



Schools Work-session, p.6



Chess Tournament, p.12

New Deal Café's Precarious Financial Situation Continues

by Dana Tompkins

The New Deal Café (NDC) remains in a precarious financial situation despite the recent contract renewal with the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative (also known as the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket and Pharmacy) to continue as the NDC's food and beverage vendor. As reported in the January 18 issue, the NDC and Co-op Supermarket recently agreed to a contract extension through January 2025 after "minor but necessary changes to the contract." However, follow-up discussions with members of the NDC Board of Directors reveal these contract changes still do not meet the Café's financial needs and the arrangement is not sustainable in the long term.

Current Revenue

Currently, the Café's only regular source of revenue continues to be the recently adopted four percent fee added to food and beverage sales (with profit from food and beverages going to the Co-op Supermarket). According to the NDC board, the fee is necessary to help cover the Café's operational costs. Addi-



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

The New Deal Café continues to struggle financially.

tional financial sources include donations, grants and fundraisers, which, according to NDC Treasurer Dorian Winterfeld, have

See **NEW DEAL**, page 11

Council Appoints Amy Knesel

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On January 24, during a special meeting, Greenbelt City Council voted to appoint Amy Knesel to fill the open council seat. Interviews with five candidates for the seat had been held the night before. Knesel has lived in Greenbelt since 2013 and been an active volunteer in the community since then. She spearheaded the Greenbelt Pumpkin Festival from 2017 to 2022 and has served on various boards, including Greenbelt Nursery School, Greenbelt Elementary, Greenbelt Soccer Alliance and the Labor Day Festival Committee. Her full statement to the News Review is on page 6 of the January 4 issue. Knesel joins Councilmembers Kristen Weaver, Jenni Pompei, Silke Pope and Danielle McKinney in Greenbelt's first women-majority-led council.

Division over Process

During the special meeting council voted to enter executive closed session to discuss candidates' qualifications. "I'm not going to get into discussions about people's qualifications in an open public session. I think that's just inappropriate," said Mayor Emmett Jordan, at the start of the meeting. "There could be some liability issues," he added. Weaver noted there was not agreement to move into a closed session and said McKinney had a proposal for the process that Weaver said she'd like to hear. Jordan



PHOTO BY MICHAEL HARTMAN

Amy Knesel is sworn in as councilmember by Mayor Emmett Jordan on January 24.

responded saying he wanted to make a motion to go into executive session. He asked Weaver, who traditionally makes such motions, to make the motion and she responded, "I would prefer not to because I don't think we should."

See **KNESEL**, page 8

Plan to Move Dora Kennedy School Surprises Principal, Community

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On January 10, the Greenbelt City Council held a worksession with Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) Superintendent Millard House II and several members of his team (see article on page 6 for more on the worksession). That evening House and his team shared news that the county has a plan to move Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) school from Greenbelt to Landover, use the old building as swing space for Springhill Lake Elementary (SHL) and then likely demolish it. At the end of January, the DKFI school administration and families had still not

been consulted nor informed of the plan. Reached by the News Review on January 30, DKFI Principal James Spence said the plan for a move was "news" to him. "No one has communicated this to me," said Spence.

Plans for Springhill Lake

Springhill Lake Elementary School is in Phase Two of the county's Blueprint Schools Public Private Partnership (P3) program to receive a new school building by 2028. According to PGCPS enrollment data from September 30, 2023, the school has 757 students in a space with a state-regulated design capacity

for 561 students, a building utilization rate of 135 percent. The old school building will be torn down and a new, larger, two-story school constructed on the same site, with construction beginning in 2026 and taking roughly two years. Under the current plan, in the time between demolition and completion of a new building SHL will move into the school building currently serving DKFI. (Housing schools temporarily in a different location while they await a new building is a regular practice, referred to as a "swing

See **DORA KENNEDY**, page 6



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Late Councilmember Ric Gordon and Mayor Emmett Jordan plant trees at Dora Kennedy French Immersion School in Greenbelt to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2023.

What Goes On

Monday, February 5
7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: Presentation(s) and Input on Municipal Building/Architecture Study Update, Municipal Building
Wednesday, February 7
7:30 p.m., Council Work-session: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Status Update, Municipal Building

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

Black History Month

New Exhibition Brings Together Quilting, Fashion and Design Artists

by Nicole DeWald, Arts Supervisor



PHOTO COURTESY THE ARTIST

Renee Anderson, Flowers for 2023

Greenbelters are invited to attend an opening reception on Sunday, February 4, 1 to 3 p.m. for the new exhibition, **PIECED: Fiber Arts by Fashion Designer Venus Stanton and the Uhuru Quilters Guild** at the Community Center Art Gallery. **PIECED** brings together the work of nine artists of different generations and aesthetics who use similar construction techniques to achieve diverse creative ends. Visitors will be immersed in an environment of vibrant color, bold geometry and rich symbolism, including the personal, cultural and cosmic.

Stanton is represented in the exhibition by a series of ensembles from their **Midnight Funk Association** collection, their senior thesis project at the Maryland Institute College of Art, which led to a prestigious Windgate-Lamar Fellowship at the Center for Craft. Grounded in their perspective as a queer Black Midwesterner, their work reflects influences from 20th-century Black musicians, car shows, pulp-sci-fi movies, the great migration, the scenery of Lake Michigan and, most

See **BLACK HISTORY**, page 12

Letters to the Editor

Cookies on the Bridge History: A Correction

The January 4, 2024, letter to the editor by Betty Sonneveldt credited RUAK as starting the Cookies on the Bridge Project. After double-checking my memory, it was confirmed that in 2010 Mowatt Methodist Church started the project, after the experience of students coming home over the bridge had become unsavory to say the least and all too often scary and unsafe. Over the years, Mowatt steadfastly recruited and organized volunteers and worked with other organizations to ensure a welcoming, adult presence, and of course delicious cookies. In 2022, Ellen Knoll, the main organizer with the church, passed on the baton to RUAK before she moved out of the area.

We owe a huge expression of gratitude to Ellen, the many volunteers and to Mowatt for their 12 years of sustained service to the community and also a thank you to RUAK for being willing to continue with this invaluable tradition.

Katrina Boverman

Thoughts on Red Scare

It has been a while since I thought about the ordeal that Abe Chasanow and his family endured at the hands of Sen. Joseph McCarthy and Roy Cohn. I'm sure there are generations of Greenbelt residents who are completely unaware of that overzealous pursuit of "Communists" that destroyed many lives. I thank you for the front-page article in the January 18 issue of the News Review that recounts that debacle.

I was 10 in 1953. The Chasanows were our neighbors in 11 Court of Ridge Rd. Their children, Phyllis, Howard, Myrna and Ruthie, were great friends to many in Greenbelt. I can't imagine their distress over the way their father was treated, along with others. Thankfully, the story had a happy ending, but by then the damage to lives was done. It is important that as many people as possible know about that shameful episode in American history. I look forward to the second installment of this story in the News Review.

Robert H. Haslinger
Gaithersburg, Md.



Correction

In last week's Red Scare story, the name of Dr. Samuel Berenberg was correctly stated in the first half of the story but an incorrect surname was unintentionally given to him and his wife after that.

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OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES: FEBRUARY 2nd - 8th

American Fiction (R) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (117 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 4:30 PM, 7:00 PM with guest speaker
Sat. 8:15 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM (OC), 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:15 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM
Wed. 7:15 PM
Thurs. 5:00 PM

Poor Things (R) (CC) (DVS) (2023) (141 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:00 PM
Mon. 3:30 PM (OC)
Wed. 7:00 PM
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM
Sat. 8:00 PM
Sun. 1:00 PM
Tues. 7:00 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

Scotland, PA (R) (CC) (DVS) (2001) (104 mins)
In partnership with GAC and Rude Mechanicals
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 4:00 PM

Pillow Talk (NR) (1959) (103 mins)
Free Cinema Classic!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 1:00 PM
Thurs. 8:00 PM



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.



On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

American Fiction

Cord Jefferson's hilarious directorial debut confronts our culture's obsession with reducing people to outrageous stereotypes. Jeffrey Wright stars as Monk, a frustrated novelist who is fed up with the establishment profiting from "Black" entertainment that relies on tired and offensive tropes. To prove his point, Monk uses a pen name to write an outlandish "Black" book of his own, a book that propels him to the heart of hypocrisy and the madness he claims to disdain. Said critic Adam Graham of the Detroit News, "Wright, so often a strong supporting player ... is magnetic in the lead role: commanding, flawed, vulnerable, relatable. American Fiction is his movie, and will likely (and deservedly) land him his first Oscar nomination."

Poor Things

From filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos and producer Emma Stone comes the incredible tale and fantastical evolution of Bella Baxter (Stone), a young woman brought back to life by the brilliant and unorthodox scientist Dr. Godwin Baxter (Willem Dafoe). Under Baxter's protection, Bella is eager to learn. Hungry for the worldliness she is lacking, Bella runs off with Duncan Wedderburn (Mark Ruffalo), a slick and debauched lawyer, on a whirlwind adventure across the continents. Free from the prejudices of her times, Bella grows steadfast in her purpose to stand for equality and liberation. The film is nominated in numerous categories for this year's Academy Awards.

Scotland, PA

A black comedy retelling of Shakespeare's Macbeth, the film is set against the backdrop of a fast food restaurant in the early 70s, rural Pennsylvania. This classic tale of guilt and betrayal centers on the McBeths, Joe "Mac" (James LeGros) and Pat (Maura Tierney) who are stuck in their dead-end jobs at Duncan's Restaurant. Pat is getting restless and hatches a plan as Mac starts to see things - three hippies (Andy Dick, Amy Smart and Timothy "Speed" Levitch) to be exact.

Pillow Talk

Playboy songwriter Brad Allen's (Rock Hudson) succession of romances annoys his neighbor, interior designer Jan Morrow (Doris Day), who shares a telephone party line with him and hears all his breezy routines. After Jan unsuccessfully lodges a complaint against him, Brad sets about trying to seduce her in the guise of a sincere and upstanding Texas rancher. But when mutual friend Jonathan (Tony Randall) discovers that his best friend is moving in on the girl he desires, sparks fly.

Greenbelt News Review

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

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

Regular hours for the Greenbelt Library are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays; noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 1 to 5 p.m., Sundays. Face masks are recommended for all customers over the age of 2 at Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) buildings.

Storytimes

Friday, February 2, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9685483.

Monday, February 5, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9685431.

Wednesday, February 7, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9685580.

Bibliopop Dance Party

Saturday, February 3, 10:30 a.m., ages newborn to 5. Bust a move and shake the sillies out. Bring parents or caregivers and prepare to boogie and bop. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9862730.

Books at Bedtime

Wednesday, February 7, 6:30 p.m., ages newborn to 3. Stories, music and activities for children with and without special needs. Presented by the PGCPIS Infants and Toddlers Program for up to 12 community families. Register at pgcmls.info/event/9733693.

Winter Reading Challenge

The Washington Wizards and PGCMLS have teamed up to get Prince Georgians of all ages reading this winter with the Wizards Winter Reading Challenge. The free event runs until March 31.

To help promote youth literacy, the Wizards Winter Reading Challenge provides participants the ability to connect with their library while encouraging them to build a positive reading culture. The challenge can be joined online through Beanstack, a software platform and mobile app that allows readers to easily record their reading minutes, track their progress and stay motivated to complete the challenge. For more information, visit pgcmls.info/wizards.

Greenbelt Concert Band Seeks New Members

The Greenbelt Concert Band is back to rehearsals on Monday evenings, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Community Center, Room 201. We welcome new members, especially trumpet, French horn and tuba players.

There is also a Wind Ensemble that meets from 1:45 to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays. New members may join as well. For more information, visit greenbeltconcertband.org or [facebook.com/greenbeltconcertband](https://www.facebook.com/greenbeltconcertband).

An Artful Afternoon Sunday, February 4

Create a no-sew quilt block wall art with Karen Arrington, artist in residence, in the Community Center Ground Floor East space. This opportunity is offered in conjunction with a new gallery exhibition on the first floor – PIECED: Fiber Arts by Fashion Designer Venus Stanton and the Uhuru Quilters Guild of Prince George's County – which opens on Saturday. Sign up for either the 1 to 2 p.m. slot or 2 to 3 p.m. slot, here: <http://tinyurl.com/ytv59kvz>. Walk-ins will be welcomed as space allows.

Art Exhibit Opens Sunday at New Deal

Celebrate Black History Month in Greenbelt. This year's Black History programs are dedicated to the memory of Councilmember Ric Gordon, a valued member of the committee and beloved by residents of Greenbelt. Stop by the New Deal Café on Sunday, February 4 from 1 to 3 p.m. for the Black History Month Art Exhibit. This exhibit showcases the profound impact of Black Americans on visual arts, music, cultural movements and more. An arts market, light refreshments and a meet-and-greet with the artists will be part of the experience.

To view or download the Black History Month programs guide, visit greenbeltnmd.gov/BHM.

Greenbelt Museum Free Valentine Open House

On Sunday, February 4 from 1 to 5 p.m., come by for a quick tour and a lighthearted look at love in the 1940s and 1950s. See vintage valentines, decorations, funny ads, advice books, magazines and more. This is a free event: no need to pre-register and tickets are not required. Visitors of all ages are welcome. Attendees will have the chance to make a valentine card for a hospitalized kid with We Are Artistic, a youth-led nonprofit. All materials will be provided.

Arts Advisory Board Meets Tuesday

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, February 6 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Discussion topics will include planning an upcoming Arts Mixer. Greenbelt residents who may be interested in joining the board are encouraged to attend. For more information and to obtain the Zoom link, email alarsen@greenbeltnmd.gov.

Explore Black History Saturday, February 24

Join the Greenbelt Reparations Commission from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 24 for an overview of Black history in upper Prince George's County in the 19th and early 20th centuries and in Greenbelt from 1935 on. The program will be held in the Greenbelt Library Auditorium located on the ground floor.

Speakers at the free program will include Artura Jackson, historian for the Black History Program of Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and Megan Searing Young, director of the Greenbelt Museum. Members of the Greenbelt Reparations Commission will provide a brief update on their work. Registration is not required. Email Mark Wilson at markwilsonimpact@gmail.com with any questions.

Library Celebrates Black History Month

On Thursday, February 15 at 4:30 p.m., the Greenbelt Library will offer The Blues: Lyrics of a Life Well Lived, presented by the Archie Edwards Blues Heritage Foundation. Jael "Ya Ya" Patterson and Miles Spicer will lead a discussion and musical presentation exploring songwriting and the stories and social issues behind blues songs.

Help Those in Need with PORCH

Donations of nonperishables and hygiene products go to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry.

February schedule

Sunday, February 11 – by 11 a.m. for 1 to 8 Courts Ridge and Crescent Roads

Saturday, February 17 – by 10 a.m. for 14 and 15 Courts Laurel Hill Road

Sunday, February 25 – by 4 p.m. for 9 and 12 Courts Ridge Road, 11 and 13 Courts Ridge Road and Boxwood Village; by 5 p.m. for Lakeside Drive.

Contact spreadruak@gmail.com for more information.

Buried Treasure Is Coming Up in March



PHOTO BY CHRIS CHERRY

Hannah Baker, Josh Amin and Kira Wilkinson prepare for the 2024 youth musical.

Rehearsals for the 2024 Greenbelt Youth Musical are underway. Tickets are going on sale on Tuesday, February 6 for performances on March 2, 3 and 9.

Survey Wants to Help Us Get Where We're Going

The Neighborhood Design Center is preparing a Strategic Wayfinding Plan for the City of Greenbelt and needs your input. They ask members of the community to respond to their surveys by February 19 to identify gaps or needs. Links to the survey and the interactive map are available in the News section of the city website (greenbeltnmd.gov).

The wayfinding plan is funded by the Prince George's County Planning Department's Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Program. The survey is brief. It seeks to identify wayfinding signage gaps or needs in the City of Greenbelt on an interactive map.

Wayfinding can encompass various elements, including signage, maps, landmarks and other cues that help individuals understand their location, the direction they need to go and how to reach their intended destination. The Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan will facilitate pedestrian, automobile, bicycle or transit travel to key sites by providing clear directions along safe and convenient routes.

Star Party Saturday

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Saturday, February 3 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see Jupiter and deep sky objects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky, viewed through the observatory telescope and astronomical camera. All are welcome and there is no charge. Visitors are encouraged to bring their own telescopes to set up on the hilltop.

Observing will begin at 6:30 p.m. and continue for two hours. Attendees are asked to park in the ballfield lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope. The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

Greenbelt Business Conference February 7

On Wednesday, February 7 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., Greenbelt will offer its first business conference of the year. The program will feature the Prince George's Economic Development Corporation (PGEDC) at Martin's Crosswinds titled Moving Forward. It will feature insights on the latest resources, trends and vision for economic growth and development in Prince George's County and the community. The keynote speaker will be David Iannucci, president and CEO of PGEDC. Other presenters include Larry Hentz, Alexis Allen-Shorter, Mayank Kapur, Alicia Moran and Kimberlee Andrews. A continental breakfast is included.

GREA Meeting Tuesday

The Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance (GREA) holds its next meeting on Tuesday, February 6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom. Agenda items include a review of GREA's activities in 2023 and planning for new directions in 2024. For a link to the meeting, visit the GREA website, greenbeltraciaequity.org/events.

This Week at the New Deal Café

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

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WINTER HOURS: Mon/Wed/Th 8am-9pm; Tues 8am-9:30pm; Friday/Saturday 8am – 10pm; Sunday 9am – 9pm, UNLESS NOTED.

TH 2/01	FRI 2/02	SAT 2/03	SUN 2/04
<p>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm</p> <p>Wolf's Blues Show & Sit-In Jam 6:30-10pm Monthly blues jam</p>	<p>VISIT NEWDEALCAFE.COM FOR UPDATE</p>	<p>Little Red and the Renegades NEW TIME: 7-10pm Come get your Martis Gras on with the NDC fav!</p>	<p>ART RECEPTION, 1-3pm This Could Go Boom! 5:30-8pm NDC monthly showcase of underrepresented artists.</p>
MON 2/05	TUES 2/06	WED 2/07	TH 2/08
<p>Monday Mauveness Karaoke HOST: MIKE BENNETT 6-9pm SING OUT!</p>	<p>S.A.W. Open Mic 6-9:30pm SIGN-UPS AT 6PM Featured artist plays 8-8:30pm</p>	<p>The Campfire Sessions 7-9pm A monthly "listening room" w/ local artists</p>	<p>FRENCH CONVERSATION, 5:30p - 6:30pm VISIT NEWDEALCAFE.COM FOR UPDATE</p>
<p>SPECIALS!</p> <p>HAPPY HOUR 4-7pm \$1 OFF BEER AND WINE WINE WEDNESDAY \$1 OFF PER GLASS \$5 OFF A BOTTLE</p>			

Join or renew your membership. Go to 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.

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Greenbelt Access Television
Feb. 3, Sat - Feb. 9, 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

Featured Film (9am, 3pm, and 8pm)
Reet, Petite, and Gone (1947)

In this musical comedy, a young bachelor must quickly find a woman to marry in order to appease his terminally ill father. Reet, Petite, and Gone features an all-Black cast, a captivatingly charismatic Louis Jordan, and exceptional song and dance numbers!

New This Month
Claymation Shorts

Tune in to see what our talented Claymation students created this Fall!
(And stay tuned on Claymation Classes and Workshops coming soon!)

All this and more on the GATE channel this week! Check greenbeltaccessstv.org for the full broadcast schedule, and visit **Greenbelt Access Television** on YouTube for new video productions.



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.



MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 5 - 9

- Monday, February 5 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**
 - Monday, February 5 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - CITIZEN PRESENTATION(S) AND INPUT REGARDING MUNICIPAL BUILDING / MUNICIPAL BUILDING ARCHITECT STUDY UPDATE**
 - Tuesday, February 6 at 7 pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, On the Agenda: Review Updated General Orders**
 - Tuesday, February 6 at 7 pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD, On the Agenda: Approval of January Minutes, Public Art Funds Report, ABB Budget Request, Arts Mixer**
 - Wednesday, February 7 at 7:10 pm, **ADVISORY BOARD INTERVIEW**
 - Wednesday, February 7 at 7:30 pm, **WORK SESSION - AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) STATUS UPDATE**
 - Thursday, February 8 at 7 pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**
- 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 www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.*

GREENBELT BUSINESS CONFERENCE

February 7, from 8:30 to 10:30 am
Martin's Crosswinds, 7400 Greenway Center, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Moving Forward with Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation (PGEDC): Please join the City of Greenbelt at our business conference featuring PGEDC! We will gain insight from the latest resources, trends, and vision for economic growth and development in Prince George's County and our community. Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with business leaders and hear from the leading experts in economic development in Prince George's County! Continental breakfast is included.

RSVP with Kevin Simpson at (240) 542-2044 or ksimpson@greenbeltmd.gov.

UPCOMING ARTS PROGRAMS

- HELP CREATE PUBLIC ART! - FEBRUARY 10, FEBRUARY 17, & MARCH 2**
 Free workshops: 2/10, 2/17 and 3/2. Ages 14 to adult. Details and registration (required) at <https://bit.ly/3TSnycR>.
- ARTFUL AFTERNOON WORKSHOP - FEBRUARY 4**
 Create no-sew quilt block wall art with artist Karen Arrington. All ages. FREE. Sunday, February 4, 1-3pm. Greenbelt Community Center Ground Floor East. Details and sign-up: <https://bit.ly/3RH2cgP>.

Spotlighting African American Contributions to the Arts

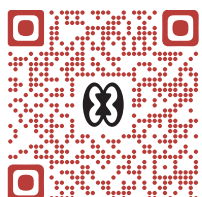
Celebrate Black History Month in Greenbelt. This year's Black History programs are dedicated to the memory of Ric Gordon, a valued member of our committee and beloved City Council Member.

CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Greenbelt Recreation and the Black History & Culture Committee invite you to celebrate Black History Month in Greenbelt. For more information on events in February, please visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation.

- 2/4 - Joint Exhibition Opening and Artful Afternoon Workshop**
 Reception & Artist Market: 1-3 pm, New Deal Cafe. Mixed media group show. Reception & Workshop: 1-3 pm, Community Center. Fiber arts by fashion designer Venus Stanton and the Uhuru Quilters Guild.
- 2/10 - Kaiser Permanente Free Health Screenings.** 11 am - 4 pm, Beltway Plaza Parking Lot
- 2/10 - Collage Art at the SPACE.** 12 - 3 pm, The SPACE, Beltway Plaza
- 2/14 - FREED Female Re-Enactors of Distinction.** 11 am, Community Center.
- 2/18 - Black History Month Cultural Program.** 2 pm, Community Center.
- 2/19 - Reel & Meal Presents the Film "Invented Before You Were Born."** 7 pm, New Deal Cafe.
- 2/24 - Greenbelt Reparations Commission Presents: Exploring Black History in Prince George's & Greenbelt.** 1 - 3 pm, Greenbelt Public Library Auditorium.

Greenbelt Black History & Culture Committee
blackhistoryandculturegb@gmail.com



GREENBELT WAYFINDING SURVEY

The Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) is preparing a Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan for the City of Greenbelt funded by the Prince George's County Planning Department's Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) Program, and we are looking for input from the community. Community members are encouraged to take this brief survey, and to identify wayfinding signage gaps or needs in the City of Greenbelt on this interactive map.

Wayfinding can encompass various elements, including signage, maps, landmarks, and other cues that help individuals understand their location, the direction they need to go, and how to reach their intended destination. The Greenbelt Strategic Wayfinding Plan will facilitate pedestrian, automobile, bicycle, or transit travel to key sites by providing clear directions along safe and convenient routes.

If you have any questions regarding the survey or interactive map, please email Anusree.Nair@ppd.mnccpc.org.

Thank you for your participation!



FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS FEBRUARY 15, MARCH 21, & APRIL 18 TWO LOCATIONS

Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. **Must have a registration card** via Brendy Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

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.

COMPOSTING PILOT PROGRAM

For 18 months, your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt.

The Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity Church on Good Luck Road. Quality compost will be returned to Greenbelt for use as a soil amendment to improve Greenbelt gardens and public space lands. Composting will reduce food waste going to the landfill and lower greenhouse gas emissions coming from the landfill. Compost Crew, the City of Greenbelt, and Trinity Assembly of God worked together to obtain the funding for the pilot through a grant from the USDA.

- Open to all Greenbelt residents
- Join with close-by neighbors to help fill a 7 gallon tote for weekly pickup
- Purchase a collection tote for a one-time cost of \$20
- Residents who are seniors, have fixed or low income, or have a disability are encouraged to participate

Register with Compost Crew at <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt/> or by using the QR code.

Questions? Email: lrobes@greenbeltmd.gov.



CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS

CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge this fall: Emergency Diaper Program, Family and Unpaid Caregiver Resource Fair, Alzheimer's Awareness Month Webinar Series, Coffee & Conversations, two Free Produce Distribution events, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention in Older Adults webinar, Staying Strong webinar, and more.

For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/CARESprograms.

ONLINE CARES SEMINARS FOR AGING RESIDENTS

Thursday, February 8, 7 - 8 pm - Spiritual Care. Join us for an open discussion on Spiritual Care of People with Dementia, including information on specially adapted services we offer in collaboration with many denominations and houses of worship in our area.

Register: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3890428816695823960> or call (240) 424-0302.

QUARTERLY CITY CONNECTER

The City Connector has been a publication of the City of Greenbelt since 2008. City Departments are solicited for each issue in order to provide a well-rounded newsletter. Each newsletter includes information about City services, events, and other governmental services.

Check out the latest edition of the Greenbelt City Connector today! #StayConnected

Visit <https://ow.ly/h76W50QvXhW>.



COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

By dedicating your time and expertise, you will help shape the future of Greenbelt and create a community that values the voices of all its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT SAVE OUR SENIORS GRANT PROGRAM Are you homebound and need help with personal care?

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living Program, in partnership with Pickett Fences Senior Services, has been awarded a grant to provide temporary home health support, bathroom safety assessment, and equipment to residents 60+ or 50+ with a disability, who reside within incorporated Greenbelt. During this time staff will work to identify and link residents with long-term support programs.

- Benefits:
- RN Assessment
 - Bathroom Safety Assessment and Equipment
 - Home Health Visits

Limited spots are available!

Please email Trinity Cephias, GAIL Student Intern, for more information at tcephias@greenbeltmd.gov or call the Bilingual Health Caseworker, Brendy Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE

Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt's Bring Your Own Bag bill aims to reduce single-use plastic bag waste and litter in our local waterways and tributary system.

The Bring Your Own Bag bill will prohibit a retail establishment from providing a plastic carryout bag to shoppers and can charge at least 10 cents for each paper bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/BYOBag.



School News

Schools Worksession Reveals Local Upsides and Downsides

by Cathie Meetre



PHOTO COURTESY PGCPSS

Superintendent Millard House II

The Greenbelt City Council's January 10 worksession with Prince George's County Schools opened with the Superintendent of Schools Millard House II, appointed in July 2023, speaking of priorities for the county's schools. He noted that teaching, learning, meaningful family engagement and safety and security were all high on the list and he spoke of the five recent countywide Town Hall sessions which had reached some 20,000 participants. He also mentioned that since his appointment, he has visited over 60 of the 200 schools in the county.

Staffing

Characterizing staffing as "difficult", House is prioritizing the recruitment and retention of teachers, including a program of "growing their own" by supporting nontraditional aspirants and assisting with teacher education.

In response to questions from Mayor Emmett Jordan, House spoke also of the difficulties in recruiting and training bus drivers and crossing guards. He noted that the positions exist but that despite increased pay, recruitment still lags. In response to a question from Councilmember Kristen Weaver, House described an ongoing survey to examine why bus drivers were leaving and to establish what strategies would aid retention.

Demographics Are Shifting

He also spoke of the changing demographics of student enrollment, with Latinx students now at 40 percent, up from a negligible fraction a few decades ago. The county population as a whole remains majority African American. There is also a migration from the south of the county toward the north, leading to underutilized facilities in one area and overcrowding in the north, including Greenbelt.

Transportation

Jordan brought up a number of concerns about buses, and Councilmember Jenni Pompei, who has children in school and previously ran for the school board, said that the bus situation has improved from the chaotic state of last September but was still not entirely reliable. House agreed with her assessment, saying they are still short "a couple of hundred drivers."

County Schools Chief Operating Officer Charoscar Coleman described the ongoing audit of transportation as involving all concerned, including drivers,

bus lot personnel, students and parents. House also pointed out that the 16 different starting times among county schools complicate scheduling. Coleman warned that the transportation system had to find efficiencies, even if it "upset the applecart."

Enrollment/Capacity

Jordan emphasized that Greenbelt students had the expectation of attending school in the city (or, as a choice, specialized schools elsewhere) but that Springhill Lake Elementary and Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) were both overcrowded, each with large numbers of permanent temporary classrooms. He pointed out that the relatively new Greenbelt Middle School building was already at capacity.

Schools Director of Capital Programs Shawn Matlock described the three-phase comprehensive plan developed in 2017 with Springhill Lake Elementary now next in line for a building. The plan is to tear down Springhill Lake and construct a larger school in that location. To accomplish that, the school will temporarily move into the current Dora Kennedy French Immersion School (the former Greenbelt Middle School), he announced. Dora Kennedy will simultaneously move to the currently empty Kenmoor school building in Landover, a move anticipated to be permanent (see article on page 1).

ERHS Status

Matlock stated that as a Phase-3 school (a public-private partnership for building new schools), ERHS will not be a priority for some years. He alluded, however, to a proposed reassessment of the phased plan to ensure that it is still on track in terms of changing student populations. This reassessment could influence that timeline.

Overall, the plan is to consolidate smaller schools to reduce the number of bus routes and provide other efficiencies. They are trying to build new schools that are bigger, more efficient and more resilient, for example, using geothermal and solar for energy. In answer to Councilmember Rodney Roberts' concern about abandoning fine older buildings (e.g. Greenbelt Community Center, formerly Center Elementary), Matlock assured him that they plan to rehabilitate some pre-1960s schools that have "good

See **WORKSESSION**, page 7

DORA KENNEDY continued from page 1

space.") A swing space at the current DKFI location holds the advantage of being walkable for many SHL students and the school has a large walking population.

Another Old Building for DKFI

"To me it's really a revelation to hear this proposal about moving Dora Kennedy," said Mayor Emmett Jordan.

DKFI is a K-8 specialty school that serves students from across the north of the county and the majority of students already take buses to and from school. "What we're offering them is a school that is even more modern," explained Shawn Matlock, director of the Office of Alternative Infrastructure and Planning and Development for PGCPSS and the director of the P3 program.

According to the most recent PGCPSS enrollment data, DKFI has 680 students. No design capacity for their current building is recorded. The new home proposed for DKFI is the building vacated by Kenmoor Middle School, a school that received a new building in 2023. The building initially opened in 1973 as Kenmoor Junior High. It is currently housing Templeton Elementary School as their swing space as they wait for a new school building under Blueprint Schools Phase 2.

At the January 25 DKFI Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting, PTA officers shared that the school had been moved further down the list of those waiting for a new building. They had not been informed of any plans to move the school to another old building in two years' time.

Kateri Baker, a Greenbelt resident with three children at DKFI, had also not heard of plans to move the school. For Baker, who grew up in Greenbelt, the move might feel like things coming full circle, though. The Kenmoor school, then the closest TAG program, was where she was bussed for middle school. (At the time Greenbelt Middle was located where her children currently go to DKFI.) However, "it wasn't a new school 30 years ago," noted Baker.

DKFI moved into their current location when it had been deemed unfit for Greenbelt Middle School. They had a new school constructed adjacent to the old one, which they expected to be torn down. DKFI has since lived with a host of infrastructure problems in the old building. The move to Kenmoor would again see them placed in an old building vacated by another school that received a new building.

No Major Updates for the DKFI Building

Councilmember Jenni Pompei noted that there have been problems in the past in the county with swing spaces not being communicated or communicated too late. She urged the PGCPSS administration to talk with DKFI families as soon as they can. She also expressed concerns that DKFI's building has many infrastructure problems including classrooms without heat, without air-conditioning and water fountains that don't work. DKFI currently has all its water fountains



PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW

Dora Kennedy French Immersion School is located in the building that was originally Greenbelt High School and later became Greenbelt Middle School.

turned off due to lead levels and only a single bottle-filling station in operation. Pompei asked that the infrastructure problems be addressed before moving SHL students into the building. "They need to be in a good, safe space for those two years," she said.

"You have to understand something and I want to be clear," said Matlock. "We're not going to do a whole lot to the old Greenbelt Middle School, to Dora Kennedy. And the reason is we don't have a lot of the resources," stated Matlock. "As soon as those students are out of that building, we're probably going to demolish that building," he said.

"You can't tear down our old high school!" interjected an alarmed Councilmember Rodney Roberts.

"I just want to say, I think children having working heat and air-conditioning and water – I don't think those should be considered major renovations. I think ... that's the bare minimum that we should be giving our students to be in a habitable school," said Pompei. "I really do hope that those updates will be made before you swing any kids into there."

Concern for Historic Building

"The original Greenbelt high school is a historic building in Greenbelt and I personally don't want you even thinking about tearing it down," said Roberts, who noted it was original to the city. Roberts also suggested it was a folly to tear down schools when they keep finding themselves in need of more school buildings (which is how DKFI found itself in the building that was previously planned for de-

molition). "I personally am not a preservationist," said Matlock, who argued that there are schools that currently have children in them that need new HVAC and infrastructure.

Roberts pointed to the renovation and restoration of Greenbelt's Community Center, the original Center School as examples of successful historic preservation.

This author currently has two children attending DKFI in Greenbelt.

A Historic Greenbelt School Building

The old Greenbelt school building is located at 8950 Edmonston Road, with part of its large white exterior facing Greenbelt Road. It opened in 1938 as the original Greenbelt high school. In 1951 it became Greenbelt Junior High School and in 1955 it was desegregated.

In 1981 the Junior High became Greenbelt Middle School, serving seventh and eighth grades, with ninth grade students sent to Eleanor Roosevelt High School. (Middle schools in PGCPSS have since incorporated sixth grade, too). In 2012, a new school building, behind the original and sharing the same sports fields was built to replace it. Though previously slated for demolition, two years later, in 2014, the Robert Goddard French Immersion School, in need of a home, moved into the old building. In 2015 the school was renamed Dora Kennedy French Immersion to honor educator Dora Kennedy.

Friends of New Deal Cafe Arts

Seeks New Members

Would you like to be part of an organization that supports the arts in Greenbelt? Friends of New Deal Cafe Arts - FONDCA - is looking for new volunteers for the Board of Directors. If interested, please attend our quarterly meeting on Sunday, February 18, 2024 from 4-5pm at New Deal Cafe. We hope to see you there.

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School News

WORKSESSION continued from page 6

bones” but that those built in the 60s and 70s will mostly be demolished.

Safety and Security

Schools Chief Accountability Officer Douglas Strader described the measures being taken to increase security. Metal detectors are now in place in all county high schools and will be extended systematically to earlier grades. Transparent backpacks are the rule in high schools and all high schools also have school resources officers. Schools are assessed in terms of access, balancing ease of escape in an emergency against unauthorized entry. Safety exit doors increasingly have alarms to prevent them being blocked or opened by students leaving school without permission.

Tuancy/Absenteeism

Jordan and, from online, former councilmember and teacher Judith Davis both spoke of the significant number of ERHS students (ironically, easily identified by their transparent backpacks) who leave the school after arrival and hang out in local apartment hallways or playgrounds (sometimes smoking marijuana), returning to school just in time to catch their bus home. Strader said the schools were aware of the problem, which has worsened since the pandemic.

Strader described the state definitions relating to truancy, which combines excused and unexcused absences together as chronic absenteeism. The county’s current measure is 40 percent, meaning an average of four out of every 10 students miss at least 72 days of school per year. Coleman agreed that this figure is higher in secondary schools and lower in elementaries. He also noted that it is seasonal: higher after vacations and at the end of the school year. Overall, Prince George’s County Schools’ attendance stands at just over 90 percent, meaning that on any given day, an average of 90.3 percent of students are in school.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Roberts whimsically pointed out that if schools could offer something that the students actually wanted to learn, they’d be more likely go to school. House seized on this remark to describe the county’s initiative in CTE. Crossland High School was recently labelled a CTE hub, where students can engage with a number of career techs, said House. It’s something they’re planning to increase in the north

of the county, particularly with the new Phase 3 schools. House noted that schools had focused too much on the college track, perhaps in the attempt to address social inequities by stressing academics over practical skills, and that adjustment was needed. Councilmembers waxed enthusiastic about their personal experiences of “shop” and Jordan noted he still has the ashtray he made back then.

School Boundaries

Council was reassured by House that there were currently no major shifts anticipated. Some students not from Greenbelt were to be reassigned away from Greenbelt Middle School and a small number of others would head for Magnolia Elementary, which is considered at least partially a Greenbelt school.

Community Schools

The schools team described upcoming initiatives to bring community services into the schools, with more provision for student health services. Council was enthusiastic about the concept, which was described as, to some degree, making school resources available to local communities and vice versa. Weaver saw it as offering the possibility, for example, of providing additional ballfields to the city outside school hours – or relieving the pressure on meeting space. Greenbelt is already involved with the provision of school resource officers drawn from its police department.

House noted, however, that a factor in implementation is that even existing school nurse positions in high schools are difficult to fill, with nurses having many other better paying alternatives.

Coordination with M-NCPPC

In response to a question from council about the degree to which the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) took school statistics into consideration in terms

of rationalizing new housing and available school resources, Matlock replied that the schools do provide projections to the agency though the consensus seemed to be that they paid little attention when making their decisions.

Editor’s Note: In view of the increased development anticipated as the result of federal agency relocations to the area and the very long lead times for building new schools, the currently planned increase in school capacity may be overtaken before the first stone is laid.



Chronic Absenteeism vs. Truancy

In Prince George’s County, 40 percent of students are classed as “chronically absent.”

Chronic absenteeism counts both excused and unexcused absences. According to the Maryland State Department of Education definition, a student is chronically absent after missing at least 10 school days in a year and being absent 10 percent or more of the school days.

Truancy – the more familiar measure – counted only unexcused absences, missing the impact on school attendance from excused absences which may often result directly or indirectly from homelessness or poverty. Truancy data is now part of a more comprehensive approach aimed at improving school attendance.

This broader data set enables the design and evaluation of strategies to enable children to attend school regularly and obtain the education they need.

Greenbelt Elementary Awarded For Excellence in TAG Program

Greenbelt Elementary School was one of three county schools named 2023 Maryland Excellence in Gifted and Talented Education (EGATE) Schools. This is the third year the school received the EGATE Award, winning previously in 2014 and 2019.

Among the 53 Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) teachers, administrators and students who were also honored are Arnor Galang of Robert Goddard Montessori School, recognized for non-classroom-based educator accomplishment; and Karuna Skariah, also of Robert Goddard Montessori, recognized for teacher accomplishment.

“I’m extremely proud of our Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program coordinators, teachers and administrators who volunteer to participate in the rigorous EGATE application process to identify their strengths and areas that may need improvement,” said TAG Supervisor Theresa Jackson. “We work collaboratively in teams to complete this process, and I see firsthand the benefits of earning the EGATE recognition.”

The EGATE Award recognizes public schools that offer superior and equitable gifted and talented education. Through a rigorous application process, school teams document how their school’s program aligns with Maryland Criteria for Excellence: Gifted

and Talented Education Program Guidelines. The guidelines establish optimal practices in four program components: identification of students, curriculum and instruction, professionally qualified teachers and professional development, and program management and evaluation.

“These school and individual awards are a testament to the hard work and commitment of our students, school leaders and educators,” said Superintendent Millard House II. “By ensuring advanced learners are challenged and engaged, these programs open a world of opportunities while providing a strong foundation for success in high school, college and career.”

Since inception in 2010, 23 PGCPS schools have earned the EGATE Award, with 11 schools earning the award two or more years.

Schools, students and educators will be recognized at a statewide event on February 27 and will be featured on the Maryland State Department of Education website.


This article is drawn from a January 18, 2024, press release from PGCPS.





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Thursday, February 8th at 8pm – Pay What You Will at the Door

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KNESEL continued from page 1

Jordan noted that the document had to be read to make the motion, they could have a discussion and the motion might fail. "Can't Ms. McKinney also make a motion, though, if she wants to make a motion that's not that?" asked Pompei. Jordan responded by asking Pope if she'd seconded his motion, which she said she had, and then proceeding as if there was a motion already on the table. Jordan noted he didn't read the "proper documentation" and suggested a friendly amendment to the motion that hadn't been read, to read the appropriate motion. A frustrated Weaver handed her device to Pope and asked if she'd like to do that because she'd rather not. Ultimately Jordan withdrew his motion, asked Pope to withdraw her second and Councilmember Rodney Robers said he'd like to hear from McKinney.

Motion for Vote Without Closed Session

McKinney suggested each councilmember vote for an applicant and if none received four votes then council move into closed session for discussion, focusing on deliberating on the applicants who received the highest votes. Jordan said he'd prefer to hear from his colleagues in closed session before making any vote. McKinney moved to take an initial vote and go into executive session if there was not consensus. McKinney, Weaver and Pompei voted for the motion and Jordan, Pope and Roberts against, thus the motion failed without a majority (3-3).

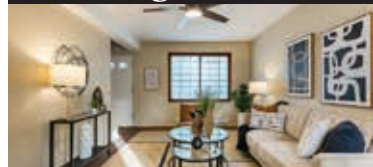
Closed Session

City Manager Josué Salmerón stressed that their solicitor had advised them that council could not discuss their preference for a candidate in closed session but solely applicant qualifications. "It

Novel Endings Open for Business

Novel Endings is the used book room within the Greenbelt Library. Sales of books and other media from this room support special programming and the Library. Maintained by volunteers for the Friends of Greenbelt Library, Novel Endings receives donations of book discards from the library as well as donations from the community by special arrangements. To donate books, email friendsofgreenbeltlibrary@gmail.com. Cash and check donations are also accepted in the blue box next to the Library's front desk.

New Greenbelt Listing



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2 BR/1 BA.

Kim Kash

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never happens like that," argued Roberts. "I think those directions are ridiculous," he said, reflecting that he just wanted to vote and perhaps should have voted differently on the prior motion. Satisfied McKinney had had the opportunity to speak, Weaver agreed to make the motion to move into closed session but return to open session afterward. There were repeated shouts of "Mr. Mayor," from resident Bill Orleans, who was not recognized. The motion passed 5-1, with Roberts in opposition.

First Round

Council returned to open session after approximately 75 minutes. They immediately held a vote by secret, paper ballot. The first round of voting yielded three votes for Matthew Inzeo, two for Amy Knesel and one for Kevin Lockhart. With no candidate securing a simple majority of four votes, Jordan suggested that council could take another vote or go back into executive session. Roberts proposed they vote again, Weaver concurred and Jordan agreed. Pope queried why they couldn't simply accept the first vote with the greatest number but was informed of the need for a vote from the majority of council, which would be four.

Knesel Appointed

In the second vote, which followed immediately, four voted for Knesel and two for Inzeo. Council then voted unanimously to appoint Knesel and she was sworn in at the meeting.

In a press release on January 25, Jordan said he welcomed Knesel to council. "She is very active in Greenbelt and we felt she best fit the position. This entire process has been bittersweet, as we all have recently lost Ric Gordon, one of our beloved members of the Greenbelt community. Today, we welcome Amy and look toward working together to help meet the needs of our residents, stakeholders and partners in local and state government."

Other Repercussions in Greenbelt From the Red Scare and McCarthy

by Sandy Rodgers

Two articles, *The Impact of the 1950s Red Scare on Greenbelt: Chasanow and East, parts 1 and 2*, by Jim Giese, appeared in the January 18 and 25 issues of the News Review. The excerpts below, from *Greenbelt: History of a New Town - 1937-1987* (Mary Lou Williamson, general editor), published by the City of Greenbelt in 1987, provide context and details about the effect of the hearings on others in Greenbelt.

Excerpt 1

Long before McCarthy made his unsupported claim that he had the names of 205 State Department employees who were members of the Communist Party, a national atmosphere of distrust had been generating. By April 1943, 654 civil service employees had been dismissed for "disloyalty" in time of war. At the end of the war the House Un-American Activities Committee was given standing committee status and held hearings around the country to ferret out alleged communist sympathizers. Both political parties used anticommunist rhetoric, and President Truman by executive order began a loyalty program for federal employees that was renewed by President Eisenhower.

Other events added to the climate of suspicion. In 1949 the Soviet Union tested its own atomic bomb. A year later, as the U.S. moved toward hydrogen bomb capacity, the famous cases of Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs were the subject of national attention. While the Cooperator joked about "Crusades Against Fellow Travelers" in its 1947 April Fools Day edition, the national commander of the American Legion, in an address at the local post a few months later, referred to communism as "the greatest evil facing the Nation today." Harry

Zubkoff, as editor of the Cooperator, warned in mid-1951 that although "the FBI has leaned over backward to protect the innocent and to scrupulously avoid anything that might even remotely resemble a witch hunt" the Communist Party was trying to discredit the organization. "American Communists and their fellow travelers have trained their big guns on the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Later that year the city council decided that the USSR Bulletin, sent free to the city library by the Russian Embassy, would be made available only to adults by special request, pending State Department clearance of publication.

Douglas T. Miller and Marion Nowak, authors of *The Fifties, The Way We Really Were*, referred to the eight-year anticommunist witch hunt as an age of fear.

Dissent was suppressed, conformity demanded ... most victims of the anti-red mania were guilty of little more than holding unpopular opinions. Not only the national government, but thousands of local communities as well felt obligated to search out and destroy subversive views. Teachers, government workers, entertainers, and many others were dismissed. Textbooks were censored and libraries closed.

Bill Morrison, who had been born in the new community of Greenbelt, was to hear it referred to as "Commiebelt" when he was a teenager.

Voices of reaction were relatively rare, however. As early as 1948, Cooperator editor Sally Meredith questioned the overuse of the term "communistic," even to describe such things as

See RED SCARE, page 9

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Fabulous, classic International Style duplex co-op home, with beautifully maintained original elements plus a custom-built Japanese Tatami Room!
2 BR/1 BA.

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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred January 22 to 28, 2024. 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@greenbeltnmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department reported one domestic; two mental health diversions, one involving a suicide attempt; two overdoses and a sexual assault involving Child Protective Services. One juvenile missing person case was reported, involving a young man who repeatedly leaves home.

Assault

On January 25 at 6:11 a.m. near 7900 Good Luck Road, a man threw hot coffee on someone who provided the tag for the suspect's vehicle.

Break-in

On January 27 at 4:12 a.m. near 7500 Greenbelt Road, the front door was forced open and surveillance showed two suspects stealing several items before fleeing.

Robberies

On January 23 at 5:38 p.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, a child was robbed at gunpoint and his Crocs shoes were taken. On January 22 at 1:58 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, a man out walking was assaulted by three men, one of whom demanded money; the man escaped into a store and contacted police. On January 24 at 8:06 p.m. near Springhill Lane and Springhill Drive, a man with a gun stole a man's jewelry. On January 24, near 9100 Springhill Lane, a person was robbed of his Jordan shoes.

Theft

On January 23 at 1:01 p.m. near 6100 Springhill Terrace, after a pest exterminator left her apartment, a woman realized she was missing her passport and other identity documents.

On January 23 at 5:00 p.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a backpack was stolen from a bike parked outside a store. On January 23 at 6:14 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man passed all points of sale without paying for the items in the shopping cart. On January 24 at 6:38 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, three men stole skin-care products and fled on foot. On January 25 at 9:11 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a known offender stole merchandise; the store pressed charges. On January 27 at 11:24 a.m. near 121 Centerway, a suspect, recorded on surveillance footage, shoplifted items and fled toward Roosevelt Center. On January 27 at 4:28 p.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a woman stole multiple items and was recorded on camera.

Fraud

On January 22 near 166 Westway, funds were being used without authorization from an Independence card. On January 23 near 5300 Settling Pond Lane, a woman mailed a pair of shoes to a person through an online shoe selling website but never received payment. On January 23 near 201 Lakeside Drive, money was taken out of a man's bank account after he followed a link sent by text. On January 25 near 8100 Mandan Terrace, someone's name and email were used to open a CashApp account.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles

On January 23 at 7:11 a.m. near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2013 Dodge Caravan (Md. 2FA5410) was left running unat-

tended and stolen. On January 23 at 10:34 p.m. near 6938 Hanover Parkway, the owner heard his car alarm and saw two suspects steal his black 2017 Chevrolet Camaro (Md. 0N3). On January 25 near 6600 Lake Park Drive, a blue 2016 Chevrolet Camaro (Md. CHEMIN) was stolen. On January 26 at 8:50 p.m. near 5700 Cherrywood Lane, a Kia Stinger sedan was stolen while running and unlocked. On January 27 a black 2015 Hyundai Elantra (Md. 2DJ2210) near 6150 Springhill Terrace and a Mercury Mariner (Md. DV0921) near 432 Ridge Road were stolen. On January 28 near 9100 Edmonston Road, a 2013 White Hyundai Elantra (Va. TKY9340) was stolen.

Attempted Auto Break-in

On January 27 at 1:20 a.m. near 6000 Springhill Drive, an officer observed a man wearing a black hoodie attempting to break into a red Kia Soul. The suspect ran and was not found.

Attempted Theft of Vehicles

On January 27, five vehicles were broken into and the ignition was damaged: near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2020 Hyundai Elantra; near 6100 Breezewood Drive, a Hyundai Sonata; near 9100 Springhill Court, a Kia Forte; near 9100 Springhill Lane, another Forte; and near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a 2018 Sonata.

Stolen Vehicles Recovered

On January 22 near 55 Ridge Road, Prince George's County

Police located a Kia stolen near Ora Glen Drive and Mandan Road, which may have been involved in an armed robbery in the county. On January 28 near 550 Crescent Road, officers located an unoccupied gray Hyundai parked in front of the station that was stolen from New Carrollton.

Theft from Auto

On January 22 at 9:04 a.m. near 7619 Greenbelt Road, a woman was pumping gas and noticed her passenger door was partially open; upon further inspection, she noticed that two bags were missing from her vehicle. On January 25 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a rear tag was stolen. On January 26 near 6520 Lake Park Drive, a vehicle was broken into and a purse was stolen. On January 28 at 4:08 p.m. near 7600 Greenbelt Road, a vehicle was broken into while parked at the gas pumps, and multiple items were stolen.

Vandalism to Auto

On January 22 near 6900 Hanover Parkway, a 2010 Lexus LS 460 had a damaged window. On January 22 near 7205 Hanover Parkway, a 2021 Chevrolet Trax had a mirror broken and the hood and door were dented. On January 25 near 4 Gardenway, a window was smashed on an Infiniti. On January 27 near 6001 Springhill Drive, a Hyundai Sonata was broken into, but nothing was taken.

RED SCARE continued from page 8

proposed federal anti-lynching legislation. When the McCarthy publicity machine was in full operation, the Prince George's League of Women Voters sponsored a panel discussion on "Internal Security and Civil Rights" and President Truman cautioned members of Congress, "We must not be swept away by a wave of hysteria."

But the wave of hysteria did reach Greenbelt and the most celebrated case, that of Abraham Chasanow, resulted in extraordinary public attention.

Excerpt 2

Time magazine reported that, of the thirteen Greenbelt men employed in the same division of the Navy department [as Chasanow], five were suspended as security risks. The five suspended men were all Jewish, but the other eight were not. Another of the five was Isadore Parker [Editor's note: Parker was a longtime contributor of stories and cartoons to the Cooperator and the News Review]. His alleged offenses included associating with famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright and criticizing the American Legion in a Cooperator editorial. Parker, who was suspended for eleven months, recently summarized the experience, "The main thrust was guilt by association. People stopped going to meetings.... It sort of put a pall over the community. Government employees were the key targets. Among the others suspended was Mike Salzman, who had been one of the founding fathers of the Greenbelt Veterans Housing Association of Housing Cooperatives.

Many beyond Greenbelt suffered during the Red Scare. Law professor Geoffrey R. Stone sums up the effects of the McCarthy hearings and the House on Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in a 2005 article, *Free Speech in the Age of McCarthy: A Cautionary Tale*, in the journal *California Law Review*. "Government at all levels hunted down 'disloyal' individuals and denounced them. Anyone so stigmatized became a liability to his friends and an outcast to society. More than 11,000 people were fired from federal, state, local, or private employment for alleged disloyalty. More than a hundred were prosecuted under the Smith Act because of their involvement in the Communist Party. One hundred thirty-five were prosecuted for contempt of Congress because they refused to cooperate with HUAC. Fear of ideological contamination swept the nation."

During an era of political polarization and disinformation, these stories are a reminder that it is more important than ever to stay informed and engaged, and to vote. The Greenbelt tradition of neighbors taking an active part in government and civic life is a good model for communities everywhere.

For more, see: Geoffrey R. Stone, *Free Speech in the Age of McCarthy: A Cautionary Tale*, 93 *California Law Review* 1387 (2005).





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BLACK HISTORY continued from page 1

importantly, their family. Stanton references media from their father's youth as part of a back-and-forth "indirect form of communication and bonding." "I created symbology in this collection," the artist writes, "that tells stories about my upbringing and uses the human body as a vessel to mix my father's stories with my own."

Stanton's Macho Man ensemble, with its giant, color-blocked stars in teal and lime green, is an ode to the WWF wrestler Macho Man Randy Savage. Savage was known for his outrageous and theatrical costumes, and was outspoken about his distaste for toxic masculinity.

Love's in Need of Love Today derives its title from the opening track of Stevie Wonder's album Songs in the Key of Life. The ensemble emulates the materiality, texture and form of records. Boots "armored" with vinyl are paired with a piped corset. The corset has a radiating circle motif in yellow, red and maroon, alluding to the album cover artwork. The song Stanton references speaks to the injustices of the world and the importance of love and compassion. They recall, "I specifically associate this song with my mother crying to it after the 2020 police brutality protests."

Themes of liberation and new beginnings are encoded in several largely abstract works by the Uhuru Quilters. (Uhuru is the Swahili word for freedom). Artist NiYa Costley shares her unique reinterpretation of the Juneteenth flag, with its star, surrounding burst and the red and blue of the national flag. Renee Anderson is represented by a striking log



PHOTO COURTESY THE ARTIST

Venus Stanton, Macho Man

cabin quilt in black, orange and magenta. As the design evolved, it reminded Anderson of flowers, prompting her to add abstract pot shapes in stylized quilt stitching. The flowers, she notes, serve as a "symbol of refresh, renewal and regeneration using past knowledge."

While Stanton draws on the technical vocabulary and aesthetic of quilting in their fashion design, works by the Uhuru quilters likewise incorporate references to the power of clothing. Member Sandra Schmidt contributes an elegant, figurative composition in profile entitled The Headdress. "I was inspired to create this quilt from my visit to Senegal," she writes. "Many of the women ... wore traditional clothing and head wraps. The head wraps represent beauty and grace." They provide "spiritual protection to the wearer and have been a powerful symbol of African culture for centuries."

A slightly more abstract reference is the African Queen quilt block pattern that appears in the tour de force bed-sized sampler quilt by Betty Shaw entitled Heritage.

Based in Prince George's County, the Uhuru Quilters Guild has over 100 members from the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area and far beyond. The mission of the Guild is to promote the work and accomplishments of African American quilters and to preserve the traditions, culture and history of quilting. The Guild shares this rich legacy with others through community service projects, workshops, training and exhibitions. The Guild has showcased quilts and spoken at the Smithsonian's Folklife Festival, among other venues and celebrations.

PIECED: Fiber Arts by Fashion Designer Venus Stanton and the Uhuru Quilters Guild will be on view daily from February 3 through March 17 at the Community Center Art Gallery, located at 15 Crescent Road.

At the February 4 reception, Greenbelt Black History and Culture Committee member Joyce Bailey will offer remarks at approximately 2:15 p.m., commemorating her mother Lois K. Alexander-Lane who founded the Black Fashion Museum and who was herself a Greenbelt resident for several years. Additional activities on Sunday, February 4 will include a free, all-ages no-sew quilt block activity; advance sign-up is recommended at <https://bit.ly/3RH2cgP>.

City of Greenbelt Arts Programs are supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council. For additional program information, visit greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Chess Tournament

The Chess Tournament took place in the Youth Center on Monday, January 22, with a dynamic and diverse age group in attendance. Gary Fok was the judge and prizes were awarded to the winners. Tom Eigelsbach was the winner from the advanced group and Gregory Gaskel was the winner from the beginning group. This was the first tournament the Chess Club has sponsored and they hope to have more of them in the future, said Effie Levner, organizer of the event.



Gregory Gaskel, left, was the winner in the beginners group. Jedidiah Albrecht came in second place.



Tom Eigelsbach, right, was the winner in the advanced group. Sebastian Zeller, left, came in second place.

- Photos courtesy Effie Levner



Three stages of a snowman

- Photos by Corita Waters

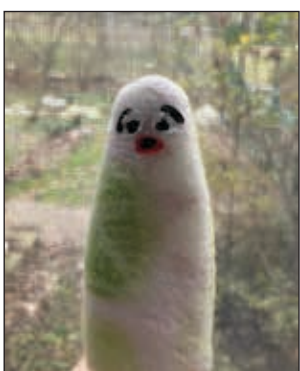


PHOTO BY BARBARA BUJANES

Finger puppet purchased at Sparkle Mart 2023. Vendor applications are now open at greenbeltmd.gov/sparklemart for 2024.



A great blue heron stands on the bubbler of Greenbelt Lake surrounded by ice, on January 24.

PHOTO BY ANNA BEDFORD-DILLOW