

# GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

JANUARY 8, 2015

## City, University Square Seek Answer to Noise Complaints

by Kathleen Gallagher

On December 1, 2014, the City Council met in a worksession with representatives of the management of University Square Apartments for the first time in more than four years. The motivating force for this meeting, like the earlier 2010 meeting, was a complaint from residents of the southern edge of Lakeside Drive about noise from the University Square basketball court that is nearby their homes. For the first time, it appears that both the city and the Lerner Corporation, which owns and manages the complex, are determined to find a solution to the problem.

The worksession had been scheduled at the request of council following its September 8 regular meeting, when Betty and Bob Sonneveldt made their third request to the council to take action regarding what they described as an excessive number of people, loud noise and vulgar language at the court, often at very late hours and well outside the posted closing time. Previously they had made requests to council in 2002 and 2005. Another complaint to the city had been made in June 2010, subsequent to which council met in September with representa-

tives of University Square management to discuss the complaints.

Although the Sonneveldts made the formal complaints, they maintained that many of their neighbors toward the south end of Lakeside Drive are also disturbed by the noise, especially late at night and in warmer weather when windows are open and people are outdoors. Members of council and the city office have also received complaints, including some from residents of University Square, also disturbed by the behavior and the noise. (For a complete account of the request made at the September 8 meeting, see the October 2 issue of this paper.)

### Update Request

All councilmembers were present at the December 1 worksession, as were the Sonneveldts. Prior to moving to the topic of the meeting, Mayor Emmett Jordan asked for an update on how University Square was doing. Suzanne Holt, managing director of residential management at Lerner headquarters in Rockville, said they thought things were going very well. She described the first full renovation now underway at the complex, including not

only replacement of light fixtures, carpets and doors but also replacement and upgrading of kitchens and bathrooms, as well as installation of washers and dryers in each apartment. About 180 have been completed out of the 495 units in the complex. Holt said they are pleased that occupancy is 94 or 95 percent, with only about 28 percent annual turnover.

When Jordan asked if they were finding any city services lacking, Carl Schurg, director, residential management, said they were so pleased with the results of their last city inspection that they took their on-site staff out to lunch.

Jordan moved to the topic at hand by determining that University Square had been built in 1966 and that the Sonneveldts had lived on the edge of the property since 1979. Councilmember Edward Putens recalled that the 2010 meeting had been held at the club house at University Square, where a swimming pool, tennis court and the basketball court are located. He said the problem city residents had then has apparently persisted and has particularly escalated over

See **NOISE**, page 6

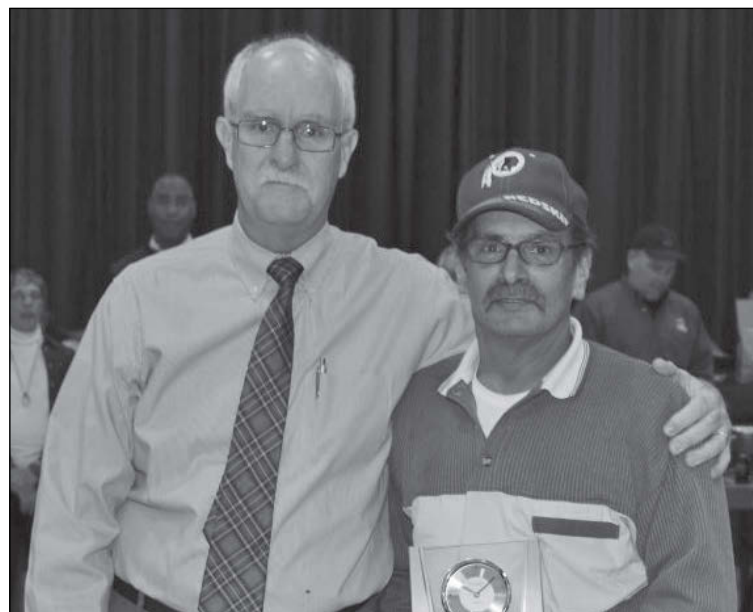


PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

City Manager Michael McLaughlin and Department of Public Works employee Michael Rousseau both received a clock and a plaque in recognition of their 35 years of service to Greenbelt.

## City Employees Receive Recognition for Service

by James Giese

At the December 16 annual holiday luncheon for city employees, City Manager Michael McLaughlin presented pins to employees to recognize their completion of a five-year service period as a city employee; that is he presented all but one.

Mayor Emmett Jordan passed out that recognition, a clock with a plaque, in recognition of 35 years of service with the city. The recipient was McLaughlin, who started his career with the city as an administrative assistant, later becoming assistant city manager and then city manager.

Before that, McLaughlin passed out a duplicate clock and

plaque to Michael Rousseau who completed 35 years of service in the Department of Public Works as a member of the horticultural crew. Jim Sterling, now acting director of the Public Works Department, was recognized for 30 years of service.

Seven employees received recognition for working with the city for over 25 years. They are: Larry Dodson, Public Works; Johnnie Hutchinson, Public Works; Joe McNeal, Recreation; Beverly Palau, Public Information and Communications Coordinator; John Rogers, Police Department;

See **RECOGNITION**, page 7

## Council Considers Proposals For Management of Theater

by Thomas X. White

The Greenbelt City Council held a worksession on Monday, December 15 to consider three proposals submitted by organizations interested in operating the city-owned Greenbelt theater when the renovation is completed in early 2015. The worksession drew a good audience of representatives of the organizations that had submitted proposals and of Greenbelt citizens, interested either in the theater proposals or supporting a particular proposal.

The three proposals had been submitted by the December 8 deadline and the worksession was

intended primarily for each of the organizations to present further information on plans for operating the theater when it reopens. Mayor Emmett Jordan opened the meeting, indicating that the organizations submitting proposals would present their plans for operating the theater at this worksession and a public hearing was scheduled for January 7. City Manager Michael McLaughlin provided a brief update on the theater renovation, which he believes can be completed by the end of February. At that time the chosen operator should be pre-

pared to begin theater operations.

The three submissions were from organizations familiar with the history and operation of the theater.

The first proposal was submitted by Greenbelt Cinema, Inc. (GCI), recently organized by former employees of the Old Greenbelt Theatre. The second proposal was submitted by P&G Theatres, Inc. the operator when the theater was closed for renovations. The third proposal was submitted by Friends of the Greenbelt Theatre (FOGT), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation registered in Maryland.

### Greenbelt Cinema, Inc.

GCI General Manager Dennis Fincham provided a brief demographic profile of the potential audience to be served by the re-opened theater – approximately 34,000 people residing within zip code 20770, another 76,500 residents in the two immediately adjacent zip codes and larger audiences of up to 200,000 within a 10-mile radius.

Other GCI stakeholders include Angela Handen, who managed

See **THEATER**, page 12

## Rental of Mishkan Torah Brings Big Crowd; Gunfire

by Sue Krofchik

Gunfire rang out near the entrance to 12 Court Ridge Road on January 3 at approximately 11:41 p.m. and resulted in two nonresident teens receiving non-life-threatening injuries. They were reportedly walking to a party at Mishkan Torah Synagogue, 10 Ridge Road, when they said they saw an altercation and shots were fired.

Greenbelt police were already en route to the area as of 11:40 p.m., when the dispatcher received a call from a homeowner (not wishing to be identified) about “a large crowd and cars coming from all directions” around Westway and Ridge, the corner on which the synagogue is located.

Mishkan Torah had signed a contract “in good faith,” renting their hall to a non-Greenbelt individual for “a teen party for 75,” said board member and at-

torney Linda Spevack, who was not involved in the transaction. Unknown to synagogue officials, advertisements were placed on social media, which brought more than 200 attendees. She expressed regret for the chagrin and anxiety this has caused Greenbelt.

Three homeowners in 12 Court, Lisa Jellison, Rich Szczepanowski and Irene Pavlish, were disturbed by the noise. Nevertheless, each described it as atypical and said emphatically they “have never before” experienced any problems with events at Mishkan Torah.

This was echoed by Carol Drees, homeowner in 1 Court Westway.

Szczepanowski, who has lived in 12 Court adjacent to Mishkan Torah for 29 years, said that from what he now knows, the problems

See **PARTY**, page 8

### What Goes On

#### Monday, January 12

6:30 p.m., Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, Youth Center  
8 p.m., City Council Meeting, Municipal Building. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at [greenbeltnmd.gov/municipalvtv](http://greenbeltnmd.gov/municipalvtv)

#### Wednesday, January 14

7:30 p.m., Advisory Planning Board Meeting, Community Center

#### Thursday, January 15

7:30 p.m., Community Relations Advisory Board Meeting, Municipal Building.

Stay up-to-date on local events with the Community Calendar at [GreenbeltNewsReview.com/calendar](http://GreenbeltNewsReview.com/calendar).

## Letters

### Eroding Confidence

Attracting, rewarding and retaining experienced and talented employees has historically been a hallmark of our city government. Our legacy of commitment to our employees is in jeopardy and is eroding the confidence of our employees.

City employees are hired under a pay plan that by design is intended to compensate consistent strong performance, as well as acknowledge the additional experience and value added to city government after each year of service. An employee is hired into a position, which is assigned a grade. For instance, a Recreation Coordinator II is slotted as a Grade 15, with a minimum and maximum salary. Depending upon the years of service, full time employees, on the anniversary of their hire date, are eligible to receive from 1.33 to 4 percent in a salary increase if they have performed at least satisfactorily.

In the past four budgets, in-grade salary increases have not been funded, although employees received modest cost of living adjustments. Their continued dedication to us and city service is simply not being recognized.

While the city has devoted millions to capital projects paid for essentially with cash, rather than through the typical bricks and mortar bonds, our employees are being left behind. I make this observation without offering any judgment as to the worthiness of any capital projects.

This past fall, the city discovered a \$400,000 budget surplus. To date, none of these funds have been allocated to justly and fairly compensate our employees for their continued dedicated service. Recognizing their sacrifices these past four budget cycles is critical. I have made two formal petition requests of city council to fund in-grade salary increases, thus far to no avail.

While the police officers have a voice through the Fraternal Order of Police, other employees do not. Many are city residents, but they are unable to vocalize their frustration and disappointment as should be their right.

Please join me in encouraging city council to retroactively fund in-grade salary increases for all eligible employees from the start of the budget year, July 1.

*Patrick J. McAndrew*

**Editor's Note:** Patrick J. McAndrew is legal representative for the Greenbelt Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police.

### The Mystery of Ridge

Mr. Giese – Great piece about the WSSC work. I'm a civil engineering nerd in Greenbrook Estates and I always wondered about that section of Ridge Road beyond Lastner. I would have never even thought about the pipes coming from the tower. I got a lot of education about the property line situation there.

*Brian Patrick*

### Correction

The name of the photographer in last week's story about the Utopia Film Festival's showing of Besa: The Promise is Norman Gershman.

## Going Green at Greenbelt Elementary Plans Recycling

by Li'l Dan Celdran

Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) hosted an assembly on Wednesday, December 3 for all its students and staff regarding its new recycling program. Dr. Luisa Robles, sustainability coordinator for the City of Greenbelt, shared information on the items that can be recycled at GES.

Robles set up tables with colored tablecloths indicating which items can be recycled and which cannot. On the green table were items like plastic cups, foil cooking pans and aluminum soda pop/beverage cans. On the red table were items like drinking glasses, ceramic mugs, clamshell plastic containers (that open and close like clams) and breakfast and lunch Styrofoam trays.

The blue colored table showcased items that may be taken to electronics recycling: cell phones, cameras and batteries (if the ends of the batteries are taped first). The next electronics recycling is scheduled for Saturday, January 24 from 9 a.m. to noon at Greenbelt Public Works Department beside Buddy Attick Park.

Students asked wonderful questions such as, can light bulbs be recycled? Robles discussed the differences between incandescent (the kind that get hot) which cannot be recycled versus the Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs) which can through electronics recycling.

The school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has voted to purchase more recycling bins for classrooms and for the cafeteria. Students and school staff will place recyclables into the classroom bins. Students will then deposit the recyclables into a larger bin (with wheels). Once full, it will be emptied by the custodial staff into the recycling dumpster outside.

To see what the school will be recycling, visit: [1.pgcps.org/recycling/index.aspx?id=199869](http://1.pgcps.org/recycling/index.aspx?id=199869).

### Reusing, Repurposing

Robles also discussed how reusing items such as Styrofoam

trays to hold paint and donating clothes that no longer fit to the thrift store keeps our planet cleaner. Instead of these items ending up in the landfill, they can be reused for other purposes (repurposed).

Robles mentioned how composting is similar to recycling: food scraps from fruits and vegetables can be made into compost instead of being thrown in the trash. Not only can compost for one's garden be made but the use of trash bags will also be reduced.

Currently there is no composting program at GES; however, in cooperation with the administration and teachers, a few parents have been collecting fruit scraps from breakfast and bringing them home to their own compost bins. Robles offered help to students' families if they wish to learn more about how to compost at home.

The school has applied for a grant to purchase compost tumblers for their courtyard garden. A newly created Green Team club, headed by science teacher, Mr. Gallo, will help form a plan for getting the compost-ables from various points (classroom and cafeteria) to the bins in the courtyard. The club will also host activities like nature walks, recycling and trash pickup around the school.

### The Future

A task group of parents, school staff and community members to discuss gardens, sustainability and landscaping is currently being created. Since recycling, composting and gardening are interconnected, the lessons learned from participation are life-long. There are many opportunities to teach our children how to take care of our school, our community and our planet.

*Li'l Dan Celdran is a GES parent. Beatrice Sanders, GES school secretary, contributed to this report.*

### Attention Greenbelt East Residents

We understand there are some News Review delivery problems in the various communities in Greenbelt East. We are researching to find out if residents are receiving the weekly newspaper.

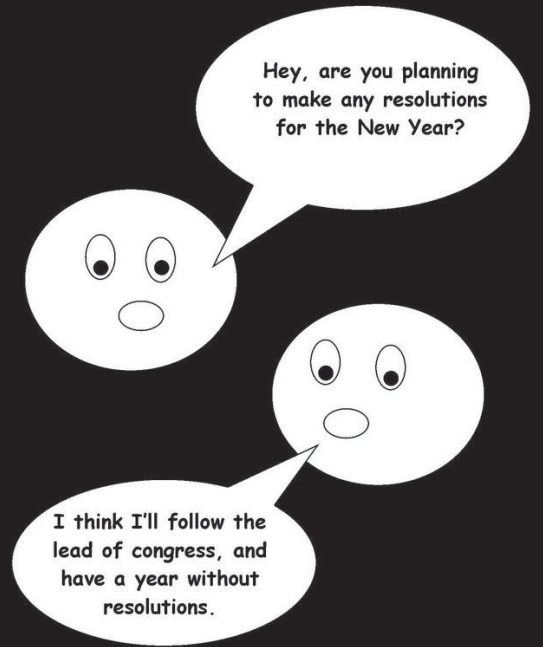
Be sure to notify the News Review if you are not getting your paper.

Each homeowners association is responsible for how the paper is delivered – by maintenance or other staff or by a volunteer carrier. If it's a volunteer, the HOA selects the person to deliver the paper.

The News Review pays a nominal amount for delivery and provides the free newspapers. Be sure to let us know if there are problems. Call Mary Lou Williamson – 301-441-2662.

Keep Abreast of the Latest Happenings  
in and around the city  
at the  
**Community Calendar**  
at [GreenbeltNewsReview.com/calendar](http://GreenbeltNewsReview.com/calendar)

"My Two Cents" with Sense and Nonsense



Best wishes for a healthy, happy New Year.

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## The Bus

Seniors and Customers with Disabilities **RIDE FREE**

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## Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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website: [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)

Community Calendar: [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/calendar)

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Franklin Park: Arlene Clarke 240-988-3351

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thomas X. White, president; Cathie Meetre, vice president; Judy Bell, treasurer; Sylvia Lewis, secretary; James Giese; Diane Oberg and Tom Jones.

DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

# Community Events

## GHI Notes

All meetings in the Board Room.

Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session)

Monday, January 12, 7 p.m., Member Outreach Committee Meeting

7:30 p.m., Marketing Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 7:30 p.m., Architectural Review Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 6:30 p.m., Investment Committee Meeting

7:30 p.m., Finance Committee Meeting

Friday, January 16, OFFICE CLOSED. Emergency maintenance will be available.

Monday, January 19, OFFICE CLOSED. Emergency maintenance will be available.

## Register on Jan. 12 For GED Classes

Greenbelt CARES will hold its winter 12-week GED course starting Monday, January 12 and continuing through Wednesday, April 1. CARES will provide two locations for the Winter GED program. Registration for the course at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, will be on Monday, January 12 at 10 a.m. Classes will be held every Monday and Wednesday, from 10 a.m. to noon through Wednesday, April 1. This is a combined class, reviewing basic math and English skills, critical thinking and analytical skills in social studies, science and computers.

Registration for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center Club House, 6101 Cherrywood Lane, will be on Tuesday, January 13 at 10 a.m. This is a combined class for both GED I and GED II students. This class will meet every Tuesday and Thursday. GED I will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. GED II will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. The course will end on Thursday, April 2.

GED I is for students who need review of basic math (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, decimals, percentages and word problems) and English grammar skills.

GED II is for students who have successfully completed GED I and/or are ready to learn higher level math skills, critical thinking skills, writing skills and computer skills.

Students are required to show proof of residency (i.e., current lease, phone or electric bill, driver's license or Motor Vehicle ID card).

There is no registration fee for Greenbelt residents. Nonresidents must pay a \$175 registration fee. All students are required to buy a copy of the GED textbook, calculator and test-taking materials that can be purchased from Greenbelt CARES.

Students have to be at least 16 years old to take the GED course. The actual GED test is given by the State of Maryland; students ready to take the test can obtain the application forms from Greenbelt CARES.

Questions and enrollment information regarding either GED I or GED II should be directed to Judy Hering, course instructor, at Greenbelt CARES at 301-345-6660 ext. 2016 or email [jhering@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:jhering@greenbeltmd.gov).

## At the Library

Monday, January 12: Chinese/English Preschool Storytime, 7 p.m., for ages 3-5, limit 20 people. This bilingual storytime includes children's stories, songs, rhymes and other activities in Chinese and English.

Tuesday, January 13: Toddler Storytime, 2 p.m., for ages 2-3, limit 20 people; and Thursday, January 15: Preschool Storytime, 10:30 a.m., for ages 3-5, limit 20 people; Baby Laptime Storytime, 11:15 a.m., for ages birth-12 months, limit 20 people; Baby Storytime, 12:15 p.m., for ages 12-24 months, limit 20 people. Encourage your child to make reading a positive experience by bringing them to the library's storytimes. Each program contains a mixture of engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Stop by the information desk to pick up free tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis on the day of the event.

### Starting a Business

Tuesday, January 13, 5 p.m. Join the Maryland Women's Business Center to find out what it really takes to start your own business. Learn more about the steps involved and discover the many resources available to support you.

### Read to Rover

Saturday, January 17, 2 p.m. Read to Rover is for children ages 6 to 11 and helps them build reading confidence while reading aloud to specially-trained therapy dogs glad to listen. Each child will read for 15 minutes. Registration is required; call 301-345-5800 for more information.

## Menu for Senior Nutrition Program

The Senior Nutrition "Food and Friendship" program provides lunches for seniors Monday through Friday at the Community Center beginning at noon. Meals must be reserved by 11 a.m. two days ahead so that enough food is ordered. Call 301-397-2208, ext. 4215.

All meals include bread and margarine, coffee or tea and skim milk. Menus for January 12 through 16 are as follows:

Monday: apple juice, curry chicken with brown rice, broccoli and fresh fruit.

Tuesday: grape juice, potato crusted fish, mashed spiced yams, herbed green beans, wheat roll and tropical fruit.

Wednesday: cranberry juice, cheese stuffed shells with meat sauce, kale, scalloped apples.

Thursday: orange juice, vegetable soup with crackers, open face turkey sandwich, mixed green salad with balsamic vinaigrette and fresh fruit.

Friday: pineapple juice, baked chicken thigh with gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, corn bread and peaches and pears.

## Star Party to View Comet Sat. Night

The Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will be observing Comet Lovejoy (C/2014 Q2) at its star party on Saturday evening, January 10, at the City of Greenbelt Observatory, located at Northway Field. Other objects of interest will be Mercury and Venus (for early visitors), Mars, Uranus, Neptune, the Pleiades, the Orion Nebula and other deep sky wonders. Visitors are also welcome to set up their own telescopes on the hill.



Observing will begin at around 6 p.m. and continue for about two hours. There is no fee. Attendees are asked to park in the ball field lot, not up on the hill, unless bringing a telescope.

The star party will be canceled without notice if it is hopelessly cloudy.

## CARES Offers Anger Management Class

On Mondays, January 26 through March 30 (no class on Presidents Day, February 16), CARES offers adult (18 and older) group anger management training, The Drama Club: Dispute Resolution and Managing Anger. The sessions will be held at the Community Center from 7 to 8:15 p.m. There is a fee. Certificates of completion will be awarded to those who participate in all nine sessions. Call 301-345-6660 by January 17 to enroll.

## MakerSpace News

The Greenbelt MakerSpace is seeking instructors to help with our next series of classes and workshops. The great news is that no experience is required! We are simply looking for people from the community to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for their special interests. Suggested topics include photography, graphic design for 3D printing, felted hats, craft supply swap, basic computer skills, garden planning, home brewing and more.

We're also seeking participants for the second Greenbelt Mini Maker Faire on April 18. We are looking for a variety of Makers to share their creations in science, technology, arts and crafts. Do you have a big idea? Form a team and get to work on it! Stop in at the MakerSpace to discuss your plans.

There is more information about these activities and other ways to support your community. MakerSpace is online at [makerspace125.org](http://makerspace125.org).

— George Boyce

## Co-op Supermarket Hosts Wine Tastings

There are wine tastings on January 9, 16 and 23, 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy a sample of Co-op's selections and save five percent on tasting wines. This month's Healthy Happy Hour is on January 14, 5 to 7 p.m. and will feature a toasty spiced citrus grape punch.

Visit the Co-op's website, [www.greenbelt.coop](http://www.greenbelt.coop), for information on this month's specials and events.

## Investment Club Seeks Members

The Goddard Investment Club, a group of amateur investors who discuss and invest in stocks, is seeking new members interested in meeting on the second Monday of the month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12.

For more information email [goddard@bivio.com](mailto:goddard@bivio.com).

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

**ACADEMY STADIUM THEATERS**  
 6198 GREENBELT ROAD  
 CENTER COURT OF BELTWAY PLAZA  
 301-220-1155  
 For directions visit [www.academy8theaters.com](http://www.academy8theaters.com)  
 Most features are \$5.50  
 all day on Tuesdays; add \$2.00 for 3-D  
 R = ID Required  
 (!) = No passes, (!!)= No passes weekend  
 \* Not part of the morning and Tuesday discount shows

**WEEK OF JAN. 9**

**FRIDAY – SATURDAY**  
 Taken 3, PG-13 (!)  
 10:55, 1:30, 4:10, 7, 9:45  
 Selma, PG-13 (!)  
 10:50, 11:50, 1:40, 2:40, 4:30, 5:30, 6:45, 8:20, 9:35  
 Into the Woods, PG  
 10:45, 1:30, 4:10, 7:10, 9  
 The Woman in Black 2, PG-13 (!!)  
 11:25, 2, 4:40, 7:15, 9:40  
 The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies, PG-13  
 11:30, 2:50, 6:30, 9:35  
 Annie, PG  
 10:50, 1:25, 3:55, 6:30, 10:05  
 Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb, PG-13  
 11:15, 1:35, 4:10, 7:15, 9:40

**SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY**  
 Taken 3, PG-13 (!)  
 10:55, 1:30, 4:10, 7  
 Selma, PG-13 (!)  
 10:50, 11:50, 1:40, 2:40, 4:30, 5:30, 6:45  
 Into the Woods, PG  
 10:45, 1:30, 4:10, 7:10  
 The Woman in Black 2, PG-13 (!!)  
 11:25, 2, 4:40, 7:15  
 The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies, PG-13  
 11:30, 2:50, 6:30  
 Annie, PG  
 10:50, 1:25, 3:55, 6:30  
 Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb, PG-13  
 11:15, 1:35, 4:10, 7:15

**THURSDAY**  
 Blackhat, PG (!)  
 8  
 The Wedding Singer, R (!)  
 7  
 American Sniper, R  
 7  
 Taken 3, PG-13 (!)  
 10:55, 1:30, 4:10, 7  
 Selma, PG-13 (!)  
 10:50, 11:50, 1:40, 2:40, 4:30, 5:30, 6:45  
 Into the Woods, PG  
 10:45, 1:30, 4:10, 7:10  
 The Woman in Black 2, PG-13 (!!)  
 11:25, 2, 4:40  
 The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies, PG-13  
 11:30, 2:50  
 Annie, PG  
 10:50, 11:25, 3:55, 6:30  
 Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb, PG-13  
 11:15, 11:35, 4:10

Utopia Film Festival Presents  
 Sunday, Jan. 11th & Wednesday, Jan. 14th  
 Beginning at 8 PM  
**“Under the Same Sun”  
 and “System Preferences”**  
 On Greenbelt Access Television, Inc. (GATe)  
 Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19 Channels

**Greenbelt Arts Center**  
**THIS WEEK ONLY**

**Julius Caesar**

by William Shakespeare  
 A guest production from The Rude Mechanicals  
 Directed by Jaki Demarest

Jan. 9 and 10 at 8pm and Jan. 11 at 2pm  
 Ticket prices: \$20, \$16 Students/Seniors/Military, \$12 Youth

**COMING SOON**

Tales of Terror: Poe's Birthday Bash - Jan. 16-18, 2015  
 The Renaissance Man Clybourne Park - Jan. 30-Feb.21 - Directed by Bob Kleinberg

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email: [info@greenbeltartscenter.org](mailto:info@greenbeltartscenter.org) or **BOOK TICKETS ONLINE** at [www.greenbeltartscenter.org](http://www.greenbeltartscenter.org)  
 123 Centerway • Greenbelt, MD 20770 • Located underneath the Greenbelt CO-OP

Send us your meeting notices or special activities for the Community Events page.

# Obituaries

## Elizabeth Kaser Maffay

Longtime Greenbelt resident and former member of the Greenbelt City Council Elizabeth Maffay died on December 31, 2014, after a nine-year illness. Born in Aalen, Germany, on May 20, 1928, she was the daughter of Friedrich and Paula Kaser.



Mrs. Maffay was first elected to the city council in September 1969 and served for two two-year terms. She also had written weekly columns for two county newspapers, served on the Prince George's County Consumer Protection Commission and was a den mother for Cub Scout Troop 746. For many years, she produced and hosted the annual talent show at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival and served on the University of Maryland's Summer Arts Series committee. Mrs. Maffay was also a member of the Greenbelt Lion Belles and St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church Parent Teacher Association.

Mrs. Maffay was a strong advocate for charter government in Prince George's County and served as co-chair for Operation Charter 1968 and as a delegate to O.C.D.N. Charter Committee. She actively campaigned for election of William Gullett as the county's first county executive. An active Republican, she was Greenbelt campaign chair for several candidates including former U.S. Senator Charles "Mac" Mathias. She was also on the advisory board of A.P.T (Against Poverty Together), an officer in the Greenbelt Republican Club and a chief judge of elections.

She was an early environmental activist and was a co-founder of CFPG (Citizens for a Planned Greenbelt). She also loved to travel abroad, enjoyed Maryland Terrapin Club activities and adored hosting her grandchildren. Mrs. Maffay was a charming, outspoken woman. She was a fearless and full of life individual, who cared deeply for her family and her friends. Most importantly, she was kind-hearted to all those she met in her busy life.

Mrs. Maffay is survived by her husband of 60 years, John W. Maffay, and six children: Donald (Heidi) Kaser, of Oberkochen, Germany; Doris (Dennis) Freemyer of Arlington Va.; Jonathan Maffay (Isabel) Graziani of Athens Ohio, Julie (Douglas) Erickson of Laurel, Md., Russell of Silver Spring Md. and Sheila Maffay (David) Tuthill of Greenbelt; and nine grandchildren: Michael, Thomas and Jens Kaser; Ingrid and Kurt Freemyer; Natalie Erickson and Jacob, Jeremy and Jackson Tuthill.

A memorial service will be held in her honor on January 17 at 11 a.m. at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church with a reception afterward downstairs in Grenoble Hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that friends consider a donation to the St. Hugh's Food Pantry.

## James Shanahan

James Shanahan, long-time resident of Greenbelt, died on December 28, 2014, after a long illness. He had moved to Cocoa Beach, Fla., some years ago where he worked as a bricklayer, but he always considered Greenbelt his home. As a young man, Mr. Shanahan was a dedicated volunteer for the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD).

He is survived by his companion, Joanie, of Cocoa Beach, and was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence Shanahan. He is also survived by his mother, Alverta Kennedy and her husband Buford; his brother, Patrick and sister, Margie Brunatti; three children, James Shanahan, Andrea Shanahan and Christie Wilhite; three grandchildren; his wife Debi and numerous nieces and nephews. A graveside service will be held at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Bladensburg, Md., at the Garden of the Last Supper at 1 p.m. on Monday, January 12.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the GVFD at 125 Crescent Road.



Condolences to the family and friends of Elizabeth K. Maffay, who died December 31, 2014, after a long illness. She served two terms on the Greenbelt City Council from 1969 to 1973. Special sympathy to her husband, pioneer Greenbelter Jack Maffay, and their children and grandchildren.

Condolences to the family and friends of James Shanahan who died on December 28, 2014. He grew up in Greenbelt.

We were sorry to hear of the death of Dave Spevack, who had been active with Mishkan Torah for 45 years. He died from complications from inclusion body myositis. Condolences to his wife Linda and other family and friends.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards and honors to share with our readers. Email us at [newsreview@verizon.net](mailto:newsreview@verizon.net) or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

- Kathleen McFarland

## Otter Program Offered For Kids at Refuge

On Friday, January 16 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. the Patuxent Research Refuge will offer a children's program, An Otter Tale, for ages 5 through 7. Live the life of an otter in this "otterageous," hands-on program. Learn why otters are so at home in the water.

Public programs at the refuge are free although advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887. For more information visit the website at [fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent](http://fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent). The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Md. 197.

## Councilmember Receives Public Service Award

Prince George's County Council Member Todd M. Turner (D, District 4) was presented with the Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) during their Annual Membership and Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, December 10.



COG Board Chairman Phil Mendelson presents County Councilmember Todd Turner with the award.

Turner received the award for his dedicated efforts over the past several years on the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) at COG. As a city of Bowie Council Member, Turner's leadership helped the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan gain approval. He also played a significant role in obtaining additional funding for state transportation for the region.

As chairman of the TPB and special task force in 2012, Turner's leadership brought together key stakeholders, including his fellow elected officials and citi-

zens on the multi-year Priorities Plan initiative. The Priorities Plan serves as a guide for agencies and surrounding jurisdictions to use as they consider new projects for development.

District of Columbia Council Chairman and COG Board Chairman Phil Mendelson stated, "Council Member Turner delivered constructive, consistent and highly effective leadership at a critical time for our region as we worked to comprehensively plan for future growth."

**ST. HUGH OF GRENABLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-4322



**Mass Schedule:**

**Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.**

**Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.**

**Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.**

**Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.**

**Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe**

**Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church**  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt  
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
[www.greenbeltumc.org](http://www.greenbeltumc.org) 301-474-9410  
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

**Worship Service 10 a.m.**  
**Friendship Dinner 11:15 a.m.**

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)  
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)

Sunday Worship  
10:15 a.m.

Glennycie Grindstaff, Pastor

**Mishkan Torah Congregation**

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-474-4223

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

Shabbat services: Friday evening at 8:00 PM, except 1st Friday of the month, i.e. family service at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services at 9:30 AM.  
Educational programs for children K-12 and for adults.  
Combined innovative full family educational program for parents and children.  
Conversion classes. Concert choir. Social Action program.  
Opportunity for leadership development.  
Moderate, flexible dues. High holiday seating for visitors.  
Sisterhood. Men's Club. Other Social Activities.  
Interfaith families are welcome.

*Historic synagogue dually affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation*

**GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Come worship God with us!**  
Sunday School 9:45AM  
Worship Service 11:00AM

101 Greenhill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
(301) 474-4212 [www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)

*Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community*

January 11, 10 a.m.  
New Words for Old  
Rev. Russ Savage;  
with Noel Monardes, Worship Associate

Someone brings it up every year: "I wish we could sing Christmas carols with the old words I remember instead of the new ones in our hymnal."  
The words we change are a reflection of what is important to us, and many words are changed not only in Christmas carols but in other hymns as well.  
Let us see what we can learn about ourselves from comparing the new words with the old.

**Catholic Community of Greenbelt MASS**

Sundays 10 A.M.  
Municipal Building

ALL ARE WELCOME.

### Hospital Stroke Support Meeting

Doctors Community Hospital will hold its monthly stroke education meeting on Wednesday, January 14 at the Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive, Bowie.

This free session will teach stroke survivors and caregivers how to manage the physical and emotional challenges caused by strokes. Participants may share experiences and offer comfort and empowerment to others. A team of professionals will provide information about stroke prevention and management. To register call 301-324-4968.

### Patuxent Employees Display Artwork

Photographs or other art work by employees of the Patuxent Research Refuge or Patuxent Wildlife Research Center are on display this month in the Hollingsworth Gallery at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Jonathan Male, Sam Droege, Joanna Lutmending, Diana Ogilvie, Jenn Hill, Dennis Hartnett and Dr. Jeff Hatfield are exhibiting their work this month.

They will be exhibiting works from personal travels and experiences.

### Refuge Program To Be Whose Clues?

On Wednesday, January 14 from 10 to 11 a.m. the Patuxent Research Refuge offers a children's program "Whose Clues?" for ages 8 to 10. Join an interactive program to solve the mystery of who's been roaming the refuge by reading tracks, traces and scat clues.

Public programs at the Refuge are free, although advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887.

For more information visit the website at [fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent](http://fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent). The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore-Washington Parkway and Md. 197.

### Holy Cross Thrift Store

Every Thursday  
10am – 4pm

Good, clean clothes for women, men and children!  
Shoes, jewelry, books, etc.

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6905 Greenbelt Road  
Greenbelt, Md. 301-345-5111

## FOR SALE

42x dual pack  
black toner  
for  
HP printer  
(never  
opened)  
**\$25 obo**  
(original cost \$475  
purchased 4/11/2011)  
301-441-2662

### Beltsville Garden Club Meets In January

The Beltsville Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, January 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of the James Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, Beltsville.

Featured will be speaker Kathy Jentz, editor and publisher of Washington Gardener magazine and a specialist in small space and urban gardening. Jentz will talk about Common Gardening Challenges, including poor landscape drainage, gardening on a

slope, planting in clay soil and small spaces. She takes a do-it-yourself, hands-in-the-dirt approach that emphasizes practical advice while not ignoring the fun and humor of learning from past mistakes.

Jentz has been featured in numerous Washington-area publications and she appears in regular gardening guest spots on television and radio programs in Washington.

She is also the Green Media

columnist for the Mid-Atlantic Grower newspaper where she does a great deal of hand-holding and coaxing to get independent garden centers, plant breeders and other horticultural businesses to join the social media revolution and maximize their online brands.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Please bring a plant or plant-related item for the door prize table. There is no fee and the public is welcome.

## GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE 1-800-RED- CROSS



# City Information

### GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday, January 12, 2015 – 8:00 p.m.**  
**Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road**

#### COMMUNICATIONS

##### Presentations

- Introduction of New Staff
- Service Pins

##### Petitions and Requests

##### Minutes of Council Meetings

##### Administrative Reports

##### \*Committee Reports

- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Open Forum Report
- Advisory Committee on Education, Report # 2015-1 (Grant Proposals -2015)

#### LEGISLATION

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- Draft Background and Scope of Services for Joint Use North County Animal Shelter
- Playground Surfacing Action Plan
- Referral to Advisory Planning Board – Economic Development Strategy
- Council Reports
- \*Renewal of Red Light Camera Contract
- \* Appointment of Councilmembers to Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Policy Boards and Committees

#### MEETINGS

NOTE: This is a preliminary agenda, subject to change. Regular Council meetings are open to the public, and all interested citizens are invited to attend. If special accommodations are required for any disabled person, please call 301-474-8000 no later than 10am on the meeting day. Deaf individuals are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 or e-mail [cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cmurray@greenbeltmd.gov) to reach the City Clerk.

### MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 12-16

Monday, January 12 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Monday, January 12 at 6:30pm, **YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE** at Youth Center Conference Room, 99 Centerway.

Wednesday, January 14 at 7:30pm, **GREENBELT ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** at Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, Room 114. On the Agenda, APB Economic Development Study Proposal and Update on Various Planning Projects.

Thursday, January 15 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD** at Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road.

**All meetings listed are open to the public. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.**

#### WANTED: WELCOME PACKET MATERIALS!

The City of Greenbelt will be compiling Welcome Packets for new residents soon. Local businesses, groups, organizations are encouraged to provide materials to include in these packets. Flyers, coupons, promotional items, etc. Please provide 300 of what you would like to include to the city office, attention Beverly Palau, at 25 Crescent Road by Friday, January 16th. If you have any questions, please contact [bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:bpalau@greenbeltmd.gov) or at 240-542-2026.

### LEAF VACUUM SCHEDULE

The City Public Works Department will collect loose leaves for the last time next week, January 12-16, 2015. We remind residents to rake the leaves to the curb, but not into the street, and to remove all sticks and stones from the pile as these can damage the machinery. All areas will be checked this final week. We also remind residents not to park in front of leaf piles. **Info: 301-474-8004**

### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Your discarded Christmas tree can be recycled. The Public Works Department will pick up trees at the locations listed below and process them through the wood chipper. The chips will be used as mulch around trees and flower beds. Please bring trees to one of the drop-off areas by February 6, 2015. A complete listing of tree drop-off areas can be found at

<http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/index.aspx?nid=361>.

For more information contact 301-474-8004.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Community Service Opportunities

In observance of the upcoming Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the Greenbelt City Council and the Community Relations Advisory Board join President Obama and others by encouraging residents to take part in community service opportunities. During these challenging economic times, the demands on service organizations are greater than ever. Throughout the City's history, Greenbelters have generously volunteered their time for the betterment of our community.

You can use the links below to find more information on service opportunities in our area.

The City's many volunteer organizations can use your help. A list of clubs and contacts is available at <http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/BusinessDirectoryII.aspx?lngBusinessCategoryID=35>

Chesapeake Education, Arts & Research Society (CHEARS) community service opportunities at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/chears](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/chears)

The online home of President Obama's "United We Serve" initiative: [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)

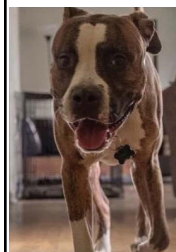
Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service: [www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov)

Download Greenbelt's Volunteer brochure at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1897](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1897)

### Visit our adoptable pets at the Greenbelt Animal Shelter

**550-A Crescent Road 301-474-6124**

Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm



King was an owner surrender because his dad's new home wouldn't allow pets. He is a 1 year old boxer mix, very smart, walks well on leash, but he can be excitable. King is looking for a forever home.



**FIND US ON FACEBOOK!**

**See our pets at**

**[www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/animalshelter)**

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, and Youth Advisory Committee

**For information call 301-474-8000.**

## NOISE continued from page 1

the last year. He said he hoped that solutions to the problem could be identified that night to solve it once and for all.

### No Complaints

Holt, who had also attended the 2010 meeting, replied that they were surprised when they received the letter from the city in September because they have received no complaints at all at University Square subsequent to the actions taken after the 2010 meeting with the city. She said their employees know to be alert to problems in that area. They had hired a security company that primarily looks after that area and they closed the club house to parties and events at that time. It is now used only as a fitness center. She later noted that closing the club house has represented a loss of amenities for their residents, since there is no longer a common space for parties or events.

Holt added they are aware that city police are patrolling and have responded to some calls and there has been at least one arrest over the years. At no time, however, has University Square been notified or visited by the police with suggestions that there are ongoing or increasing problems that require action. She said, "We want to help but we have to be informed when there are ongoing problems."

### A Worse Year?

Asked by Putens whether the past year has been worse than others, Betty Sonneveldt noted that she had to stay in Greenbelt for the summer this year, while in

most years she leaves town, and she was thus much more aware of what was going on. She said the limitation on use of the club house had helped and was appreciated.

Jordan asked Captain Thomas Kemp, of the police department what police logs would suggest in terms of activity in that area. Kemp replied that the problem at University Square is long-standing and that, like most such problems, it is not a constant but rather flares up and dies down. He said it always increases over the summer and officers did arrest two juveniles this past summer. The department has also initiated routine checks covering the late evening hours without finding much activity.

Jordan asked who exactly is creating the problem at the courts. Is it adults who are Greenbelt residents or people from outside the town? Is it residents of University Square?

Gordon Pracht, acting commander of the department's patrol division, replied that it is mostly residents of University Square and their guests. Since those on the court frequently disperse if they see police coming, the officers do not always know where they are from.

### Lock the Fence?

Councilmember Judith Davis enumerated actions that had been taken in the past: the closing of the club house, the posting of a sign with opening and closing times and the security checks. She said the fence along the

side of the basketball court does not go all the way around. She asked why the fence could not be completed so that the University Square security people could simply lock the fence at closing time, with employees reopening it in the morning. She suggested that would not incur much cost and could help a good deal.

Holt said they would take that suggestion back to the owner to consider but that she was not convinced it would be effective and would have no impact on activity or noise from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. She was also concerned that young people would continue to congregate in the area even if the fence were locked.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said he wanted a solution that night that would resolve the problem once and for all. He asked if a lockable fence and a sound barrier could be put up or whether the basketball court could be moved to another location. He said otherwise the city would have to start issuing noise violations.

Patrick May, senior counsel for Lerner, said there are no other sites on the property that would improve the situation. The only space is a location closer to Greenbelt Road that would also be near houses. He asked if the city had any underutilized space in the area that might work.

Councilmember Leta Mach said she thought completing the fence and locking it when it is to be closed seemed like the obvious, as well as least costly, first step to take.

Councilmember Konrad Herling said he was somewhat surprised to hear that the people at the court are mostly University Square residents or guests. He suggested that if that is the case, there should be a way for the management to control the problem.

### A Noise Is a Noise

Herling went on to ask Kemp whether, since the complaint has always been about the noise level, the city has dealt with it as a noise problem. That is, have noise readings been taken to see if there is a violation of the city's noise ordinance?

Kemp said, no, that would usually happen if a complaint was made to code enforcement but that the police were also authorized to do it. It was also clarified that the property owner as well as the offender could be charged with a municipal infraction for a noise violation.

Holt said that if police were able to identify offenders as being their tenants, they could then take immediate action. If they are not their tenants, they can be charged with trespassing. In either case, University Square needs the police to get the identification. Councilmembers agreed that the police should get names and addresses to be conveyed to University Square.

Davis said she hoped they would implement the extension of the fence and lock it, which is essentially no more than enforcing University Square's own regulation, which is not currently being enforced. She added that if Lerner didn't deal with the problem, the city would take other action, perhaps asking that the court be closed, which would be a disser-

vice to its residents.

She added that the police should be patrolling there since it is a known problem, not merely responding to calls, and that University Square security should do the same. She said she did understand Holt's reservation that these efforts might not solve the problem but that it was worth trying them first before going any further.

Councilmembers Silke Pope and Mach both stressed the importance of conveying information to their residents about the availability of recreation facilities at the Community Center, the Youth Center and at Springhill Lake, including open gym times. It was suggested that a link to the city's website be added to the University Square website.

Before ending the meeting, Jordan asked the Sonneveldts for further comments. Betty Sonneveldt replied that they were happy to see kids playing basketball during the day and that the police could confirm that they had complained about activity and noise on the court only between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m.

### Later Meeting

A week later, City Manager Michael McLaughlin and Kemp met again with representatives from Lerner and continued to discuss alternatives that would be both desirable and preferable. A full sound barrier was determined to be impractical and too expensive for first consideration. Fully enclosing the basketball court with a fence and locking it at night is still on the table, however, as are other alternatives that would eliminate full-court ball but include games for younger children.

# Detect breast cancer early—when it is most treatable.

## Schedule your yearly mammogram today!

Though early-stage breast cancer does not always have symptoms, some may develop as the tumor grows. Recognize the symptoms:

- + A painless lump in or near the breast
- + A change in breast size or firmness
- + Nipple itching, burning, rash, turning inward or discharge
- + A warm area in the breast
- + Breast skin changes such as dimpling, a sore or a rash
- + Swelling in the armpit

Schedule your annual screening mammogram at Doctors Community Hospital's Center for Comprehensive Breast Care.

**As the first such program in Prince George's County, we welcome appointments Monday through Saturday.**

Also, we provide an experienced team of healthcare professionals, all digital mammograms and personalized treatment options.



### Center for Comprehensive Breast Care

8116 Good Luck Road  
Professional Office Building, Suite 110  
Lanham, Maryland 20706

[DCHweb.org/breast](http://DCHweb.org/breast)

To schedule an appointment or request a free breast care educational brochure, call 301-DCH-4YOU (301-324-4968).

ASK US ABOUT OUR FREE MAMMOGRAM AND BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP PROGRAMS

# RECOGNITION continued from page 1

Brian Townsend, Public Works; and Jeff Williams, Finance.

Recipients of 20 year pins were Debbie Coulter, Mike Dewey, Michelle Moo-Young, Gordon Pracht and Beatrice Sullivan. Nicole DeWald, Craig Kayton, Randy Marks and Teresa Smithson were recognized for 15 years. At 10 years with the city are Christal Batey, Shireen Blair, Thomas Matthews, Alicia Williams and Jeff Wiltrout. Working for five years are Kim DeAngelis, Mary Johnson, Julie Magness, Jerry Potts and Carlos Torres.

McLaughlin also handed out five-year service recognition pins to two members of the Greenbelt City Council, Mayor Emmett Jordan and Silke Pope.

As has been customary in recent years, recipients after receiving their service awards from McLaughlin received congratulatory greetings from a long line of city council members and city department heads.



Mayor Emmett Jordan congratulates City Manager Michael McLaughlin for 35 years of service.

## Seniors on Stage Auditions Held

On Wednesday and Thursday, January 14 and 15, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. auditions will be held for all seniors ages 60 and older. M-NCPPC is seeking talented singers to audition to be part of the Seniors on Stage Show in April. Call to schedule a free audition. The site is the Prince George's Ballroom in Landover. For details call 301-446-3400, TTY 301-446-3402.



Acting Director of Public Works Jim Sterling was recognized for 30 years of service.

## City Notes

Facilities Maintenance crews assisted a contractor with a security camera at Springhill Lake Elementary School, continued painting the office area at the Old Greenbelt Theatre and assisted the contractor with running a gas line to the new air conditioning unit at the theater.

Refuse/Recycling/Sustainability crews collected 36.69 tons of refuse and 17.39 tons of recyclable material.

The Youth Center opened at noon last week to accommodate the public school's holiday schedule. It was packed with children every day.

Aquatic and Fitness Center staff reports their campaign was credited with collecting 128 toys for Toys for Tots.

## Mental Illness Support Group Meets Jan. 15

On Thursday, January 15, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., L. Barber and E. Bowles will facilitate a support group for family, friends and caregivers of individuals with mental illness at the New Carrollton Municipal Center, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway.

The event is sponsored by National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Prince George's County. NAMI is the largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Call 301-429-0970 for more information.

## CPAE Offers Kids Puppet Show

College Park Arts Exchange and Beech Tree Puppets present The Giant Turnip, a Ukrainian folk tale at 3 p.m. on Sunday, January 11 at the Old Parish House. This whimsical and humorous telling of a Ukrainian folk tale celebrates community and caring for the earth, with puppets and songs by Ingrid Cowan Hass and Ole Hass. The program is for ages 3 and up. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is suggested for these events, as space is limited. The Old Parish House is at 4711 Knox Road, College Park.

## Aviation Museum Ecology Program

On Tuesday, January 13 at 7:30 p.m. the Audubon Society and Patuxent Bird Club will offer a free program about Vernal Pool Ecology by Karyn Molines, division chief of Calvert County Natural Resources Division. Vernal pools are temporary, shallow water habitats that are dry during the summer and fall but fill with water from winter snows and spring rains, providing breeding habitats for frogs, toads and salamanders. Learn about these unique "big puddles" and the life cycle of amphibians that depend on them. Doors open at 7 p.m. College Park Aviation Museum, 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive.

These are just a few of the great buys you will find at Co-op this week!

Prices Effective: JANUARY								121 CENTERWAY-ROOSEVELT CENTER GREENBELT, MARYLAND		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S		Visit us online at <a href="http://www.greenbelt.coop">www.greenbelt.coop</a>		
	12	13	14	15	16	17		<b>SUPERMARKET</b> Monday thru Saturday 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-0522		
18							<b>PHARMACY</b> Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. 301-474-4400 Closed Sunday		Supermarket Pharmacy	

Fresh Quality Meat	Farm Fresh Produce	Dairy	Frozen	Seafood
Fresh Lean Pork Boneless/Center Cut <b>\$1.99</b> lb. Pork Roast	Fresh Crisp Apples <b>99¢</b> lb. Gala/Delicious/McIntosh	Dannon Assorted Yogurts 6 oz. <b>50¢</b> Fruit on bottom/Light & Fit	Banquet Assorted Dinners 5.75-10.5 oz. <b>\$1.00</b> Classic	Fresh Catch Flounder Fillets <b>\$5.99</b> lb.
Frozen Self-Basting Turkey Breasts <b>\$1.49</b> lb.	Fresh Broccoli Crowns <b>\$1.69</b> lb.	Minute Maid Orange Juice Assorted 59 oz. <b>\$2.00</b>	Breyer's Ice Cream Assorted 1.5 qt. <b>\$3.50</b>	Sea Best Frozen Tilapia Fillets <b>\$3.99</b> lb.
Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef <b>\$3.99</b> lb.	Florida Red Ripe Strawberries 1 lb. <b>\$2.50</b>	Shurfine Cottage Cheese Assorted 16 oz. <b>\$2.50</b>	Lean Cuisine Assorted Classic Entrees 6-11.75 oz. <b>\$2.25</b>	E-Z Peel Frozen Shrimp 31-40 Ct. Extra Large 1 lb. <b>\$6.99</b>
Grocery Bargains			Grocery Bargains	
Domino Granulated Sugar 4 lb. bag <b>\$2.00</b>	Maxwell House Regular Ground Coffee Select Varieties 10.5-11.5 oz. <b>\$2.99</b>		Shurfine Assorted Spaghetti or Macaroni 12-16 oz. <b>\$1.00</b>	Chicken of the Sea Chunk Light Tuna 5 oz. <b>88¢</b>
Peter Pan Peanut Butter 16.3 oz. <b>\$2.00</b>	Shurfine Original Chicken Noodle or Tomato Soup Select Varieties 10.5-10.75 oz. <b>50¢</b>	ERA Liquid 2X Laundry Detergent 50 oz. <b>\$3.88</b>	Thomas' Assorted Bagels or Bagel Thins 18-22 oz. <b>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE</b>	
Deli	Bakery	Natural & Gourmet	Health & Beauty	Beer & Wine
Hatfield Cooked Ham <b>\$3.99</b> lb.	Fresh Store Baked Hoagie Rolls 6 pack <b>\$1.99</b>	Eat Well Hummus Assorted 10 oz. <b>\$2.99</b>	Tresseme Asst. Shampoo or Conditioner 32 oz. <b>\$3.50</b>	Natural Light Beer 6 pk.-12 oz. cans <b>\$4.49</b>
Deli Gourmet Mozzarella Cheese <b>\$5.49</b> lb.	Fresh Store Baked Cherry Pie 8-inch <b>\$5.49</b>	Lysander Gourmet Bean Soup Mixes Assorted 10 oz. <b>\$2.99</b>	Hall's Cough Drops Assorted 20-30 pk. <b>3/\$5.00</b>	San Pedro Gato Wines Assorted 1.5 liter <b>\$8.69</b>

Check out our **best buy \$avings** on thousands of items throughout the store. Look for the green **best buy** shelf tags in all departments. We reserve the right to limit quantities. No sales to dealers please. Co-op is not responsible for typographical errors. Other great weekly specials are featured in our 6-page full color ad filer inserted in your News Review.

# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltnet.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or [http://www.greenbeltnet.gov/police/weekly\\_report.pdf](http://www.greenbeltnet.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf).

Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

## Carjacking

December 27, 1:17 p.m., 9100 block Edmonston Road. A man operating an unlicensed taxi picked up two men in the 6300 block Patterson Street in Riverdale Park and drove them to Franklin Park. Once there, one of the passengers grabbed the driver from behind while the other man produced a knife and announced a robbery. After he gave them two cell phones, he was ordered out of his vehicle. The men fled in the driver's 2005 4-door Honda Accord. It was recovered unoccupied on December 29 by the Bladensburg Police Department in the 4400 block Blue Heron Way.

## Robbery

December 30, 5:35 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. A man approached a woman walking down the street and asked if he could borrow her cell phone. She dialed the number and as they were waiting he pulled the phone from her and fled on foot. He is described as being Latino, 5'6" tall, 200 pounds with black hair and brown eyes, wearing a green hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

## DWI/DUI

December 23, 11:47 p.m., 100 block Westway. A 22-year-old Greenbelt man was arrested and charged with alcohol and other traffic-related charges after a traffic accident. He was released on citations pending trial.

## Theft

December 24, 3 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A man who agreed to buy a cell phone from someone on Craigslist met him in the parking lot of Beltway Plaza. After showing him the phone, the seller took the money and fled on foot with the money and the phone. He is described as being black, 20 to 30 years old, 6 feet tall, wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

December 24, 3:58 p.m., 6000 block Springhill Drive. A woman met with a man to buy a cell phone listed on Craigslist. After she gave him the money, he grabbed the phone and fled on foot. He is described as being black, 20 to 24 years old, 6' tall, 130 pounds, wearing a hat, gray hooded sweatshirt and blue jeans.

December 26, 2:10 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. Unattended money left on a massage chair at Beltway Plaza was taken.

December 26, 3:20 p.m., 99 Centerway. Three unattended bicycles in front of the Youth Center were taken. They are described as a blue Mongoose BMX-style bike; an orange and black bike; and an orange bike.

December 27, 6:29 p.m., 6100 block Breezewood Court. A mailbox was tampered with resulting in the seizure of a package containing jewelry.

December 28, 3:20 p.m., 99 Centerway. An unattended wallet at the Youth Center was taken. It was recovered December 31 in the 100 block Centerway. Money, a credit card and other documents were missing.

December 30, 10:56 a.m., 400 block Ridge. A change machine in a laundry room was taken.

December 31, 2:05 p.m., 6400 block Ivy Lane. An employee of the Marriott Hotel saw a man carrying a flat screen television belonging to the Marriott out of the hotel. He then entered a dark colored Nissan and fled. He is described as black, 5'9" tall, 170 pounds, with a full beard and wearing black pants and sunglasses.

## Counterfeit Money

December 24, 3:30 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A woman paid for merchandise with counterfeit money at Shoe Show and fled the area. She is described as black, 5'6" tall with a medium build and a light complexion, wearing a black jacket and a red scarf.

December 26, 7:30 p.m., 100 block Westway. When a pizza delivery person attempted to make a delivery, a man came out to the vehicle to pay, using counterfeit paper currency. He then reached into the vehicle to try to take the pizza. The delivery person drove away with the pizza and counterfeit money and contacted police.

## Burglary

December 26, 11 a.m., Crescent Road near Ridge. The front doorknob was damaged during a break-in.

December 29, 7:43 a.m., 5300 block Stream Bank Lane. A microwave oven was taken from a house under construction.

## Vandalism

December 28, 7:28 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. A rock was used to break the bedroom window of a residence.

## Vehicle Crime

A black 2012 Honda CB Series motorcycle with Md. tag 20819Y was stolen from the 6200 block Springhill Drive.

Three thefts from autos involving the breaking of windows occurred in the 9100 block Springhill Lane (clothing and books), 6200 block Springhill Court (front tag) and the 6300 block Golden Triangle Drive (carton of cigarettes).

An attempted theft from an auto occurred in the 7800 block Mandan Road after a front window was broken. The vehicle was rummaged through but nothing appeared to have been taken.

Three acts of vandalism were reported. In both the 9000 block Edmonston Terrace and 9100 block Springhill Lane front passenger windows were broken, and in the 5800 block Cherrywood Lane a tire and rim were taken.

## Meat Vendor Cited For Animal Cruelty

Boonsboro farmer and vendor Daniel Rohrer, Jr., has been selling meat and other products on Sundays in the parking lot behind the Co-op for several years. In December 2014, the Humane Society of Washington County revealed that he had been cited on over 300 charges of animal cruelty and that nearly 100 animals in distress had been removed from his farm near Frederick and placed at foster farms. In addition to cows in barren pastures without hay, numerous animals without adequate water or feed were found in his barn along with the rotting carcasses and bones of many more.

Trial is set for March 4. Rohrer is disputing the charges. Each of 318 misdemeanor counts carries a potential maximum sentence of 90 days in jail and fine of \$1,000.

Rohrer initially participated in the Greenbelt Farmers Market (GFM) during its first two years of operation in 2008 and 2009. GFM board members contacted by the News Review confirm that they saw no distressed animals and no indication of maltreatment when they made their routine visit to the farm as Rohrer's guests. They noted that the market's switch to another meat vendor in 2010 was unrelated to the treatment of livestock.

Rohrer subsequently secured permission to vend in the parking lot outside the Co-op and then from outside Greenbelt Auto and Truck. He did operate as a vendor in the parking lot at least through December 21, 2014.

## Doctors Hospital Needs Volunteers

Doctors Community Hospital is currently seeking front desk volunteers willing to commit to four hours each week for six months. Opportunities are available daily from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. These customer-service-focused volunteers will greet and check-in visitors, comfort family members, answer telephones and provide general campus directions.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer, call 301-552-8001, email [mdudley@DCHweb.org](mailto:mdudley@DCHweb.org) or visit [DCHweb.org/volunteer](http://DCHweb.org/volunteer).

## Botanic Garden Tour On Medicinal Plants

On Tuesday, January 13 from noon to 1 p.m. the U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) will offer a tour, Medicinal and Poison Plants at the USBG, led by Beth Burrous, biochemist and USBG volunteer. Many important medicines are derived from plants, but too much of a good thing can be dangerous. During a walking tour of the Conservatory, Burrous will feature poisonous and medicinal plants growing at the USBG. She will talk about famous, interesting and sometimes fatal cases of poisoning by plants. See and learn about plants used to make life-saving medicines.

The tour meets in the Conservatory Garden Court. It is free, and no pre-registration is required.

## PARTY continued from page 1

Saturday night were not the fault of the synagogue but "the way they handled it [afterward] was very disappointing . . . no representative of Mishkan Torah came the next day to explain what happened or to apologize."

He said reporters from television stations 4, 5, 7 and 9 were in 12 Court the next day, January 4, asking questions about what happened. The homeowners did not know and no one from Mishkan Torah was there to tell them or the reporters.

A written statement from Mishkan Torah released January 5 expressed regrets for the shooting (see statement below). "No person affiliated with Mishkan Torah in any capacity was involved or present [at the shooting]." According to Dan Lowery, synagogue president, the hall was rented to an outside individual to

hold a party and synagogue staff was present and inside the building at all times.

Greenbelt Police Department Spokesman George Mathews released a statement saying the shooters were not located and the injured parties could not provide information to help with the ongoing investigation. "There seems to be no direct connection between the shooting and the synagogue."

One of the injured parties is a 16-year-old Laurel youth who received a wound to his right shoulder. He called a relative, who transported him to Laurel Regional Hospital. The other person is a 19-year-old Lanham man shot in the rear torso and transported by ambulance to Prince George's Hospital Center. Both injuries were considered non-life threatening.

Read the paper online @  
[www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com)



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(301) 474-4223

## STATEMENT OF MISHKAN TORAH SYNAGOGUE TO THE GREENBELT COMMUNITY REGARDING EVENTS OF JANUARY 3, 2015

Like many other Greenbelters, we at Mishkan Torah Synagogue share the outrage, sorrow and sense of violation caused by the rowdiness and violence that took place in and near our building late last Saturday evening. We add our prayers to those of other Greenbelters for the speedy and complete recoveries of the shooting victims. We hope that the perpetrator will soon be brought to justice.

A member of our executive committee, acting in good faith but on his own, rented our space to an individual for a "teen party." The renter did not identify himself as representing a commercial enterprise; he signed the contract in his own personal name. He told the synagogue's representative that this was to be a private event involving no more than 75 people. We now understand that apparently up to 200 people were there. At no time did the renter mention that this was to be a commercial party for which an admission fee would be charged. Unknown to us, the event was apparently widely advertised on social media. Not being attuned to social media, we did not see the ad until it was brought to our attention after the events had occurred. Had anyone on the executive committee suspected that the party would be of a kind not appropriate for a house of worship we would never have allowed it to take place. The member of the committee who signed the contract did check the name of the renter on a public court website and found nothing of concern. Clearly had we known the name of the organization that sponsored the party we would have researched it as well.

Mishkan Torah has been an integral part of the Greenbelt community since the time our town was founded. We appreciate the physical and emotional support that many Greenbelters have shown us at this very painful time. We are acutely embarrassed and apologize for any omission on our part that caused distress to our neighbors. To this end, we will donate the entire rental fee we received to the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. We have also adopted a policy prohibiting all outside rentals pending further review. We want to assure all of Greenbelt that there will not be a repetition of this deplorable incident.

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# PAW Rescues Pets, Finds Them Homes

by Julie Marks and Amy Bleich

The article below was intended to accompany an ad memorializing LeRoy, one of the dogs rescued by PAW. While the ad appeared in the November 13, 2014, issue of the News Review, space constraints prevented this story from accompanying it.

Partnership for Animal Welfare, also known as PAW, was established in 1996 by a group of local volunteers. Since its inception, more than 4,000 dogs and cats have been adopted through PAW. PAW rescues dogs and cats that are in danger of being euthanized at a number of shelters throughout the area and beyond.

PAW, which serves animals and people in Prince George's County, maintains a Greenbelt mailing address and phone number even though PAW is a "shelter without walls." PAW animals live in foster care or discounted boarding places and can be met at adoption events every weekend at local venues.

When PAW takes in an animal, the group ensures that it gets any medical attention needed, including spaying or neutering and all immunizations, and often much more. PAW keeps and continues to care for all the dogs and cats until they are adopted.

PAW is 100 percent volunteer based. The volunteers dedicate much of their "spare" time to helping the dogs and cats of PAW find new homes.

There are many ways to volunteer with PAW. One way is to foster a dog or cat. Fosters take in homeless dogs or cats so they can live in a loving home while awaiting their forever family.

Fostering has many advantages: it helps acclimate the pet to living in a home, it provides valuable information about the pet's personality to share with potential adopters and foster parents can start working on training.

Although the majority of PAW



Hansel and siblings.

walks. LeRoy was a PAW dog and Boverman continues to be an advocate for PAW. His amazing personality showed local residents how wonderful companions can be found in rescue groups.

Donna and Brian Almquist, also residents of Greenbelt, adopted their beloved Hansel from PAW. Hansel shares his life with other adopted rescue dogs.

More recently, Greenbelters Lisa and David Fall and family adopted their dog Chewie from PAW. When asked about Chewie, Lisa Fall said, "It was one of the best decisions our family has ever made. We love her so much!"

She added that "PAW is a great organization, and we appreciate the foster volunteers for everything that they do for the dogs, and especially for helping them get ready for their forever homes."

Many who have met other PAW dogs on walks, such as Greenbelt resident Julie Marks and her son Roger Mieras, also foster dogs for PAW. Marks began volunteering with PAW in March 2013 and fostering

in June 2013. Since then, she has fostered four PAW dogs who were later adopted to their forever homes. She is now fostering her fifth dog, Frosty, a samoyed mix. There is nothing like changing the life of a discarded pet and transforming him or her to a much loved member of a happy family.

As valuable as PAW volunteers are, PAW could not operate without many generous donations. One such fundraiser is the annual calendar, which features adopted PAW dogs and cats. To learn more about PAW, view adoptable pets, volunteer or make a donation, go to paw-rescue.org.

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Frosty 2

animals up for adoption are fostered, some stay for a while in rented kennel space until a foster home is available. For these kennel pets, volunteers are needed to pick them up and transport them to shows, handle them at shows and make sure the dogs get out for daily walks.

Other ways of volunteering include answering e-mails and phone calls, taking pets to vet appointments and, of course, fundraising.

You may know or have heard of PAW, thanks to Greenbelt residents who volunteer or have adopted from PAW. Many of you may remember Katrina Boverman's dog LeRoy. LeRoy was well known and loved by many who encountered him on his

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## RATES

CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 10 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 7 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$9.60 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$14.40). Deadline 10 p.m. Tuesday.

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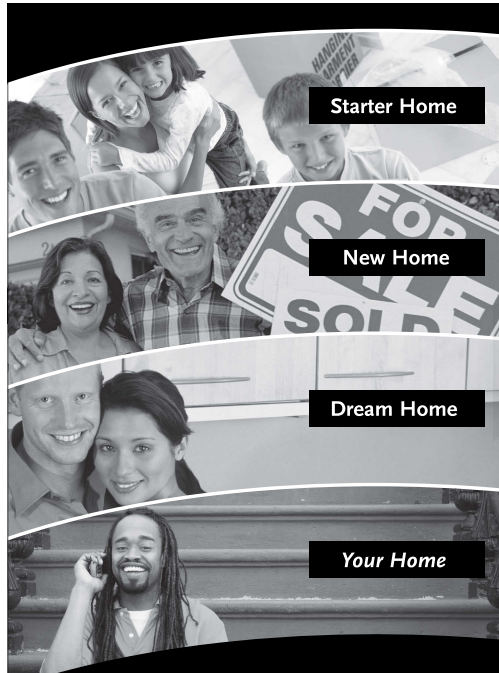
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PHOTOS BY SHARI CORNELL

Second graders at Magnolia Elementary School gather on stage for a photo at the Honors Day Assembly Celebration.

## Magnolia Elementary Holds Honors Day

by Shari Cornell

Magnolia Elementary School celebrated student accomplishments for the first quarter with an Honors Day Assembly Celebration. Honors Day is a celebration of those students who met the criteria for honor roll.

This quarter 173 students received the Honor Roll recognition.

The Eleanor Roosevelt High School Lady Raiders Step Team and Varsity Cheerleading Squad treated students and parents to performances. Among the guest speakers were former Magnolia alumni Miss Greenbelt Kristen Beauchamp and ERHS National Honor Society student Milan Marshall.



Miss Greenbelt Kristen Beauchamp gives words of encouragement to intermediate honor students and parents.

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**Honeymoon cottage** in GHI. Single-level living w/ hardwood floors, landscaped yard. You'll feel like you're living in a tropical paradise!  
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**GHI Cinderblock Townhome** - 2 BR GHI home with large, fenced backyard, 11'x17' Mast. br. Walking distance to Roosevelt Center. **REDUCED!** \$134,500

**Hunting Ridge** - 2 bedroom condominium with modern decor. 2 remodeled bathrooms. New washer/dryer, ceramic tile, etc.  
**UNDER CONTRACT**

**1 BR Lower Level Unit** - Everything on one level! Large fenced backyard with shed. Remodeled kitchen & more. Close to protected woodlands. \$63,000

**Large addition & More** - 3 br, 2 ba GHI townhome. Corner lot, large covered porch and opened kitchen. Library end of town; very quiet. Call to see now!

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**Hyattsville** - 3-Level Detached home - 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, finished 3rd in basement. Large landscaped yard. Addition & more. \$230,000  
**SOLD**

**One Bedroom GHI Townhome** - Landscaped yard with many perennials. Patio, shed and large, fenced yard backs to woodlands. Hardwood floors.  
**2-Story Addit. - Fenced Corner Lot** - 4 BR, 2 BA GHI townhome w/GAS heat, CAC, 2 fireps, screened porch, deck and multiple amazing features. WOW!

**Corner Lot** - 3 BR home with modern kitchen and hardwood throughout. Radiant floor, large bathroom. Enormous yard with screened porch.  
**SOLD**

**Large Floorplan GHI townhome** - Separate den on lower level. Remodeled kitchen with SS refrig. Wood laminate flooring & more. Nice! \$149,900

**Waldorf** - 3 Br, 1 1/2 Ba. Townhome with modern upgrades, large kitchen and newer appliances. Separate dining area with sliding glass doors. \$160,000

**Block Townhome - Attached Garage** 2 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, GHI home. Remodeled throughout. Hardwood flooring on lower level. Very nice!  
**SOLD**

**Block Townhome - Addition** - Remodeled kit. With s/s appls, granite ctrs, d/w. Cherry wood flrs, fenced yds, 1st flr. addition used as den/bedroom.

**2-Story Addition** - Nearly double the sq. ft. of other 2 bedroom homes, modern kit, large lr. Tiered deck, fenced yards with lots of shade trees. Nice!  
**UNDER CONTRACT**

**GHI Block Townhome** - 3 Br unit with upgraded kitchen, separate dining area & laundry on 2nd floor. Large Shed! Short walk to Roosevelt Center.

**Brick GHI Townhome** - 11' x 17' master bedroom, 2nd br. Large-capacity front-loading w/d in sep. laundry area. Laminate flooring downstairs.

**Corner Lot With Addition** - 2 br GHI frame townhome with front addition & cath. ceilings. Remodeled throughout, modern kit. & more. Large deck & shed.

**Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center**

## THEATER continued from page 1

the Old Greenbelt Theatre from 2006 to 2013. Cam McQueen, a long-time Greenbelt resident, will be in charge of corporate and community outreach and for an environmentally-based festival. Phillip Payette, also a long-time Greenbelt resident, will be responsible for the GCI website and assist with GCI surveys.

Mark Opsasnick, another long-time Greenbelt resident, will be responsible for producing a GCI music festival and assisting with other music-based presentations. Michael Fincham is a recognized documentary film maker, the editor of Chesapeake Quarterly magazine and a writer/producer with the UM Sea Grant Program. He will be involved in expanding the festival outreach of the Greenbelt Cinema.

GCI's operational strategy is to operate the theater as a "subsequent-run" cinema. Such theaters enjoy wider latitude in scheduling as well as the freedom to mix and match multiple films on a single screen on the same day. In addition, for subsequent runs, the split of distributor/exhibitor ticket proceeds is more favorable to the theater.

Subsequent-run theaters are typically able to acquire first-run films within a week or two of their national opening dates. Their proposed distributor would be Theater Service Network of Boynton Beach, Fla.

### Ticket Pricing

GCI's ticket pricing would have all tickets prior to 6 p.m. priced at \$7. After 6 p.m. a single adult ticket would be \$9 and the senior ticket would stay at \$7. If feasible, GCI would also consider a monthly Saturday morning or free matinee cartoon program for children under age 13.

GCI would also institute a Greenbelt Cinema Club. For an annual fee, club members would be entitled to reserved seating, some discounts for concession items, email alerts for coming attractions and the ability to vote for preferred films and special presentations.

Other marketing or promotional opportunities will include targeting groups such as residents of assisted care facilities, gift certificates and expanded concession items. GCI will pursue additional income through advertising, signage, rental of the theater and corporate, club or institutional outings. Their proposed weekly schedule would initially include 18 shows.

GCI projects its first year income at \$410,200. While no specific sources of income were presented, the proposal indicated that the first year projected gross income would mainly be derived from film ticket sales and from direct concession sales. Approximately \$80,000 is anticipated to be generated by festival and non-film offerings.

Expenses for the first year were tabulated and the total for the year projected at \$378,200, with a net operating income of \$32,000. The largest expense is payroll at \$154,000; remittances (for film rental) was next at \$114,080. The next largest expenses were listed as \$36,000 for concession/supplies and \$27,720 for taxes.

The balance of expenses (util-

ities, insurance, maintenance, advertising and miscellaneous) is estimated at \$46,400. One expense not listed is any remittance to the city for rental of the theater. GCI is requesting that the city hold that in abeyance for the first year.

In his presentation, Fincham said he would make use of the stage to provide opportunities for additional income from the theater. Councilmember Judith Davis reminded Fincham that the stage is in disrepair and that the theater screen was not movable.

Fincham responded that GCI would remove seats and construct a new stage for events. Other councilmembers questioned the proposed GCI selection of movies, the number of employees, first-year funding and how to build the audiences.

### P&G Theatre, Inc.

Paul Sanchez, president of P&G Theatres, Inc. presented his proposal for operating the Old Greenbelt Theatre. Sanchez was the operator of the theater for the past 23 years. He said he would continue to operate it as a commercial enterprise, screening first-run quality art films. If selected, he said, he would make the theater available to community groups during hours when films are not normally being exhibited.

As the previous operator, he advised council that under his management the theater had attracted 600 patrons a week, with over 78 percent of them from outside Greenbelt. He noted that the New Deal Café and the Greenbelt Arts Center are both community-run venues, and he sees a good opportunity for the theater to evolve into a similarly operated community arts enterprise. Nevertheless, it also needs to be run on sound business practices. P&G would employ a community outreach coordinator to work with community groups.

Sanchez proposes a contract for four years, with a nominal rental of \$1 per year. He noted that the city would receive the estimated \$16,000 to \$17,000 in admission taxes from the state. He would continue to show first-run art/quality motion pictures at the venue. With the nominal rental, P&G would upgrade its advertising and promotion program, create a new website and employ other social media to attract a wider audience beyond Greenbelt.

The theater would be available to community groups during times the theater is dark, at an estimated charge of \$50 per hour with a two-hour minimum. Classic films would continue to be shown on the first Saturday of the month, unless a community group requests the space. P&G will continue to make the theater available for film festivals (such as Utopia) during non-operating hours. The landlord (the city) would be responsible for repairs and maintenance of the roof, marquee, HVAC system and digital equipment.

### Community Uses

The P&G proposal expands on the possibilities for community use. The proposal states that the theater could be available for other uses on Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturdays it could be available from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The possibility for use on Sunday mornings would depend on whether the city or P&G would offer the space for church services on an extended basis. Barbara Simon of the Greenbelt Association for Visual Arts joined Sanchez in support of extended community use of the theater.

The P&G proposal outlines the following projections for 2015 income: box office at \$190,000 and concession sales at \$62,000, for a total of \$252,000. Expenses include concession supplies at \$13,020 and film rental expenses at \$96,900. Other operating expenses (such as accounting, advertising, insurance, payroll, repairs and telephone) total \$134,763. That results in net ordinary income of \$7,317 and a city support payment of \$20,000, which adds up to \$27,317 income for P&G.

In his remarks, Sanchez indicated some interest in the possibility of creating a separate space within the theater by the removal of some seats for an approximately 75-seat venue allowing for special presentations or programs.

Council comments and questions related to various elements in the P&G proposal, such as number of employees (five with a janitor), the clout possessed by the film companies vis-a-vis first run or subsequent run, interest in the potential second venue carve out, questions regarding the validity of P&G statistics on patronage by non-Greenbelters and the difficulty in providing children's shows.

### FOGT

Caitlin McGrath, president of Friend of the Greenbelt Theater, presented their proposal for operating the theater. A resident of Greenbelt, she became active in the past several years in discussions and plans for the theater renovations. Members of the FOGT board include Susan Gervasi (vice-president), Barbara Small (secretary), Chrystal Sanchez (treasurer), Alvin Gaycken, Meagan Baco, Frank Gervasi, Gwen Vacarro and Jo-Ellen Sarff.

For theater operations, McGrath would serve as executive director. There would also be a house manager, some part-time staff and volunteers.

The overall mission of FOGT is to provide an alternative to the multiplex experience and to become a center for film culture in Prince George's County.

FOGT would revitalize the theater as a cultural/social hub and maximize the theater's potential as both an economic and cultural driver. FOGT would create vibrant program scheduling of independent, art house, repertory and educational content through film series, classes, events and festivals. FOGT contrasts its proposal with the traditional for-profit business model which is not systematically focused towards innovative theater programs.

FOGT provided a three-year projection for revenue and expenses associated with their program.

### Projected Revenue

For the first year, earned box office revenue is projected at \$264,000 and concession sales at \$72,000. Screen/calendar advertising is estimated at \$12,000, creative revenue at \$12,000, memberships at \$43,000 and rent-

al of the theater at about \$5,000. For 2015 the total earned income is projected at \$421,000.

Modest increases in those categories of income are projected for 2016 and 2017, when the total annual earned income is projected to be at \$464,000.

Contributed revenue for 2015 is an additional \$100,000 from grants, a capital campaign, corporate sponsorships, in-kind contributions and individual contributions. Similarly, the contributed revenue is projected for 2017 to be \$214,000. By 2017, total expected income for the FOGT proposal is \$678,000.

For the same three years, FOGT projects expected costs and expenses. For 2015 concession costs are \$30,000, film rentals are \$106,000 and taxes are \$26,400, totaling \$337,600. Projected expenses for 2015 total \$264,000, including salaries, benefits, advertising, utilities, in-

surance and other expenses. The net income for FOGT for 2015 is projected at \$73,700.

McGrath had somewhat less rigid feelings about securing first-run features than did P&G Theatres, Inc. She believes other models may provide more flexibility for the theater.

Council had questions relating to the FOGT proposed budget, the educational elements of the proposal, salaries for paid employees and the role of the advisory board.

Following the presentations, council agreed that the three applicants should answer questions provided by council following the public hearing on January 7. Council will hold an executive session on Wednesday, January 14. Council anticipates that a decision on the award of a contract will take place at the council meeting on January 26.

*Happy New Year!*

*I would like to wish everyone a  
New Year filled with prosperity, good  
health, peace and much laughter.*



*Silke Pope,  
Greenbelt City Council*



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