she thinks youth crime has spiked. In some instances, her office has seen cases where young people are being influenced by older individuals who are adults, but still within their peer group, directing unlawful activity. Considering this, she will be advocating for the expansion of the gang laws during the next General Assembly session. Such a law would be a useful tool in addressing accountability for those engaged in concerted criminal activity. She wants to revisit child interrogation policies and the amount of time given for gun sanctions.

The focus, Braveboy says, has to be on education, mental health and wrap-around services. Everyone interviewed for this story is very concerned about the rise in youth crime and each one plans to examine ways to provide greater early intervention services to teens and their families while maintaining a restorative justice model and placing more emphasis on responsibility and accountability. They also indicated that the task is not going to be easy – they will need continued support, cooperation and encouragement from the community.



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# Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred July 24-30. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an inquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email [pd@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:pd@greenbeltmd.gov). Note that the times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported two deaths; four domestic disputes; four mental health diversions; a child custody matter and a lock out/in referred to Child Protective Services.

## Assaults

On July 26 at 10:10 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man was found lying unresponsive on the ground with injuries to his face and he did not know who had assaulted him.

On July 26 at 8:54 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, two men were in a fight, and one was taken into custody with charges pending.

On July 28 at 8:44 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, a man was arrested after assaulting another man, causing minor injuries.

On July 29 at 1:04 a.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man was out walking when he noticed the windows broken in his vehicle and a man inside. When he approached his vehicle the man threatened him with a knife before fleeing; he pursued and called police who arrived and took the man into custody.

On July 29 at 4:07 p.m. near 6100 Breezewood Court, two men were involved in a verbal and a possible physical altercation. A medic arrived but neither needed any treatment. Parties involved were provided with a case number and were advised on how to file paperwork at the commissioner's office.

On July 30 at 11:49 a.m. near 6400 Ivy Lane, a man was walking in a parking lot when an unknown man driving a black car rolled down the window, displayed a handgun and threatened him before driving off.

## Robbery

On July 24 at 12:43 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, two young Black men wearing all black and ski masks entered the store, pointed a handgun and ordered the clerk to empty the cash registers. The suspects left on foot in an unknown direction.

On July 27 at 9:44 a.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, a Black man wearing a white shirt with black hat, glasses, mask, pants, shoes and cross-body backpack, robbed the store with a gun. The victim gave the robber all the money and he ran out of the store.

## Doxxing

On July 28 at 9:07 p.m. near 5800 Cherrywood Terrace, a victim's personal information was shared to others and online by a known suspect.

## Break-in

On July 24 at 8:07 a.m. near 200 Lakeside Drive, the complex property manager noticed a window open in a vacant unit and damages to the property.

## Disorderly Conduct

On July 29 at 2:41 p.m. near 6200 Breezewood Drive, an intoxicated man harassed three women who were outside. One of the women stated that the man approached them, yelling and screaming. Officers advised him to leave multiple times and he eventually complied. The man came back and was yelling and harassing them again, and was cited for disorderly conduct.

On July 29 at 7:50 p.m. near 5700 Greenbelt Metro Drive, a man under the influence of alco-

hol at Greenbelt Metro was acting disorderly and officers took him to his residence.

On July 30 at 12:27 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, a man was shouting in the middle of the street and impeding traffic. Officers told him to get on the sidewalk; he continued shouting and struck the window of a vehicle. He was then arrested and issued a criminal citation for disorderly conduct.

## DUI Arrests

On July 30 at 12:38 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Rhode Island Avenue, officers stopped a vehicle for driving with no lights and observed open alcohol containers. The driver stated that she had been drinking and agreed to be tested. Based on the results, the driver was placed under arrest for suspicion of Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

On July 30 at 2:29 a.m. near Greenbelt Road and Frankfort Drive, a driver crashed into a guard rail after leaving a bar. The driver showed multiple signs of impairment, received treatment for minor injuries, and was charged with DUI. The vehicle was impounded.

## Shot Fired

On July 26 at around 5:40 a.m., a man stated that a black Dodge Charger shot out his rear window while he was on Kenilworth Avenue southbound near the Beltway.

## Fraud

On July 25 near 200 Lakeside Drive, credit card fraud was reported. On July 30 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, services paid for were not rendered.

## Theft

On July 27 at 6:01 p.m. near 39 Ridge Road, a plastic bench was stolen from a residence.

Packages were stolen July 26 near 6000 Springhill Drive and July 28 near 432 Ridge Road.

Commercial theft occurred near 6100 Greenbelt Road July 25 at 3:58 p.m., July 26 at 3:05 p.m. and July 29 at 3:12 p.m.; July 27 at 12:31 p.m. near 7400 Greenbelt Road; and near 7500 Greenbelt Road July 29 at 12:14 p.m. and 5:53 p.m.

## Vandalism

On July 27 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a fire extinguisher was thrown into a door and exploded in the hallway. On July 28 near 6100 Springhill Terrace, a front door lock was damaged with a broken key inside it. On July 29 near 5900 Greenbelt Road, an unknown man exiting a business slammed the door and shattered the glass.

## Stolen Vehicles

On July 27 at 2:06 p.m. near 7800 Vanity Fair Drive, officers spotted a stolen Hyundai sedan and activated emergency lights. Two juvenile suspects ran from the vehicle; one was taken into custody and the other was not located.

Other stolen vehicles included: on July 24 near 57 Ridge Road, a red 2016 Kia Soul (MD 6CD9149); on July 25 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a silver 2016 Hyundai Accent (MD 8DL3546); on July 27 near 7400 Greenbelt Road, a 2019 Toyota Camry (MD 3EZ3849); on July 29 a silver 2011 Hyundai Sonata (MD 3EW1644) was stolen near 6301 Ivy Lane, a 2016 Hyundai Tuscon

(MD 8CD4112) near 6400 Cherrywood Lane and a gray BMW 328i (MD 3EP5138) near 6200 Springhill Court on July 30, a silver 2019 Hyundai Elantra (MD 6EG0642) was stolen near 6900 Hanover Parkway; a white Hyundai Elantra (MD 1EC3298) near 16 Ridge; a black 2009 Chevy Tahoe (MD 6DM0177) near 6000 Greenbelt Road; and a 2020 Hyundai Elantra (MD 6FC5073) near 7900 Mandan Road.

## Attempted Vehicle Theft

On July 24 at 7:37 a.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, a 2018 Hyundai with damaged window and ignition crashed into the Shell Food Mart and four juveniles were witnessed fleeing the scene. Thanks to the witness's description, all four were taken into custody and treated for minor injuries.

On July 26 at 11:32 p.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, a woman saw a man break a window and enter a Kia Forte; she activated the car alarm and the man fled.

## Stolen Vehicles Located

On July 29, a 2017 Hyundai Elantra was stolen near 7900 Lakecrest Drive and later found in the woods near Lanham. Many stolen vehicles were found with damaged windows and/or ignition: July 24 near 6001 Springhill Drive, a 2020 Kia Sportage; July 25 near Frankfort Drive and Morrison Drive, a 2014 Ford Fusion; on July 26 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a 2018 Hyundai Santa Fe; July 26 near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a Kia Soul; July 26 near 6023 Springhill Drive, a stolen 2015 Hyundai Sonata was located; July 26 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a Kia Rio; July 27 near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a Hyundai Elantra; near 6201 Springhill Drive, a Kia Rio; near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a 2019 Kia Forte; July 28 near 9160 Edmonston Road, a Kia Soul; July 29 near 7800 Vanity Fair Drive, a Hyundai Elantra; near 14 Ridge Road, a 2019 Hyundai Elantra; July 30 near 7500 block Greenbelt Road, a Hyundai Elantra.

On July 24 near 151 Westway, officers found a Hyundai Sonata, not reported stolen, but with window and ignition damage.

Additional vehicles were found with damage, including July 24, near 47 Ridge Road, a 2015 Hyundai Elantra; July 24 near 9000 Breezewood Terrace, a Kia; July 26 near 7700 Hanover Parkway, a 2017 Kia Forte; and July 27 near 131 Westway, a Hyundai Santa Fe.

## Theft from Auto

Power tools were stolen July 24 near 6200 Springhill Drive from a 2005 GMC New Sierra, July 25 near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace from a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado, and near 6200 Springhill Court from a Chevrolet Tahoe.

On July 25 all four wheels were stolen from a 2019 Toyota Avalon near 7800 Walker Drive and from a 2023 Toyota Camry near 6300 Golden Triangle Drive.

Tags were stolen July 25 near 5700 block Greenbelt Metro Drive from a 2011 Lincoln Town Car (DC tag: GU6144) and near 6000 Greenbelt Road from a Honda Civic (DC GL2264, front tag).

On July 24 near 7900 Mandan Road, a 2018 Mercedes Benz

GLA had a damaged window and disability placard was missing. On July 25 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a Ford F-150 had a damaged window, credit card and IDs stolen; near 6400 Ivy Lane, a Nissan Maxima had a damaged window and electronic devices stolen; and near 225 Lakeside Drive, a man stated that on July 4 he noticed his vehicle's window had been broken and several items were missing.

On July 30 near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a 2000 Buick was left unsecured and cash was stolen.

## Vandalism to Auto

On July 24 at 15:13 p.m. near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a wit-

ness saw two suspects break the window of a Kia and a Mercedes GL350 before they fled.

Other vehicles with damaged windows included on July 25, near 6400 Ivy Lane, an Infiniti Q50; near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a 2023 Toyota Camry and a 2015 Toyota Camry; near 6000 Springhill Drive, a Honda Civic; near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado; on July 27 near 6100 Springhill Terrace, a Toyota Camry; near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a 2017 Honda Civic; near 6101 Breezewood Court, a 2009 Ford (windshield); and on July 28 near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a 2016 Toyota Rav 4.

## TEACHER continued from page 1

Park to conduct a search for her. They were assisted by Maryland State Police and Prince George's County Police Department. Due to the proximity of Sylla's home to the park and the fact that she liked to take walks there, police closed it to the public for several hours to search the area with dogs. Greenbelt Police Public Information Officer Ricardo Dennis said they were searching any areas Sylla frequented. Police didn't find anything to help with the investigation during Tuesday's extensive search of Schrom Hills Park.

Since Saturday, Sylla has not been heard from and hasn't been in contact with the people or groups she usually communicates with, including family, friends, and people from her mosque. Sylla's phone has been turned off since her disappearance. "It's very unusual for her, she's a very sociable person," Dennis told the News Review. Police have Sylla's vehicle and she does not have her IDs or other personal items one would expect someone to take with them if they planned to go somewhere. Sylla is now a critical missing person because she

does not have a medication she needs with her.

Missing person flyers bearing photos and a description of Mariame Sylla (also known as Miriam Toure) are posted on community buildings and trees throughout her apartment complex. A neighbor, who had been looking out for Sylla as she walked her dog, and asked not to be named, said, "She's a beautiful woman. It's not like her to wander off." "There were such bad storms Saturday night," she added. Greenbelt and the surrounding areas experienced thunderstorms the evening of Sylla's disappearance.

A representative at Dora Kennedy French Immersion, where Sylla teaches second grade, said staff members had gone to Schrom Hills Park on Tuesday morning to volunteer with the search but were told they could not participate due to the use of off-leash dogs.

Anyone who has contact with Sylla or information to help with the search is asked to contact Detective Davis at 240-542-2134 or call the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.



Missing person flyers are posted throughout the community.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Police close Schrom Hills Park Tuesday while they conduct an extensive search of the area using dogs.



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# Sports

## ERHS Girls Blue Squad Sits Atop Summer Soccer League

by Patrick Gleason



Junior Gabriella Martinez, right, pressures an opponent during a tightly contested match in the second annual Parks and Recreation Summer League.

With screens across the globe tuned into Women's World Cup matches in Australia and New Zealand, the Prince George's County summer soccer scene has centered on Fairland Regional Park for the second consecutive year, where the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation girls summer league hosts 12 county teams each Thursday night. The league consists of two teams each representing Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Bowie High School and Elizabeth Seton High School. Additionally, there are three teams of mixed players as well as squads from High Point, Bladensburg and Parkdale High Schools. This summer the league boasts two more teams than last year and has added a middle school division; former Northwestern High School coach and alumna Carla Benavides, now a countywide sports specialist with the Parks and Recreation Department, has spearheaded the league's inception and growth. This past winter the league hosted its first ever futsal league at Glenn Dale Community Center,

which helped garner interest in the summer soccer opportunities. As of August 1, the Raiders Blue squad, comprised mostly of varsity players from Eleanor Roosevelt, sat atop the league standings with seven wins and one loss, followed by Roadrunners Red, one of Seton's two squads, and Beltsville Gold FC, representing High Point. Thus far, Dayana Rivera Cordero of Bladensburg is the league's leading goal scorer with seven goals and the Raiders' Claudia van der Have and Sadie Swart have each tallied six goals apiece. Leilah Eggleston has catalyzed Raiders FC, composed of Roosevelt junior varsity players, while Zeala Tantoh has played impressive minutes in goal. The league's season-ending tournament is Thursday, August 3, where the top eight teams will qualify for play. Then, as the World Cup turns to the round of 16, local high school athletes will prepare for tryouts starting Wednesday, August 9. The summer of soccer persists as consistent as the sounds of cicadas chorusing each evening of games.



Sophomore Esther Obisesan, left, passes during a summer league game on July 25.

- Photos by Vanessa van der Have

**Call for Sports News**  
Do you have Greenbelt sports news to share? We welcome your photos and stories at editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



## Golden Agers Learn Why And How to Do Genealogy

by Mary Moien

On July 12, Barbara Hopkins, president of the Prince George's County Genealogical Society, presented Why Do Genealogy and How to Begin to a large group of Golden Age Club members. A former Greenbelt resident, Hopkins described some reasons that people should be interested in genealogy, including legacy of information for one's children and grandchildren and learning about the family's medical history. She mentioned the importance of interviewing relatives while they are still alive and mentioned Zoom as a way to get the family together to discuss family history.

Ask each member of the family to discuss one historical story that they remember, for instance. Genealogy helps a person to learn more about where they came from and can enhance a sense of identity. Hopkins mentioned sources of information, starting with Census data. She also mentioned church affiliations, voter registration and newspaper articles. The Prince George's County Genealogical Society is located in Bowie and has much information on county history, including information from other locales, especially on the East Coast.



Barbara Hopkins speaks to the Golden Agers about genealogy.

PHOTO BY ROBIN OLSON



A female house sparrow comes in for a landing at a bird feeder.

PHOTO BY KEN LOO

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# WETA Films Karim Cooking At Cedars of Lebanon Restaurant

by Frank Gervasi

A seven-member film crew from WETA arrived bright and early Monday morning, July 31, at the Cedars of Lebanon restaurant.

Led by Seth Tillman, host of the popular show Signature Dish, Chef Karim demonstrated his favorite Middle Eastern offering.

The show takes the viewers to various regional restaurants, discovering and revealing the special menu items they are noted for. They are currently focusing on mom-and-pop restaurants, and the hard-working Maria and Karim certainly fit that bill.

The film crew arrived in two new Mercedes vans with an amazing array of equipment. With three cameras rolling, professional lighting, sound control and lively direction, the operation was very impressive.

Dressed in their snazzy red shirts, the entire staff of Cedars was there also for the four hours of filming. It was a joy to watch the crew at work with Karim



Chef Karim of Cedars of Lebanon, right, demonstrates his signature dish to Seth Tillman for his TV show.

demonstrating and explaining his favorite dish.

The finished product will air in October. The film crew will be back in Greenbelt on Friday, August 4 at noon, to film the restaurant serving lunch.

I predict a run on this special offering, especially after the show airs. Its name? Fattah Bethengien. Seth Tillman was impressed, as others I am sure will be also. Come out and give it a try.

PHOTO BY FRANK GERVASI

## BAMBOO continued from page 1

When I moved to Greenbelt, I quickly learned about the challenging work being done by our residents, the GHI Maintenance Department and the City of Greenbelt Public Works Department to remove or at least manage the bamboo in our community. Over the years, these intrepid individuals have mapped bamboo thickets, become official caretakers of GHI woodland parcels and organized work parties, educated people about the problems bamboo causes and identified alternative plants to replace it.

Bamboo, the largest member of the plant family of grasses called Poaceae, is native to the tropical areas of the Asia-Pacific region, South and Central America and parts of Africa and Australia. Three species from the genus Arundinaria are native to the Southeastern U.S. – *A. appalachiana*, *A. gigantea* and *A. tecta*. Within an ecosystem the plants and animals have evolved to support each other. In Asia, some species of animals specialize in eating bamboo thereby controlling its spread. The most well-known bamboo-eating animal is the giant panda, but the red panda, Asian elephant and other mammals also eat it.

Over the decades, several species of bamboo were planted in

Greenbelt. Large stands of bamboo exist throughout Greenbelt and homeowners are encouraged to eradicate it through cutting, mowing and tarping. Scores of Greenbelt volunteers, working alone and in groups organized through various committees, have aggressively reduced bamboo growth. Partnering with the Smithsonian's National Zoo is just one more way for us to combat this non-native invasive plant.

But that's not the end of the story here in Greenbelt. The bamboo harvest results in some parts not used by the Zoo. The discarded cut bamboo left near the harvest sites is great for creating garden structures like supports for vegetable vines. Another by-product of the harvest is compost. The Smithsonian composts the dung from the elephants, giant pandas and other vegetarian animals using high heat methods, turning it into a soil amendment used throughout the Smithsonian's gardens. They also offer it to Smithsonian employees each year to celebrate Earth Day. Eventually some of the bamboo harvested from the thickets in Greenbelt might come back to



Kristen Bullard loads her "mini farm truck" with the discarded bamboo from the first harvest.

us as compost to nurture native plants in the community.

What part of this project surprised me the most? I thought I would quietly make this connection to supply some food to the animals evolved to eat bamboo while helping remove it from Greenbelt. I never thought there would be so much excitement and support for this project. It's a great reminder that together we can find creative ways to remove invasive plants and restore Greenbelt's native ecosystem.

*Kristen Bullard lives in GHI and is a member of the GHI Woodlands Committee and the City of Greenbelt Pollinator Circle. She has worked for the Smithsonian for 11 years.*

PHOTO BY KRISTEN BULLARD

# Baking Cookies in the Car

It was so hot Friday, July 28, that Mary Murchison-Edwards baked cookies in her car as an experiment. She cut up a roll of Toll House cookies and put a dozen on an ungreased baking sheet in the back window. Baking took about three hours. They tasted good and her family ate them all.



PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWARDS



# School System Now Backtracks On Backpacks for Middle Schools

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, July 31, with the first day of school less than one month away, Superintendent Millard House II announced a change from the previously announced clear backpack requirement for Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS).

## High School Only

The recent clear backpack policy for all PGCPS middle and high school students "will now only apply to ninth through 12th graders and students in Non-Traditional Program North, South and Middle," said an email from House. Clear backpacks will be optional for sixth to eighth graders. "PGCPS will evaluate the policy for middle school grades at the end of first semester and communicate any modifications prior to the end

of Winter Break," he said in the statement.

## No Mesh Alternatives

The statement also noted that mesh alternatives, which some parents had inquired about, will not be allowed. Some parents have been looking for alternatives to plastic backpacks due to concerns about durability and about constant exposure to phthalates, which are widely used to make plastics durable and flexible. In 2009 a federal law banned several phthalates, which are endocrine disruptors, from children's products and toys but it's almost always found in polyvinyl chloride plastics.

The school system says it will assist high school students in need to acquire the required backpacks.

# Comptroller Brooke Lierman Congratulates Ric Gordon

Councilmember Ric Gordon received a letter of acknowledgment, appreciation and thanks from Maryland Comptroller Brooke Lierman for his work with the LGBTQIA community in creating inclusive and safe spaces for all Greenbelt residents. Lierman wants to continue her partnership with Greenbelt in achieving the same goals.

**Gordon displays his letter of congratulation from Md. Comptroller Lierman.**



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GREENBELT

# Embracing Cooperatives



Embracing cooperation among cooperatives, Greenbelt Co-op's General Manager Dan Gillotte, left, warmly welcomes new GHI Manager James Claggett Jr. to the Greenbelt cooperative family.

PHOTO BY HONORA BANKO

Greenbelt Elementary School PTA

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