Women in Greenbelt
Long an Activist, Jenni Pompi Strives to Be Effective in New Role
by Dana Tompkins

Nobody can accuse Councilmember Jenni Pompi of sitting back. The list of or -
gages and inter - ests she’s in - volved in is scores of titles she holds seems endless. This is true for Eleanor Ros -

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ern Maryland. Pompi reports that her fam -

ily was more socially liberal than many of their neighbors. She learned the im-

portance of standing firmly in her beliefs while also seek -

ing common ground with others. This is an approach that has served her well in Greenbelt, where she’s lived with her family since 2018, as well as in her other professional endeavors. Currently a magazine edi-

tor at a nonprofit organization, Pompi has also served as a fundraiser and activist for other See POMPI, page 8

PGCPS Presents New Plan to Move Dora Kennedy Back to Goddard
by Anna Bedford-Dillow

On Monday, March 11, Prince George’s County Public School (PGCPS) leaders met in person with the Dora Kennedy French Immersion (DKFI) community for the first time for a town hall meeting about plans to move the school from its current location off Edmonston Road and Greenbelt Road, in what was Greenbelt’s original high school building. The community learned they were being moved from their building when the News Review reported it on February 1. Since then, PGCPS held a virtual meeting in which participants were not able to speak, telling the DKFI community that the only option available for their school was a move to the former Kenmoor Middle School in Lanovac (vacated last year when that school got a new building). On Monday they announced their new plan to move DKFI back to its former location, sharing the Robert Goddard Montessori School with the Montessori school. The administration presented the move as solving prob-

lems for DKFI and the system but parents objected to a second plan created without their input. PGCPS Chief Operating Of-

fer Charoascar Coleman presided over the town hall, and said the administrative team had come to “do the work to repair and restore the relationship between the administration and the Dora Kennedy community” and to “collaboratively move forward.” Coleman opened by apologizing for the “distraction” caused by the “hot mic moment” (see the February 15 issue).

PGCPS Director of the Blue-

print Schools Program Shawn Matlock also apologized for his comments during the “hot mic.” Matlock had said of DKFI and Robert Goddard Montessori (RGMS) schools that “they hate each other!” On Monday, he explained he is prone to hyperbole and knows the families and administrations of the schools do not have “any animosity toward each other.”

Greg May runs the Circus Camp that Greenbelt welcomes back this summer for the first time since 2019.

“Our goal overall is to create a loving, family atmosphere where kids can grow and learn: learn how to fall - down - that’s how to fail, liter - ally and figuratively,” May said. “As kids get older, May noted, the lessons in perseverance they learn in Circus Camp help them in other areas of their lives, too. “When the kids square off with a three-month proj - ect in their sopho - more year of high school,” May said, “and they think, ‘How can I handle something that’s going to take three months?’ The cir -

cus kids are go - ing to say, ‘Well, it took me a year and a half to learn a unicycle, so I can get this.’”

Another lesson May focuses on in Circus Camp is leading with kind - ness. “When we did our sessions be - fore, we always sat the kids down and told them that we would do 100 rules for circus camp,” May says. “Rules one through 99 were to be kind, and rule 100 was no gag.”

Anatomy of a Comeback
May credits Cherry for mak - ing his return to Circus Camp possible. “I’m very excited about com - ing back,” May said of returning to Greenbelt’s camp lineup. “I’ve been up to the challenge of teaching kids not just how to ride a unicycle, juggle or clown around, but also some of life’s most important and universal lessons.

“When the kids get older, May said, “the lessons in perseverance they learn in Circus Camp will be what we try to teach them. We want them to learn how to fall back up.”

Missing Woman Found Safe Following Long Disappearance
by Anna Bedford-Dillow

Over a month after Laura Shallue went missing, she has been found and safely reunited with family.

On Tuesday, March 12, Mary - land State Police (MSP) told the News Review, “We can confirm that Shallue was located happy and healthy yesterday evening. No foul play is suspected. No additional information is available at this time.” Shallue, 54, of Stevensville on the Eastern Shore, was located March 11 after being reported missing on February 6. She had been reportedly last seen by an aunt in Greenbelt and said to be heading to Greenbelt Lake before going missing. Her car was found on Lastner Lane on February 8 with her cellphone inside.

As previously reported by the News Review, Buddy Attick Park was searched by MSP and supporting agencies on foot and with dogs on Wednesday, Febru - ary 21 and the lake was searched using boats, dogs and sonar on Monday, February 26 (see the February 29 issue).

A Strange Disappearance
The missing-person case was trans - ferred from Maryland’s Cent - ertown Barracks to MSP Criminal Enforcement Division (CED). While she was missing, CED declined to respond to questions from the News Review about Shallue’s use of credit cards or access to money, the last time she used the phone that was found in her car or whether she was thought to have been at Greenbelt Lake during daylight hours or evening ones. They did tell the News Review that investig - ators did not believe foul play was suspected.

See FOUND, page 11

What Goes On
Monday, March 18
7:30 p.m., City Council Worksession; Prince George’s County Council, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 or the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.
A Modest Proposal
It is a melancholy thought to those who live and work in this great town, when they see city hall, crowded with filing cabinets, followed by three, four or six meager offices, all in bleak concrete walls and space consultants recommending taxpayers pay for a new building.
It seems agreed by all parties of city council, consultants and staff that a large and long-term debt to construct a new building to house city services is the only way to improve the deplorable state of city hall. Could the city be required to report on lessons from the bond to fund and costs to taxpayers to ensure all the work is done with the least, cheap and immediate method to provide space to support the needs of city staff and services while supporting area businesses. The new first floor tenants of 6301 Ivy Lane have created a stylish and welcoming suite in a few short weeks. It seems incredible how construction of an entirely new building would be less costly than even a 10-year commercial lease.

Johanna Goderre

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Dune: Part Two
Continuing the Dune saga, the film explores the mythic journey of Paul Atreides (Timothée Chalamet) as he unites with Chani (Zeynab Kerim) and a Fremen while weaving a warpath of revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. Facing a choice between the love of his life and the fate of the known universe, he endeavors to prevent a terrible future only he can forecast. An incredible sci-fi epic – it well surpasses the first part and achieves on every level. “This might be the best sci-fi film we’ve had in many years and will likely be one of the best films of the year,” said Paul Salmen of AFM Magazine.

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., and Florence Pugh. The film won 2024 Oscars for Best Picture, Best Director (Christopher Nolan), Best Actor (Cillian Murphy) and Best Supporting Actor (Robert Downey Jr.). 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.”

Poor Things
From filmmaker Yorgos Lanthimos and producer Emma Stone comes a tale and cast of 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. Stone won a 2024 Best Actress Oscar for her role.

Howl’s Moving Castle
In this film from master animator Hayao Miyazaki, Sophie (Emma 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. Stone won a 2024 Best Actress Oscar for her role.

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Midnight Cowboy
Convinced of his irresistible appeal to women, Texas dishwasher Joe Buck (Jon Voight) quits his job and heads for New York City, thinking he’ll lunch on some rich growch. New York, however, is not as hospitable as he imagined, and Joe soon finds himself living in an abandoned building with a Dickensian layabout named Enrico “Ratso” Rizzo (Dustin Hoffman). The two form a rough alliance, and together they kick-start Joe’s hustling career just as Ratso’s health begins to deteriorate.

Letters to the Editor

My Experience In Charlestowne North
It was with great pleasure that I read in the February 7 issue of the Greenbelt News Review that Freddie Mac had filed for foreclosure and receivership against Charlestowne North LLC and learned from my former neighbors at Charlestowne North Apartments that the receiver had already started taking steps to remediate the damage caused by the neglect of the previous management. See LETTERS, page 12

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!
The News Review encourages readers to send photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture. If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send “actual size”, or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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.

Dune: Part Two
PG-13 (CC) (2024) (141 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 7:30 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)
Mon. 5:45 PM
Tue. 7:15 PM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thu. 4:30 PM
Sun. 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:30 PM

Oppenheimer (PG-13) (CC) (2019) (207 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 3:45 PM
Sat. 7:15 PM
Mon. 2:00 PM (OC)

Poor Things (PG-13) (CC) (2024) (145 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sun. 5:00 PM

Howl’s Moving Castle (PG) (DVS) (2004) (129 mins)
Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sun. 11:30 AM
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thu. 10:00 PM

Howl’s Moving Castle (PG) (DVS) (2004) (129 mins)

Cinema Pop!
Fri. 7:45 PM
Sat. 7:30 PM
Mon. 2:15 PM

Storytime on Screen - Free!
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Mon. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Midnight Cowboy (R) (CC) (1970) (113 mins)
Cult Classic
Thu. 8:00 PM
Drivers Needed for GIVES
The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that helps adults and seniors in need. We are looking for drivers to transport Greenbelt residents on medical appointments, grocery shopping, or other activities. To apply, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

GCC is located at 1 Hillside Road.

Senior Nutrition Program Luncheon
The Senior Nutrition Food and Friendship program provides lunch every Wednesday and Friday at the Community Center beginning at 11:30 a.m. Note the unusual lunch times. These meals must be reserved two weeks ahead so that enough food is ordered. Participants must complete a registration form in person at the Community Center office, on Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. There is a suggested donation. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215 with questions.

Gives Quarterly Meeting
Gives Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, March 16 at the Community Center Room 201 at 10 a.m. For further details email: givesoffice@gmail.com or call 301-507-6580.

Lenten Day Recollection
On Saturday, March 23, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Father Ted Keating and the Catholic Community of Greenbelt will hold a Lenten Day of Recollection. The topic will be Breaking Open The Pascal Mystery, What It Really Means In Our Lives. The meeting will be in the City Council Room on the second floor of the Municipal Building. All are welcome to attend.

Free coffee and tea will be available. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunch. Participation via Zoom is available for people who cannot attend in person. For more information or to get the Zoom link, send an email to CCG1958@verizon.net.

Greenbelt Orchestra Free Concert March 17
Greenbelt Community Orches- tra will give a free concert on Sunday, March 17 at 3 p.m. in the Community Center gym. The orchestra will perform Schubert’s Symphony #8, as well as works by Mozart, Mendelssohn, Saint-Saëns and Grainger.

To find out more about the orchestra, visit greenbeltorchestra.org.

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.

Volunteers are needed. For more information, call Ruth at 301-463-4015.

comm. Devel. Corp.
To Meet March 19
Greenbelt Community Devel- opment Corporation’s next mem- bers’ meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center Room 114.

Gaza Program Monday At Reel and Meal
Understanding Gaza is the theme on Monday, March 18 at 6 p.m. to help us Reel and Meal program. Four short films will be screened, followed by discussion to help us get both sides of this ongoing tragedy. An Israeli TV piece and an Israeli soldier’s video diary from a personal perspective.

A Democracy Now! show with Al Jazeera footage and an interview with an expert from Arab Studies Rashid Khalidi present another. A Le Monde production examines many aspects of a 4,000-year-old city home to 2 million people, and its surroundings. This production includes the creation of Israel, Hamas and the ongoing conflicts around what’s been called “the world’s largest open-air prison.”

It also looks at the two-state solution first proposed in 1947 and again last week in President Biden’s State of the Union address. Discussion will follow. The free program can be joined live or on Zoom. The link to register for the virtual program is tinyurl.com/ReelMealMar2024. Call 301-467-2418 for more details.

Greenbelt Chess Club
The Greenbelt Chess Club will meet on Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the Greenbelt Youth Center. All ages and skill levels are welcome. For more information, call Effie at 410-443-1055.

Dem. Club Features Women in Politics
The Eleanor and Franklin Roo- sevelt Democratic Club is hosting a panel discussion on women in politics, featuring elected women from the greater Greenbelt area. The event is Sunday, March 17 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Terracotta Room at 7600 Hanover Parkway. A quorum of 60 percent of own- ers is needed to hold the meeting.

Star Party Saturday
The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will host a star party, free and open to the public, on Friday, March 16 at the City Observatory located at Northway Fields. Attendees can expect to see the Moon and deep sky ob- jects such as galaxies, nebulae and star clusters currently high in the sky. Attendees are also welcome to bring their own telescope and an observatory telescope and astro- nemical camera. Volunteers are en- couraged to bring their own telescopes to set up on the hilltop.

Beginning will be at 8:30 p.m. and continue for 2 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.

Greenbriar Phase I Sets Special Meeting Tues.
Greenbriar Condominium Phase I plans to hold the recog- nized special meeting regarding the proposed Declaration Amend- ment on parking on Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m. in the Terracotta Room at 7600 Hanover Parkway. A quorum of 60 percent of own- ers is needed to hold the meeting.

Yarn Donations Needed
Gifts from the Heart is a group of knitters and crocheters meeting Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Center. Every year they donate hundreds of hats, scarves, shawls, blankets, etc., for kids in foster care to the churches, schools, nursing homes, Project Linus and other organiza- tions. Donations of acrylic yarn are welcome and may be dropped off when the group meets or at the Community Center office dur- ing business hours.

Golden Age Club
The Greenbelt Golden Age Club meets on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in the Community Center. If public schools are closed (or open late) due to weather issues, the meeting is canceled for the day. The club is now collecting dues for 2024, which are $15 at the door. For paid members, a part of the dues goes toward a discount for the annual luncheon on April 17. Paying dues by check is preferred; make the check payable to Greenbelt Golden Age Club. Remember to pay dues and sign up for the luncheon as soon as possible. Lun- cheon dates are May 19 and June 16. For more information and questions, call 301-337-0490.

The club will be having a Spring Bingo on Tuesday, April 10. Donations of items to be auctioned will be accepted until April 1.

March activities:
March 20, Birthday celebra- tions; bring lunch and a dessert or fish and food to share. March 27, Bingo.

Luminis Health Offers Free Health Screenings
Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol screenings on Monday, March 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Doctors Community Medical Center, on the first floor of the North Building.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW
Robin Olson, right, with her son, Evan

Robin Wendell Olson, 71, of Greenbelt, died on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. She was born in Baltimore, the daughter of the late Martin Wendell and Deborah Polk Wendell. Robin is survived by her son Evan M. Olson (Kellie Hale Olson), of Broomfield, Colo., and her brother, Barry Wendell (Rabbi Joseph Hample) of Morgantown, W.V.

Robin loved Greenbelt and was active in the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood and Greenbelt Golden Age Club. She was an avid mah-jong player and a much-loved community activist.

Services were held at Mishkan Torah Congregation on Sunday, March 10, with burial at Judean Gardens cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Mishkan Torah, Planned Parenthood or any animal shelter to honor Robin’s memory.

Helen White

Helen Emily White (nee Bryan) died at the age of 88 on March 5, 2024, in her Greenbelt home with family by her side. She was born on March 2, 1936, to Florence E. and John H. Bryan in Chicago. Helen graduated from Sacred Heart Academy where she was in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) women’s basketball team. She met her husband Thomas X. White at a local CYO dance in 1952. The two married in 1956, raised seven children and were together for nearly 60 years until his death in 2015.

In 1959 the family moved to Greenbelt with Helen working at the Government Printing Office to spend daytime hours with their toddler children as Tom completed his degree at the University of Maryland. Her boundless energy and initiative enabled her to balance motherhood, work and community activities. Before long she had put her expert stenography skills to use in a variety of roles supporting Greenbelt Homes, Inc. and Greenbelt Consumer Services. Helen and Tom quickly realized Greenbelt was the perfect place for them, and went on to build a wonderful life around their strong values of faith, family, community engagement and volunteerism. They were heavily involved in the local Catholic parish of St. Hugh’s where their children attended the parochial school. Helen loved coaching the girls’ basketball team at St. Hugh’s in the 1970s and served as a parent sponsor of a neighborhood 4-H group (with a reputation for her baking and sewing talents). Always an advocate for active learning, Helen offered her administrative and accounting skills to the local Eleanor Pernia Dance Studio in exchange for dance lessons for her children. She was a resourceful DIY personality who found time and energy to sew clothes for her children and take on projects ranging from home remodeling to garden landscaping to auto repairs. In 1985, Helen

See OBITUARIES, page 12

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-5666           www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
March 17, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Staying Strong
Res. Ann Kadickov
with Worship Associates Jacque Wypole, Anne Hoover and Lucy Jones

A church exists and thrives because of its people. In today’s service, we will honor some of the people who have kept this church strong in recent years, and consider together how this church stays strong today.

Streaming to our Facebook page, on Zoom and in person at 3:00 pm at: University Christian Church, 6000 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD
MEETINGS FOR MARCH 18 - 22
M o n d a y , M a r c h 1 8 a t 7 : 3 0 p m , W O R K S E S S I O N – P R I N C E
GEORGE'S COUNTY ... GUIDE
www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide
Registration currently open. Sign-up today before classes fill.

PARENT & BABY WELLNESS FAIR
April 3, 10 am - 12 pm
Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Lane
Must register by March 27.
Fair includes health screenings, diapers & other giveaways. Must register by March 27.
Contact Brenda Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbelt.md.gov.

PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
On the Agenda: Council Liaison Update, Recreation Department Update, Administrative Report
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 for interpretation. 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.greenbelt.md.gov/calendar.

NATIONAL BIKE TO WORK DAY 2024
MAY 17, 6:30 - 8:30 AM
Parking Lot of Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, 101 Centerway
Volunteer for public relations to promote bicycling in Greenbelt! To register, please go to www.greenbeltmd.gov or email biking @greenbeltmd.gov.

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 awarded a grant to provide temporary home health-support, bathroom sanitation 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 Visit
Limited spots are available! Please email Trinty Caphas, GALA Intern, for more information at thigpas@greenbelt.md.gov or call the Bilingual Health Careworker, Brenda Garcia, at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbelt.md.gov.

PINK PANTRY EVENT
APRIL 3, 10 AM - 12 PM
This quarterly program assists low-income Greenbelt residents to access free menstrual products. Registration is mandatory and must be completed by March 27.
To register for this event, please utilize the provided link below: https://forms.gle/xFxhKvYFVjYanG9zLH
Contact Brenda Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbelt.md.gov.

FREE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION
UPCOMING PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS
MARCH 21, APRIL 18, MAY 16
TWO LOCATIONS
Community Center Ground Floor East: 1 pm, while supplies last. Open to all Greenbelt residents. Must have a registration card via Brenda Garcia at (240) 424-0302 or bgarcia@greenbelt.md.gov.
Springhill Lake Recreation Center: 3 - 4:15 pm, registration required. For Greenbelt West residents only. Register via email bgarcia@greenbelt.md.gov.

PARKING BAN AND BAG BILL
The City Council will consider a bill to prohibit a retail establishment from prohibiting shoppers and can charge at least 10¢ per bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.
Check out the latest edition of the Greenbelt City Connector at https://cityconnector.greenbelt.md.gov/ or email banderson@greenbelt.md.gov.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR
Be sure to check out the City calendar calendar at www.greenbelt.md.gov/calendar for all up to date events.

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, Fiscal 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 of its residents. Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today! Call (301) 474-8000.

EMERGENCY DIAPER DISTRIBUTION
Open Registration
Please remember that you must register each month.
Parents must present proof of Greenbelt residency displaying parent’s name and residential address, state-issued photo ID, each child’s birth certificate.
To register: https://forms.gle/Sغل2Z0sAa9G1eNf6 or call (240) 424-0302.

CURRENT CARES PROGRAMS
CARES is happy to provide the following programs FREE of charge:
• March Emergency Diaper Program
• Parent & Baby Wellness Fair:
April 3, 10 am - 12 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center (see ad above)
• Pink Pantry Event
April 3, 10 am - 12 pm, Springhill Lake Recreation Center (see ad above)
• Produce Distribution at the Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Road
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 1 - 3 pm
• Produce Distribution at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center, 6101 Cherrywood Ln (Greenbelt West Residents Only)
Upcoming Dates: March 21, April 18, May 16, from 3 - 4:15 pm
• Senior Driver Safety & Mobility Seminar
March 7, from 9 - 10 am, Virtual.
For descriptions and information, visit www.greenbelt.md.gov/CARESprograms.

FREE HEALTH SCREENINGS
at Doctors Community Medical Center, 8100 Good Luck Road
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 10 AM - 2 PM
Luminis Health will be providing free blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol screenings on select Wednesdays in March. Screenings will take place on the 1st floor of the North Building at Doctors Community Medical Center.

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/AgJ9cJvRajcu59W9.
Greenbelt Community Center Volunteers - For more information, contact Floria Li (301) 412-2480.

WEED WARRIORS: INVASIVE PLANT PULL
MARCH 23, 10 AM - 1 PM
Buddy Attick Park, 555 Crescent Road
Be a part of the community effort to remove invasive plant species from the environment at Buddy Attick Park. Volunteers will work with Public Works to remove invasive vines from native trees and to pull other invasive plant species.
Register by email at kdriscoll@greenbelt.md.gov.

REPARATIONS COMMISSION WEBINAR
On the Agenda: Council Liaison Update, Administrative Report
The RC Retreat, Reflections on the provided link below: https://forms.gle/484J9YqUGoEVmW5D6.
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 for interpretation. 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.greenbelt.md.gov/calendar.

GREENBELT RECREATION’S SPRING ACTIVITY GUIDE
www.greenbeltmd.gov/activityguide
Registration currently open. Sign-up today before classes fill.

WELCOME KITS
The City of Greenbelt’s Public Information Office is now accepting information kits (e.g., flyers, pens, calendars, maps, postcards, brochures, thank you cards) to be added to the 2024 Welcome Kit for new Greenbelt residents. The kits may include any information about your business, club, or organization. Kits should be 200 promotional items to the address below by Friday, April 19.
Contact swoods@greenbelt.md.gov.

BRING YOUR OWN BAG ORDINANCE
Effective January 1, 2024, the City of Greenbelt’s Bring Your Own Bag Bill will prohibit a retail establishment from prohibiting shoppers and can charge at least 10¢ per bag provided to a customer at the point of sale.
Check out the latest edition of the Greenbelt City Connector at https://cityconnector.greenbelt.md.gov/ or email banderson@greenbelt.md.gov.
Part One
Blueprint or Budget-breaker? Maryland’s Education Reform

By Kiersten Hacker, Christina Walker and Elea Juli

The Blueprint for Maryland is estimated to cost millions from the state’s coffers in coming years. At the same time, the State Department of Legislative Services anticipates growing deficits in the structural budget. [Note: A structural budget is one adjusted for one-offs in revenue or expenditure to provide a medium-term outlook.]

Maryland’s Democratic-led General Assembly passed the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future in 2021, vowing to pour billions of dollars into the state’s public schools to offer universal pre-K, improve teaching and make sure students are ready for college or careers.

But the General Assembly didn’t outline a long-term plan to fund the ambitious 10-year education reform effort, which increasingly looks like a blueprint or red ink.

Diving deep into the reform plan in reporting behind the Blueprint, a multipart look at the state effort – the Local News Network at the University of Maryland found that the Blueprint is already devouring hundreds of millions annually from the state’s fund balance, which is on target to be fully drained in 2027. [Note: The fund balance is the balance available for appropriation and expenditure after revenues and expenditures have been accounted for.]

According to a state Department of Legislative Services fiscal bill released in January, the state will start running a structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2029 that will multiply nearly sixfold by Fiscal Year 2029, when it will hit $2.93 billion. [Note: A structural deficit is one in which public spending exceeds revenues even in good circumstances such as a strong economy. It reflects a chronic problem that will need changes in revenue, such as taxation, or in spending to address.] Not coincidently, that fiscal briefing released in January, the state will start running a structural deficit in Fiscal Year 2027.

The General Assembly’s plan for dealing with the cost crunch? There isn’t one, at least not yet. Neither Governor Wes Moore in his State of the State address nor any of the Democratic state legislators interviewed for this story have offered any potential solutions for the coming Blueprint cash crunch.

"Several years from now we’re going to have to have much more direct conversation about the long-term costs," said state Senate President Bill Ferguson, a Democrat from Baltimore City. "But we’re not there yet."

Republicans, meanwhile, see the Blueprint as a budget-breaker.

"We cannot pay these billions and billions of dollars in extra monies, not just state but local as well," said House Minority Leader Jason Buckel (R-Allegany). "We can’t pay for them unless you’re going to talk about new taxes -- and significant taxes."

The Blueprint’s Background

The Blueprint was born out of a commission supported by a Republican governor who later backed away from the plan because of cost concerns. In 2016, then-Governor Larry Hogan and the General Assembly created the University of Maryland to assess the public education system in Maryland and determine whether current funding schemes were conducive to student success.

Headed by William Kirwan, then-president of the University of Maryland, the commission came to the conclusion that an overhaul was needed.

"One of the ‘aha’ moments of the Blueprint's Background was the realization that the Blueprint was simply not feasible with the existing state revenue base," said DKFI’s Principal James Matlock.

The structural deficit is represented in red and Blueprint costs in blue. Source data from Maryland Department of Legislative Services

DKFI continued from page 1

Part Two
School News

The state’s per pupil funding for PGcps increased 36.4 percent between fiscal years 2019 and 2024.

Enrollment

PGcps’ official enrollment data, accessed by the News Review, shows for the current school year a total enrollment of 492 students at RGMS (443 total adjusted for half-day 3-year-olds) and a 46 percent utilization of their building space, which has a space-rated capacity of 998, leaving 535 seats available. Meanwhile, the same enrollment data, taken on September 30, 2023, shows DKFI this school year has a total enrollment of 680 students. There is no building utilization data available for their school.

A slide presented by PGcps on Monday shows the planned moves for various school buildings. Prior to that, DKFI and RGMS were co-located at the Robert Goddard school in Lanham. PGcps’ plan was to send DKFI to the Greenbelt building (vacated by Greenbelt Middle School) and send RGMS to Meadowbrook Elementary School. But that plan faltered when the schools to right-sized locations and open the Robert Goddard school in 2026. Hyattsville Elementary School, previously scheduled to move to Robert Goddard as a swing space in 2026, will instead go to the St. Mark’s School from 2025 to 2026. But the plan was waylaid by the Archdiocese for the two years before Hyattsville Elementary receives its new school. Matlock spoke of upgraded windows, doors, Wi-Fi, a “full facelift,” a new sprinkler system and added classrooms, an elevator and plans to expand the Robert Goddard building further to fit DKFI in 2026.

DKFI’s Principal James Matlock spoke at the Robert Goddard school in Lanham. He spoke of visions and partnerships with NASA and the University of Maryland for the Greenbelt community and what it has done for the school. Spence joked about the competitiveness between DKFI and RGMS and he thanked Principal Wright for her work and for the doors of Robert Goddard and allowing him to see what the property could do.

"We are going to have to move Dora Kennedy," stated Colonel Wright. Their school building is over 10 years past its useful life, he said, stressing also that the administration had been working hard to find options for DKFI beyond the single option of a co-location with the Robert Goddard community previously, which was a move to Kensington.

Historic Site

A feasibility study conducted 15 years ago determined DKFI’s current building should be torn down, shared Matlock. (Note: This study was conducted before DKFI was moved into the building.) He also shared that all capital funding for the next six years is already earmarked. "The final use of this facility will be two years of swing space for Springfield Lake Elementary School, after which non-historic portions will be decommissioned and/or the building transferred to the City of Greenbelt," he shared in a slide presentation. Matlock said if the building wasn’t surplus dropped back to Greenbelt, then PGcps would demolish it and place it back in the portfolio for a new school in the future, probably not for some 30 or more years. [Note: at its meeting on February 26 the Greenbelt City Council requested a historic site evaluation of the school building.]

Plan to Reunite

Robert Goddard is now a bigger school space, said Matlock, referring to 10 modular classrooms that have been added to its grounds. Matlock then presented a plan that would move DKFI permanently to Robert Goddard in 2026. Hyattsville Elementary School, previously scheduled to move to Robert Goddard as a swing space in 2026, will instead go to the St. Mark School from 2025 to 2026. But the plan was put on hold by the Archdiocese for the two years before Hyattsville Elementary receives its new school. Matlock spoke of upgraded windows, doors, Wi-Fi, a “full facelift,” a new sprinkler system and added classrooms, an elevator and plans to expand the Robert Goddard building further to fit DKFI in 2026.

An article in next week’s paper will provide more on the community members’ testimony and the plans for DKFI.

The author is the parent of two children who currently attend Dora Kennedy French Immersion.

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The state’s per pupil funding for PGcps increased 36.4 percent between fiscal years 2019 and 2024.

A slide presented by PGcps on Monday shows the planned moves for various school buildings. Prior to that, DKFI and RGMS were co-located at the Robert Goddard school in Lanham.
City Manager Provides Financial Update at Council Worksession
by Madeleine Jepsen

O n J a n u a r y 2 9, 2024, City Manager Jose Salmeron provided a quarterly financial update at the city council worksession. The city's financial condition continues to be stable, with city revenue coming in higher than budgeted expenditures, which are being paid out, according to Treasurer Beth Gaymon in a memo to council.

Salmeron, who joined the staff in September, provided his second quarterly update to the council. The city’s general fund revenue will likely exceed the adopted budget of $36,046,700 for FY 2024, which ends June 30, and expenditures will also be lower than the budget. This has been the trend the city saw in the previous two fiscal years.

At the time of the meeting, the city had collected 76.6 percent of budgeted revenues, or $27,542,005, which exceeds the expected revenues. The city, on track with expected costs, has spent about 59.3 percent of its budgeted expenses, or $21,386,961 of the $36,046,700 budget.

“The has been a lot of things we’re doing, a lot of attention on Greenbelt and the success of the things that we’ve accomplished,” Salmeron said, adding that last quarter, the city received the 2023 Excellence in Economic Development Silver Award from the Economic Development Council for the city's community development work through grant funding.

Salmeron commended the Public Works Department, respecting the personnel that are being paid according to the post-pandemic.

Deficit Next Year

Resident Leon Schachtner told council he clearly remembered the city manager previously stating there was a $2.5 million deficit and he had heard the mayor advise that the state plans to cut their funding to municipalities by eight percent. “What happened to the two-and-a-half million dollars that was supposed to be a deficit?” he asked.

Jordan clarified that there is a deficit of $2.6 million projected for the coming budget but not the current fiscal year.

Prince George’s Philharmonic Performs Again in Greenbelt
by Susan Pearl

The Prince George’s Philharmonic will return to Greenbelt, performing the fifth concert of its 58th season at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School auditorium on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Philharmonic has not performed in Greenbelt for eight years, having last performed here in February 2016. The March 23 program will highlight American composers and will include major works by Aaron Copland, Charles Ives and Howard Hanson.

Copland’s original Appalachian Spring ballet, composed in 1943-44 for Martha Graham and her dance company, premiered in October 1944 in the Library of Congress auditorium. (The orchestra that accompanied the dancers consisted of 13 instruments, the largest number that could comfortably fit into the pit.) In 1945, Copland then took part of the original ballet program and scored it for full orchestra, which has become immensely popular. It is this full orchestral version that will be performed on March 23.

Ives originally wrote symphony 3, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1908-10, as three pieces for organ: a prelude, a postlude, and a piece for communion—all based on Ives' memories of his rural youth and the outdoor camp meetings where all the farm families would come from miles around, and Ives' father, a Civil War bandmaster, led the singing. Ives structured his third symphony around these three organ pieces, each of the three movements depicting one of the hymns from a camp meeting: Old Folks Gatherin’, Children’s Day and Communion.

Hanson’s Symphony 2 was premiered in 1930 by the Boston Symphony Orchestra (BSO), commissioned by Serge Koussevitzky for the 50th anniversary of the BSO. The symphony is in three movements rather than the expected four movements (a format established by Haydn and continued well into the 20th century). The best known and most loved of Hanson’s works, this symphony’s often gorgeous romantic lyricism makes it beloved by audiences who might otherwise lean away from 20th-century music.

Tickets for the concert will be sold at the door—they’re discounted for seniors and free for those age 18 and under. See the ad on page 13 for details. For any questions, call 301-466-3245.

A ast February 29, 2024, City Manager Josue Salmeron provided a quarterly financial update at the city council worksession.

S a l m e r o n started his update with an early estimate of where our revenue and expenses will be for 2025. He is providing this update to the finance department to deliver a full-year budget to council on March 25, as one of the first part of the next year’s budget so “we’re not facing that deficit this year,” said Salmeron, who emphasized that rather be conservative on revenues and come in higher than budgeted and lower than estimated on expenses.

Public Information

The city’s Public Information Office includes streaming services with Facebook and YouTube to expand its reach to Greenbelt constituents. By sending emails to a listserve with more than 16,000 email addresses, as well as a quarterly postal mailer sent to about 13,000 addresses. Discussion included making the city’s website more user-friendly and incorporating translation in the budget for FY 2025.

Economic Development

In terms of the Economic Development Department, ARPA funds have been used to support small businesses, including 13 grants totaling $345,000 for business improvement and recovery, as well as seven grants totaling $280,000 for the business capital infrastructure program. Salmerón said more grant payments are designated to go out to Greenbelt businesses.

The department is also creating a Greenbelt business directory and will deploy $120,000 in ARPA funds for business support and develop a $100,000 ARPA-funded business resilience campaign, which will include increasing the foot traffic to the small businesses in Roosevelt Center. The department plans to continue an ARPA-funded “earn as you learn” program that provides hands-on job training for 16- to 18-year-olds in the next fiscal year.

As for planning, council also discussed the Royal Farms project, which council opposed but was approved by Prince George’s County, and the Loaping Castle...
Greg May runs the Circus Camp that Greenbelt is welcoming back this summer after a four-year hiatus.

What’s in Store?

This year’s Circus Camp will look a lot like those in previous years. Participants will learn juggling, unicycle and clowning skills. Equipment like rolla bolla, a board balanced on top of a tube; the rolling globe, a large ball students stand or walk on as it rolls beneath them; and stilts will be back.

However, the camp will not be doing aerial skills, as that requires the most physicality from instructors, who have to make sure students don’t fall and get hurt. Additionally, Circus Camp is being offered one week over spring break, and only for three of the nine weeks Greenbelt is offering camps this summer: a single full, two-week session in June and a one-week session in August.

“I want to keep everybody safe,” May said. “I want to be on the absolute top of my game mentally and physically. We’re going to start out with these smaller sessions to give me a chance to recover afterwards because nothing is more important to me than being able to put my all into it.”

Cherry is happy to have May back for these few sessions, noting his “Greenbelt homecoming in both joyful and poignant.”

May is equally happy, noting that performing and helping others with circus is “like the air in my lungs. I love it with a passion.” He adds that he’s also really looking forward to being with his Greenbelt family again.

“When Chris put the bug in my ear about it, more I thought about it, the more it felt right,” May says. “It really comes down to, I could use some family time.”

porch food pickup schedule for march 2023

in an effort to provide nutritious and affordable meals to those in need, porch is offering a food pickup schedule for the month of march. the schedule includes dates and times for various neighborhoods, with the goal of ensuring that everyone has access to healthy food options.

Greenbelt is welcoming back this summer after a four-year hiatus with the circus camp led by Greg May.

Pompi admits to being terrified of running another campaign. However, there were so many supportive people like Jordan and Gordon – that she felt like there could be a place for her on council and that there was more work she could do. Though she lost the school board race, the campaigns likely gave her a small advantage over the other nonincumbents.

Greenbelt’s story is that Greenbelt is ripe to be a community in which we value sustainability … and where we all work together towards it.”

And this includes all of Greenbelt, Pompi says. Equity is key and maintaining the status quo is not necessarily the answer, Pompi adds.

“For some, Greenbelt has a history that is painful and hurtful.” Pompi is mindful of this and advises that the Reparations Committee will play a big part in how we move forward as a community.

Pompi says that more is needed by both council and the city to reach different areas of Greenbelt. Whether that is through meetings or workshops in Greenbelt West or Greenbelt East, Pompi believes that you need to go to where the people are to increase involvement.

Pompi is also aware of the different dynamics of the current council and the difference that may make in how things are done. Unlike in recent years, all council members have full-time jobs, and women are the majority, two members with children at home. This changes the way people work, she says. There’s simply less time in the day.

“Every minute that I’m at my job or at a council I’m not with my family. So, I have to be working really hard with that time. I want that time to be extremely effective for the city and get the most done we can … People want to see action, they want to see things happen and they are hoping that this council is going to be a council of action, which I do, too.”

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The Tower Bus Film Focuses On History of Desegregation

by Melissa Sites

A large crowd came to Greenbelt Cinema on February 29 to watch The Tower Bus and to tell their own stories around desegregation. Directed by Mihaly Kostuth, this 2011 documentary focused on busing at an elementary school in Prince George’s County in the early 1970s. To lead the discussion, a three-member panel included Avis Matthews, a teacher and historian who has researched and written about African-American identity, along with Robert Spencer and Brenda Hawkins Baker, who were bused as children from their homes along Tower Road in Brandywine to Crestview Elementary School.

One audience member asked, “Do you think it’s important these stories are still told, or should we ‘move on’?” Spencer replied, “We all need to talk about history.” Matthews agreed, “I’m a history teacher, so yes. How can you raise your children and not tell them about their grandparents or their aunts and uncles? What can they connect to the Greenbelt+1 challenge or do it on their own.

Plan one plant-based breakfast, lunch and dinner to be ready for the challenge. For breakfast, try some quick oatmeal with nut milk, diced apples and cinnamon. For lunch, try tacos or a taco salad made with beans, plant-based meat and cheese. For dinner, prepare a small salad with penne pasta in marinara sauce with tofu or chickpeas. Tasty, nutritious and easy-to-make plant-based meals can be found at MeatOut.org or PCRM.org/recipes.

Post Meat-free Meals Post your meals on your social media pages and tag them #MeatOut.

Another way to learn more is to watch a film about plant-based eating, such as Forks over Knives, What the Health or The Twins Study: You Are What You Eat. See meatout.org for more information.

2024 Boxwood Village Scholarship Now Open

The Boxwood Village Community Association offers an annual $500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident to be used toward completing high school senior and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, the annual Boxwood yard sale and the Audubon Society.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year’s recipient. For the application form and further information, email Pat McAndrew at pmacandrew@zmzlaw.net.
The French group that meets at the New Deal Cafe weekly on Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. is a delight. Participants range from native speakers with a wide vocabulary and a full range of accent and expression, to relative neophytes planning a trip to France and trying to learn how to be polite. Vocabulary, grammar and structure are often taught, and in a way that both makes sense and is meaningful to the students. The atmosphere is informal and relaxed, and even those who are shy can feel unjudged and comfortable in participating. Just because it’s a verb doesn’t mean it has to be conjugated correctly; just spit it out as it will then form pop-ups - things can only get better.

How It Works
Each new participant receives an email with a topic decided by the group for the week ahead. Those of recent weeks have included wines, New Year’s resolutions and things that are fun to do in winter. Participants who are fluent can hold forth on the spot – but researching and working up a short speech is preferred. Apart from time and reading it from paper, it is not considered cheating as it honours the students who have to develop the language. Having a written prompt also removes some of the pressure of giving a short speech in an alien tongue. Of course, when the born Francophone is involved, everybody gets an earful of how it should sound – a great help.

Of course, when the born Franco- phone is involved, everybody gets an earful of how it should sound – a great help.

Peer Coaching
The more expert speakers are also a major resource to the less fluent, assisting with words and grammatical constructions and modeling accent and the body language key to expression without any sense of judgment or superiority. While the group is not perhaps an opportunity for rapid at-home-learning, and most of the speakers are able to fortify themselves with un verre de vin and a bowl of most excellent chili or perhaps une petite salade. Sometimes, if the group is larger and the table less packed, the background noise level makes it a little difficult to hear the person on the end of the table. But then, if it were that little Paris spot one imagines, there would be a buzz of conversation to contend with.

Where in the Cafe?
The table, always in the front of the New Deal, can be found by the “Tricolor” flag dangling gaily from a small metal stand and perhaps the presence of an dictionary Français sur ta table. As more speakers arrive, the group commanders more tables and sometimes last few meetings have had about eight to ten persons attending. The group is informal and inclusive. Just show up.

Luminis Health Offers Free Diabetes Classes
As part of its community outreach program to serve vulnerable and manage chronic conditions, Luminis Health is offering a nine-week evidence-based program to help those with pre-diabetes with the goal of preventing diabetes. The free virtual classes will be held online every first, third and fifth Mondays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The evidence-based program is taught by an A1C coach who can help patients with diabetes get the tools they need to manage their diabetes. The program is designed to help those with pre-diabetes learn to identify and manage personal, family and cultural barriers to healthy lifestyle changes, which can help reduce the risk for diabetes. To sign up visit eventbrite.com/e/disbetares-class-by-luminis-health-freediabetes-classes-237045485827 and change participants’ lifestyle.

The classes will focus on how to eat healthy, be active, self-monitor and manage stress, to eat healthy, be active, self-monitor and manage stress, to develop a weekly plan for managing their diabetes, and to eat healthy, be active, self-monitor and manage stress.

Register for the free classes using the Eventbrite link at eventbrite.com/e/disabetes-prevention-program-app-tickets-907173516717 or call 443-481-5555. Additional details and instructions will be sent after registration.

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

Crisis Hotline’s Number is 988
The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number is 988. Calls and text messages are confidential and free.
Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 4-10, 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 pds@greenbelt.md.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Greenbelt Police Department had two domestices, one suicide attempt and four missing persons reports that were resolved. On March 9 near 9 Southway, two firearms were turned in to be destroyed.

Welfare Check
On March 9 at 1:39 a.m. near 6420 Cherrywood Lane, a security guard was flagged down by a woman who did not know whose car it was or how she arrived there. Officers responded, and she advised that she was out with friends at a bar and, after a drink, she blacked out. She was then approached by a male who appeared blurry, and when she woke up, she had no idea how she got to that location.

Assault
On March 8 at 5:25 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a woman parked her car and started to get out when another vehicle pulled up; the driver and a passenger started an altercation and sprayed her with pepper spray, then fled in the vehicle.

Robberies
On March 6 at 3:35 p.m. near 7800 Mandan Road, a boy was on his way home from school when four males grabbed him, threw him to the ground and stole his hoodie and shoes.

On March 10 at 7:16 p.m. near 6200 Springhill Court, four individuals entered a woman’s apartment, beat her up, displayed firearms and took her prescription medication. The suspects knew where the cameras were located and unplugged them. They also went to the breaker box and shut off all the lights inside the unit.

On March 4 at 8:36 p.m. near 9100 Springhill Lane, a man out walking was approached by a masked man who asked for his money. The suspect struck the victim on his right shoulder with a handgun before fleeing. The man was not injured.

Trespassing
On March 5 near 9100 Springhill Lane, five people were squatting in a vacant unit, and were detained for further investigation. The unit was damaged, and charges are pending.

DUI Arrest
On March 9 at 4:30 a.m. near Kenilworth Avenue and Crescent Road, a vehicle in the middle of the roadway was impeding traffic. The driver said he’d had a few alcoholic beverages because it was his birthday. After a field sobriety test, he was arrested on suspicion of DUI.

Fraud
On March 7 near 7700 Greenbrook Drive, a man answered an ad to purchase concert tickets, but once the money was sent, the seller no longer answered the phone. On March 8 near 6500 Lake Park Drive, a man was scammed when he tried to get a personal loan on the internet.

Theft
On March 4 near 446 Ridge Road, a package was delivered to a residence but went missing. On March 5 at 8:23 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, four men wearing ski masks stole several items before fleeing. On March 6 at 6:06 p.m. near 6100 Greenbelt Road, a man was arrested and charged for stealing. On March 7 at 5:59 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, an employee saw a man leave the store with a backpack identical to his; later he realized his was missing from the break room. On March 10 at 11:39 a.m. near 5900 Greenbelt Road, a fleeing suspect was caught, and stolen items were retrieved.

Vehicle Crimes

Stolen Vehicles
Seven vehicles were stolen:
- On March 4, near 9100 Edmondston Road, a white 2008 Ford E350 (Md. SFER8779), and near 9000 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2014 Hyundai Sonata (Md. 3FM1027);
- On March 5, near 5900 Cherrywood Lane, a 2013 Sonata (D.C. GC5328), and near 5900 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2006 Honda Accord (D.C. TEG9777); and on March 7 near 7800 Hanover Parkway, a black 2019 Chevrolet Camaro (D.C. GHR3530), and near 7800 Emlys Way, a black 2017 Nissan Altima (Md. 9CW6491) was not returned after it was borrowed; and on March 9 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a white 2021 Camaro (Md. TTP7864) was stolen from the parking lot.

Attempted Theft of Vehicles
On March 4 two vehicles had a damaged window and ignition: a 2014 Kia Forte near 9185 Springhill Lane and a 2017 Hyundai Sonata near Springhill Drive and Cherrywood Lane.

Theft from Auto
On March 4 near 8015 Mandan Road, four tires were stolen from a 2024 Honda Civic.

On March 8 near 6000 Springhill Drive, a vehicle’s back window was smashed and tools were missing.

Vandalism to Auto
Windows were broken but nothing stolen from several vehicles:
- On March 5, near 6000 Springhill Drive, a man answered an ad to purchase concert tickets, was charged for stealing. On March 7 near 5800 Cherrywood Lane, a 2011 Honda CRV; a vehicle near 9175 Edmondston Road; near 9155 Springhill Lane, a 2010 Toyota 4Runner; and on March 10, near 6005 Cherrywood Court, a 2017 Kia Optima; near 5910 Cherrywood Terrace, a 2014 Camaro; near 6000 Springhill Drive, a 2002 Chevrolet Cavalier.

On March 8 near 6025 Springhill Drive, a 2019 Hyundai Sonata had a damaged door handle.

Stolen Vehicles

On March 8 near 6025 Springhill Drive, a 2019 Hyundai Sonata had a damaged door handle.

Family members and friends expressed alarm and concern over Shallue’s long disappearance, but her husband, Russell Shallue, filed for divorce while she was still missing. Court documents show his petition for divorce was filed on March 11, with the same address listed for both parties. A family member described Shallue as estranged from her husband for some time.

On Tuesday, March 12, Shallue was said to be resting and recovering, unharmed and happily reunited with her young daughter.

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On Tuesday, March 12, Shallue was said to be resting and recovering, unharmed and happily reunited with her young daughter.

Turtles on a log bask in the sun at Greenbelt Lake.
and Tom joined a core group of passionate Greenbelt neighbors to establish the Catholic Community of Greenbelt (a faith community she loved and cherished the rest of her life), yet still remained a dedicated member of the Ladies Social Auxiliary at St. Hugh’s. As her children finished school, Helen returned to work full-time for the Greenbelt Co-op and eventually Georgetown University’s Medical School Facul- ty role until her retirement in 2000.

Helen lived life to the fullest, yet always did her best to stay in good health. Her priority to be the present, listen- ing, supportive mother/friend/ grandparent whenever and wherever needed. She and Tom developed a tremendous love for travel and curiosity for the strengths and challenges of communities around the world, a love that they imparted to their children and grandchildren. As family members spread well be- yond Greenbelt, Helen welcomed the many travel and volunteer opportu- nities they found in retirement, and sought to share those experiences. They often went on voluntary, unfinanced state-side and international trips with friends, extended family and members of their faith community to unique locations in Africa, India, Europe, Australia and New Zealand – resulting in many vivid, lasting memories that her family and friends will always hold close to our hearts.

Helen was preceded in death by her husband Tom, son Jim and brother Dave Bryan. She is survived by her sister Anne Nelson, six children: Bernadette (Marc Sandoval), Christine (Marco D’Ottavi), Mark, Tom (Jennifer Beeman), Pam (Carl Quick) and Ellen White and 18 grandchildren: Michelle, Jona- than, Leslie, Jessica, Marco, Ei- doch, Alexander, Alex, Ben, Emilio and Mario Sandoval; Jus- tina (Clark Scheibe); Ben, Chris- topher and Jeremy Quick; Taylor and Morgana D’Ottavi; Stella and Miles White; and her great- grandson Forrest Scheibe. Helen was loved dearly, and will also be greatly missed by her many nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and countless other friends and family. Helen was a devoted Catholic, and her incredible life-long spirits from grade school – Helen, Jean Marie and Bob.

A burial service is scheduled for Friday, March 22 at 11 a.m. at the Chelsham Veterans Cem- etery, 11301 Crain Highway, with the family hosting lunch at a nearby restaurant following the ceremony. A celebration of Hel- en’s life is planned for the after- noon of Saturday, March 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. at 2-L Gardenway. Donations in Helen’s memory (in lieu of flowers) can be made to So Others Might Eat (SOME), 710 1st Street S.W., Washington, DC 20001.

Shocked!

I was shocked to read the story about the planned can- cellation of the WMATA G12 bus route that goes through Greenbelt, connecting two rail- way stations – Greenbelt and New Carrollton. G14 comes to Roosevelt Center but does not serve the main part of the resi- dential area that G12 does and it has a long winding route serving nearby communities. With G12 gone, Greenbelt will have only Prince George’s County’s The Bus Route 11 that serves the inner city; though it does not reach out to New Carrollton or maintain the extended schedule of G12 covering early morning and late evening.

I will have to use my car and spend $5 for parking at the sta- tion, an undue financial hardship on my budget. And there will be many more like me that ride the early morning G12 bus or a late evening return.

Maybe our city should offer some financial contribution to The Bus service to cover the area and time lost by the G12 cancel- lation. This will serve our com- munity much better. City Council: think about it and act on it.

Rahul Mehta

Editor’s Note: The Bus Route 16 also serves parts of Greenbelt, including on Saturdays, but does not go into Greenbelt Center.

Reusable Bags All Gone!

Thank you for letting the com- munity know about MCF Com- munity Church’s reusable bag give away. We distributed 2,500 bags in 1.5 hours at six locations throughout Greenbelt. Bags were also delivered to homes that re- quested delivery. This appears to be a much needed service.

In my 40+ years of ministry serving the community, this is one of the fastest large events done in a short amount of time. God Bless.

Jeff Warner
Pastor MCF Community Church

Don’t be a doormat! Be O’F a one. $42 gets you on thousands.

go to GreenbeltNewsReview.com

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owners. I was however sad to see that a lot of homeowners have left no choice but to leave the apartment building because their leaky, poorly maintained apartments were in poor condition seem-

ded LLC. I and I am sure, and constant harassment inflicted

garded toward the current and many of the ongoing efforts

my money have been in vain and many of the ongoing efforts are geared toward the current residents – we previous residents have had to pick up the pieces and try to live with the wounds and constant harassment inflicted on us.

Mishkan Torah invites All to Celebrate Purim

Mishkan Torah invites the community to join in for Purim, with an exciting, free lineup to celebrate a favorite holiday.

Bake Hamantaschen with the Karp Family School on Sunday, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. While the event is open to all, kids ages 3+ and their families are especially invited to attend.

A Purim Party, for families with kids of all ages, will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be crafts, crafts and Purim stories. Kids and adults are encouraged to come in costume.

Enjoy pizza, an all-ages Purim spiel and a multilingual megillah reading on Saturday, March 16, starting at 6 p.m.

Visit MishkanTora.org for more information. RSVP for the baking and party to childrend@ mishkantorah.org.

St. Hugh’s Seeks Help With Student Dinner

The St. Hugh’s Parish Sodality hosts an annual Taste of Home event serving a home-cooked meal for Catholic University of Maryland students at the campus Catholic Student Center.

This year’s dinner will be on Wed- nesday, April 3.

The Sodality is seeking volun- teers to make a menu item. For more information, to check out the menu or to sign up for a food contribution, call or text Cindy at 301-821-5967.

Jeff Warner
Pastor MCF Community Church

M-NCPPC Holds Job Fairs for Seasonal

The Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a job fair series to hire for a multitude of summer 2024 positions. Interested applicants can visit the website at mnncppc attract. neogov.gov/job-fair-recruitment for information on positions and to register.

We are looking for talented and dedicated people to work in a variety of seasonal and part-time positions,” states Brenda Miller, principal human relations operations specialist. “We encourage applicants to come prepared to meet our hiring managers and interview for immediate job opportunities in Parks and Rec- reation.

Job fairs scheduled for this Spring are on the following Sat- urdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.: March 16 at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center, March 30 at the Southern Regional Tech- nology and Recreational Com- plex and April 20 at the Prince George’s Sports and Learning Complex.

Browse all of the department’s job postings at governmentjobs.com/ careers/mncppc.
Travels with News Review

The News Review travels to the Caribbean Island of Nevis with Pat Scully, visiting Alexander Hamilton’s birthplace.

Annie Haber visits Colombia for the first time since returning from the Peace Corps in 1980.

The Washington Wizards and PGCLMS 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. For more information, visit pgclms.info/wizards.

Council Meets Faith Groups: Discuss Youth, Other Issues

by Erik Hanson

Sitting in a circle and passing a microphone to speak, the Greenbelt City Council and representatives of area faith groups had a dialogue at the February 28 workshop.

Representatives of faith groups included Susan Walker and Mary Ann Trellez from St. Hugh of Grenoble, Gloria Cline-Smyth from Good Samaritan Lutheran, Jim Fischer and Farina Kirouz from the Greenbelt Bahá’í Community, Joe Park from Soka Gakkai, Stephen Unthank from Greenbelt Baptist, Saul Oresky from the Mishkan Torah Synagogue and Kevin Wright from Zion Church.

Several representatives spoke of their connection to the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association (GILA).

The main issues that came up during the discussion were youth, communication between the city and faith groups, and returning to in-person meetings following Covid.

Youthful indiscretions were mentioned by a couple of faith group representatives. They were looking for ways to engage young people in more valuable pursuits.

Greenbelt recreation opportunities and Learn to Earn workforce development were mentioned as options for youth. Other faith community leaders offered suggestions on how to engage youth, including giving them their own space and offering them food.

 Desire for better communication between the city and faith groups was expressed by both sides. Faith groups wished to learn about city activities so they could find engaging activities for their young members, connect members to city social services, be aware of issues in the community they serve and reach out to residents to let them know about faith group activities. Greenbelt representatives, while noting the separation of church and state, hoped for cooperation in providing services to residents.

Faith groups noted that while most everything is back to in-person following Covid, some members still attend online. While Zoom can create some connection, it is hard to engage in person following Covid, some faith leaders mentioned the importance of face-to-face relationships.

Cinema Audience Enjoys Live Music with Silent Film

by Amina Khalifa

On Saturday, February 24, Greenbelt Cinema showed one of my favorite silent movies, Safety Last, with a live music performance by Andrew E. Simpson. Caitlin McGrath, executive director of the theater, gave a brief introduction for the movie and talked about why he loves composing and playing for silent movies. He has performed for the three greats, Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton (his favorite as well as mine) and Harold Lloyd.

As a spectator, I have to admit that his live performance made a world of difference, it added to the excitement, thrill, romance and hilarity. This was obvious by the bursts of laughter throughout the movie and by the unanimous applause at the end of it.

McGrath said there will be more films with live music to come and I, for one, will keep an eye out for them.

From left, Andrew E. Simpson and Caitlin McGrath pose at the Cinema after the live music performance.

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The News Review travels to the Caribbean Island of Nevis with Pat Scully, visiting Alexander Hamilton’s birthplace.

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 all Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCLMS) buildings.

Storytimes

Friday, March 15, 11:15 a.m., ages 2 to 3. Register at pgclms.info/events/10082717.

Monday, March 18, 10:15 a.m., ages newborn to 2. Register at pgclms.info/events/9974726.

Wednesday, March 20, 12:15 p.m., ages 3 to 5. Register at pgclms.info/events/9974760.

Storytime on Screen

Monday, March 18, 10:30 a.m., ages 1 to 3, at the Greenbelt Cinema, 129 Centerway. Greenbelt Cinema, in partnership with PGCLMS, is offering a free program of stories, songs and a short film. This program is best suited for children ages 1 to 5 and their caregivers. No unaccompanied children or adults. Register at pgclms.info/events/9974965.

Traveling Exhibit

Friday, March 15 through Saturday, March 30, all day, ages 5+. (elementary/teen/adult). This traveling exhibit, generously loaned to PGCLMS by the Frances Perkins Center, comprises an informative six-panel display highlighting the life and accomplishments of Frances Perkins. As Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Secretary of Labor and the first woman to hold a cabinet position, Perkins played a pivotal role in shaping the nation’s economy during one of its most severe crises, she established the foundations of social security, set the stage for universal medical care and established the U.S. minimum wage. Perkins Center, comprises a collaboration between PGCLMS and the UMD School of Nursing. A traveling exhibit, generously loaned to PGCMLS by the Frances Perkins Center, comprises an informative six-panel display highlighting the life and accomplishments of Frances Perkins. As Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Secretary of Labor and the first woman to hold a cabinet position, Perkins played a pivotal role in shaping the nation’s economy during one of its most severe crises, she established the foundations of social security, set the stage for universal medical care and established the U.S. minimum wage. Perkins

The Washington Wizards and PGCLMS 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. For more information, visit pgclms.info/wizards.

Greenbelt Stephen Holder, currently living in South Australia, occasionally receives a copy of the News Review from a good neighbor and friend.
The city has issued multiple citations for unresolved code violations in some properties. Public comment included inquiries about fines and ARPA funding.

Police Department
In this past quarter, the Greenbelt Police Department has hired five officer candidates going through the police academy, with three hired on the day of the meeting to go to the next police academy. The department has also held multiple community functions.

Recreation
In the last quarter, the Recreation Department added two pickleball courts, bringing the city to 12 courts. The department tested language translation tools in a pilot program at the Aquatic & Fitness Center. Park rangers will also have a tablet with translation capability in the spring, and continued financial assistance for summer camp scholarships will be included in the FY 2025 budget.

Museum
Work on phase one of the Greenbelt Museum’s Education and Visitor Center planned for 10-A Crescent Road will likely start in the next six months. Currently, the museum is about $200,000 to $220,000 short of the funding needed to complete phase two of the expansion project.

Grants
The city’s Grants Department has filed documentation for grants totaling $1,634,650 in the second quarter. The team is busy applying for grants to offset program costs and improve services.

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the commission was really to face the fact that, on what we call the Nation’s Report Card, Maryland’s score was about in the middle ... and moving in the wrong direction,” said Rachel Hise, executive director of the Blueprint Ac- countability and Implementation Board, a state entity that’s mak- ing sure school districts adhere to the plan.

But Hogan had an “aha” mo- ment of his own after Democrats crafted the Kirwan Commission’s report into comprehensive legis- lation. In 2019, Hogan criticized the pending reform proposal, telling a group of county of- ficials it would mean “billions and billions more in mandated spending increases for county and state taxpayers,” according to The Frederick News-Post.

Hogan vetoed the bill creating the Blueprint in May 2020, say- ing he did not want to raise taxes amid the pandemic to fund the education plan. The General As- sembly overrode his veto in 2021. And the following year, vot- ers elected a strong backer of the Blueprint, Democrat Wes Moore, to succeed Hogan.

On the first day of the current legislative session that began in January, Moore said he believes in the reform plan and will work with the General Assembly to en- sure the Blueprint is implemented properly and sustained.

“I believe in the premise and the promise of the Blueprint. I think we need a world-class education system in the state of Maryland,” Moore said. “I think that’s going to be a prerequisite for us to be able to accomplish the economic goals that we’re hoping for.”

Lofty Goals
In the state’s 24 public school districts, the Blueprint and its lofty goals are already beginning to take shape.

Each school district has drawn up a preliminary plan for how it will meet targets for offering pre-K, increasing teacher salaries and improving student performance. The Accountability and Imple- mentation Board has approved all those plans after first asking for and reviewing them.

The Blueprint is meant to re- vamp the state’s education system by presenting the same opportuni- ties for all students. With a law like the Blueprint, one size has to fit all to achieve its goals of maximizing reading and math skills, as well as increasing pathways into college, said Sen. Jim Rosapepe (D - Prince George’s and Anne Arundel).

“So we want that for every kid across the state. We don’t want variation of these goals,” Rosapepe said. “Now, the details of how stuff is paid for – I mean, I think that’s a conversation that will be ongoing.”

Kiersten Hacker, Christina Ryan and Billie Hall write for Lo- cal News Network, a part of the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

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ERHS Alien Raiders Pull Hat Trick At State Robotics Championship

by Karl B. Hille

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Robotics Club squads 53C and 53F pause to celebrate their success during the Maryland State Championship in Dundalk on March 2. From left, teacher-sponsor Karen Bogoski, Max Nelkin, driver Evan McClelland, programmer Isaiah Blanc, driver Sameer Kumar, 53C squad captain Brendan Hille, 53F squad captain Von Skaggs, Joshua Hernandez, Sergio Ramos, programmer V on Skaggs and coach Karl Hille; tournament host Patrick Dougherty photobombs the group between Ramos and Patel in his signature top hat.

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Robotics Club will send three robots to the VEX Robotics Competition’s High School World Championship in Dallas, Texas, in April, following a strong showing at the Maryland State Championship on Saturday, March 2.

While all six of the squads building robots for Roosevelt made it to the elimination rounds of the State Championship, an achievement in itself, the three going to the World Championships qualified through different means. Two squads of students, led by freshman Von Skaggs and junior Brendan Hille of Greenbelt, joined forces with their robots to advance to the final round of the State Championship, where they placed second. A third squad led by junior Felix Hass, also of Greenbelt, earned the tournament’s Design Award in recognition of their excellence on the field, creativity in problem solving and documentation of their engineering design process.

All three achievements qualified the teams for the VEX Robotics World Championship where they will face the top two percent of competitors worldwide.

“In the beginning of the season I said that if we made it to Worlds, it would be on the strength of our notebook,” Hass said. “Collectively, my team has put thousands of hours into the notebook, and it’s amazing to see that work pay off.”

Roosevelt’s team, the Area 53 Alien Raiders led by Coach Karl Hille of Greenbelt, consists of six squads of three to six students. Each squad plans, builds, programs and competes with a unique robot designed to address a variety of physical challenges, which change every year. Four robots compete at a time on one field, in two alliances of two robots each. Matches include a 15-second autonomous period where robots are guided only by their computer programming, then a 1:45-minute driver-controlled period.

In this year’s challenge, called Over Under, robots earned points for moving triangular-shaped plastic balls called Triballs or “acorns” over a low barrier into their alliance’s offensive scoring zone, or scoring more points for pushing them under their net-covered goal. In the last seconds of each two-minute game, robots may attempt to climb a vertical structure and score points based on how high they elevate off the field.

The 12th-ranked alliance led by Skaggs exceeded all expectations to face the number two alliance from Dulaney High School in Towson. He invited Hille’s 42nd-ranked team to form an alliance for the final elimination rounds because, he said, “What truly matters is the spirit, dedication and potential within a team. I chose Brendan’s team not for their position on a list, but for the passion and unity that define us as a club.”

Hass’s 255-page engineering notebook, in addition to recording each decision, test, design and result through the season, was a programming innovation in itself. Hass and his fellow programmers – Ajibola Ajani of Laurel and David Blau-fuss of Greenbelt – developed a computer program to turn their contributions, text, images and data into a formatted, personalized and professional notebook.

“It takes in user-written content as input,” Hass said, “and outputs a formatted document in an incredibly consistent, customizable visual style.”

They also made their Note-bookinator code available on the software-sharing website GitHub for other robotics teams to use and develop.

Their success has put the parents’ booster organization into overdrive figuring out how to cover the costs of registration and travel for Worlds, as well as the costs to repair and improve their robots over the next seven weeks and to ship their robots to the tournament.

“I couldn’t be more proud of the hard work these students have put in to achieve this,” Coach Hille said. “Now it’s up to the parents and supporters of this team at Roosevelt, throughout Greenbelt and beyond to help them get to Dallas.”

The club is taking tax-deductible donations at area53robotics.org/home.

*Photos by Glenford Blanc*