



Firefly Sanctuary opens, p.7



Kyla walks with a Naturalist, p.12



PHOTO BY LESLEY KASH

On May 11, Library Associate Robert Thomas grandly opens the doors to Greenbelt Library which now boasts in-person hours. See story on page 3.

## Council Reviews Law Firm's Analysis on Maglev DEIS

by Cathie Meetre

At the Greenbelt City Council meeting on May 10, Councilmember Leta Mach moved and council adopted a motion to authorize City Manager Nicole Ard to draft a letter that presents comments on the maglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) from the environmental law firm of Jill Grant and Associates. The letter will be presented for council signature at the meeting of May 23, with Mayor Colin Byrd noting that the vote then would be final because responses to the DEIS are due the next day.

Grant presented a summary of her group's work to date, noting they were close to finished. She said that the comments were currently 200 pages. She sum-

marized by saying that the city's comments will address the enormous cost and inadequate benefit of the project, the extensive environmental effects and the lack of concern for environmental justice. She also noted the project's failure to observe existing laws or to provide adequate information and analysis on the impact on the environment and the communities affected.

She provided a number of specific instances. Under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, for example, the project has consistently failed to provide all the requested information, while data that they did provide was inadequately analyzed. The project, according to Grant,

has also failed to comply with historic preservation requirements and Department of Transportation regulations, among other regulatory constraints. As Grant succinctly put it, "So much disruption for so little benefit."

### Misleading Analyses

Grant noted specific instances where data are not just lacking but actively misleading, citing as an example a cost-benefit analysis that depends on ridership and travel time statistics to justify the cost. She also notes that although the DEIS is required to say how damage to environmentally sensitive areas will be mitigated, no such strategies

See **MAGLEV**, page 9

## ACE Presents 26th Annual Student Awards via Zoom

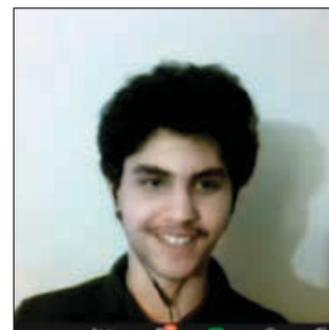
by Haley Kerby

The Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) welcomed guests last Wednesday to its 26th annual Student Awards where 12 students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements during the past school year.

The event took place over Zoom at the beginning of the Greenbelt City Council worksession. Maryland State Senator Paul Pinsky was in attendance, along with School Board Member Joshua Thomas, County Councilmember Todd Turner and Delegates Anne Healey, Alonzo Washington and Nichole Williams.

Melinda Brady, current chair of ACE, hosted the awards ceremony, starting by thanking the attendees and award winners for their commitment to excellence in education in Greenbelt, Prince George's County and the State of Maryland.

Principals and administrators of the six Greenbelt public schools were also recognized: Dr. Phyllis Gillens and Yolanda Cole-



ACE awardees Hashem Wahed from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, left, and Magali Ngumesone from Greenbelt Elementary School



SCREENSHOTS BY BEVERLY PALAU

man from Magnolia Elementary, Dr. Monica Gaines and Sharelle Stagg from Greenbelt Elementary, Trena Wilson and Andrew Karnes from Springhill Lake Elementary, James Spence and Sandrine Boukabara from Dora Kennedy

French Immersion, Dr. Daria Valentine and Shelita Campbell from Greenbelt Middle School and Reginald McNeill from Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS).

See **ACE AWARDS**, page 6

## Public Works Tackled Covid; Looks Forward to Future

by Diane Oberg

The Public Works Department has a wide-ranging set of responsibilities, including maintaining the city's roads, buildings and vehicles; implementing environmental improvements and sustainability practices; maintaining and beautifying the city's green spaces and outdoor recreational facilities; waste collection, and snow and ice removal, among many others. Department staff and the Greenbelt City Council met on April 21 to review the proposed budget for the department for fiscal year 2022 (FY22), which begins July 1.

The budget allocates \$3.9 million to this department, an in-

crease of 3.6 percent from the amount budgeted in the current year. Despite the department's active role in battling Covid-19, Public Works actually spent 1 percent less in the current fiscal year than was budgeted.

Public Works is also responsible for the city parks budget, although that is officially reported under the Recreation and Parks budget account. The \$1.4 million proposed for FY22 is up 8 percent from the FY21 adopted budget. Other department expenditures are reported in special accounts such as for the city

See **PUBLIC WORKS**, page 11



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

The Bodenschatz family is among the shoppers at the Greenbelt Farmers Market on Sunday, May 9. See more photos, page 11.

### What Goes On

**Monday, May 17**  
7:30 p.m. Final Budget Work-session

**Wednesday, May 19**  
7:30 p.m. Budget Work-session with Green Ridge House

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

## Greenbelt Metro Vaccine Site Changes to J & J on May 12

by Cathie Meetre

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

On Tuesday, May 11, the FEMA-operated Community Vaccination Center in Greenbelt stopped giving new first shots of the Pfizer vaccine. Beginning Wednesday, May 12, the Greenbelt center will provide Johnson & Johnson single-dose vaccinations and continue to provide Pfizer second doses for the remaining weeks the center is open. The center is currently open seven days a week and walk-ins are

welcome. Hours of operation are Mondays and Tuesdays 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. and Fridays through Sundays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"The Greenbelt Center has been an extremely successful vaccination operation, and we continue to encourage the residents of Maryland to come down and get vaccinated," said Craig Levy, deputy federal coordinating officer for FEMA. Reasonable accommodation for people

See **VACCINE**, page 8

# Letters to the Editor

## Open Letter To City Council

Honorable City Council Members and City Manager Ard:

It is important for members of the City Council to recognize their constituency. Former Mayors Jordan and Davis have always inquired as to the address of public commentators during city council meetings and work sessions. More recently however, Mayor Byrd has moved away from this practice which has resulted in confusion among city residents. If non-Greenbelt residents are called upon to speak on a topic or issue that impacts Greenbelt then it could give council members and residents a false reading as to support for or against an issue. In order to resolve this confusion, we support and suggest that prior to voicing public opinion on any issues impacting Greenbelt that those doing so first state their name and address for the record.

Thank you for your time and consideration as it relates to this matter.

Scott and Kathy Legendre

## Urge 988 Funding

May is Mental Health Month. By urging my public officials to prioritize suicide prevention, mental health and crisis care, I am hoping to influence collective change to support #MentalHealth4All.

Right now, individuals in crisis are able to call 1-800-273-8255

to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress and those who care for them. Soon, it will be much easier to remember how to reach the Lifeline as the number will be changing to "988" nationwide by July 2022.

Knowing this, it is critically important that states pass legislation now to reliably fund 988 and their state's crisis response system, just as we fund 911 and emergency services through small fees on our phone bills. Reliable funding will help to ensure all 988 callers can reach a counselor in their own state who is familiar

with and can connect them with local resources. Culturally competent support and local connections can better help all callers through their crisis and in their recovery.

Suicide prevention is important to me because I've lost friends to suicide. I have also experienced suicide ideation and have had my own mental health challenges. I know firsthand the importance of treatment, education and advocacy for better mental health.

Join me this month in urging your public officials to fund 988. We all play a role in changing the culture around mental health. Together, we can ensure #MentalHealth4All.

Li'l Dan Celdran



PHOTO BY MONICA MCABEE

A large evergreen toppled over during a recent windstorm. It fell on a smaller tree and broke it in half. This was next to the playground between 9 Court Ridge and the Greenbelt Museum. Nobody was hurt.



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Someone was very excited about the outdoor pool opening.

## News Review Pilots New Payment Option

The News Review is piloting a new payment option, Zelle, that will allow most of our advertisers and subscribers to pay their bills electronically.

Customers can access this service through many banks' mobile apps and online banking websites or by downloading the Zelle app. Customers should direct their payments to [business@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:business@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

For a list of banks participating in Zelle, go to [zellepay.com](http://zellepay.com) and then click on "Get Started." For more information, click on "How it Works."

We encourage our customers to take advantage of this secure payment system which will eliminate mail delays and, more importantly, eliminate the opportunity for check fraud.

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.



See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.

## The Greenbelt News Review Seeks Advertising Staff

### Duties:

- Record incoming display or classified ads
- Advise advertisers on ad sizing and composition
- Size and price ads
- Prepare ads for publication
- Check proofs

### Qualifications Desired:

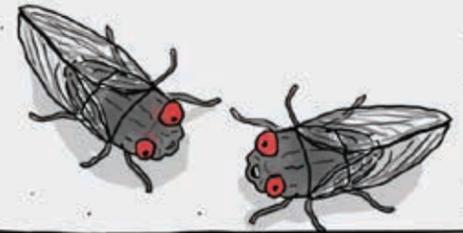
- Working knowledge of Excel, Word & File Explorer
- Ability to organize information and follow processes
- Ability to interact effectively by phone and email
- Attention to detail

We work in the Community Center at one or more of three weekly times. Monday and Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, 6 to 8 p.m. We take safety to heart and our large office hosts only four staff simultaneously

**Compensation:** GNR is a worker cooperative. Members receive dividends based on the newspaper's financial performance. Dividends are token payments only.

To apply: email [ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com) with a brief description of your qualifications and experience.

## Service or Garden Side?



Cicada School: "When the door opens, jump!"

B. Glee



## Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

# Community Events

## At the Library

The Greenbelt Library has entered Phase 2 with limited services, by appointment. Appointments can be made for 1 hour of computer use or 15 minutes of browsing borrowable library materials. Book appointments at [pgcmls.info/reopening](http://pgcmls.info/reopening) or 240-455-5451. Reservations can be made up to seven days in advance. Curbside service remains available (by appointment only). Hours remain: Tuesdays, 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 8 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Greenbelt also now has mobile printing available. More information is available at [pgcmls.info/mobile-printing](http://pgcmls.info/mobile-printing).

### Vaccine Assistance

PGCMLS offers an English and Spanish Covid-19 Vaccine Hunter Hotline at 240-392-3622 operating Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. The hotline will assist by directly booking vaccination appointments, adding people to vaccine pre-registration lists and answering questions about the vaccination process.

### 2021 Tax Season

The deadlines for filing tax returns or extension requests are Monday, May 17, for federal returns and Thursday, July 15, for Maryland state returns. The Library has a limited number of Form 1040/1040-SR (including Schedules 1-3) booklets and associated instructions in either English or Spanish.

### Read to Hatch

PGCMLS offers Hatchlings: Read to Hatch, a program for expectant mothers, through May. This program is based on the early-literacy Mother Goose on the Loose: Hatchlings program for parents and caregivers of children from birth to 3 years old and the Mother Goose on the Loose Goslings program for premature babies and mothers.

### Kids Achieve Club

The Kids Achieve Club program provides academic support through homework assistance and reading practice for English for Speakers of Other Languages students in grades 1 to 6. The program was created to support the unique needs of English learners to foster a love of reading and to provide academic support.

## ERHS Presents Spring Concert

Eleanor Roosevelt High School will present a Choral and Piano Spring Concert on Friday, May 14 at 7 p.m.

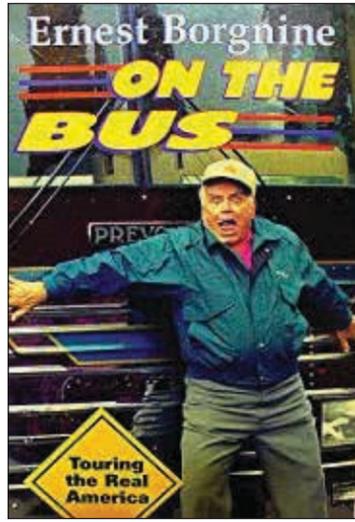
Enjoy Roosevelt's musical students performing live on Zoom. For the Zoom link, visit the ERHS web page at [schools.pgcps.org/eleanorroosevelt/](http://schools.pgcps.org/eleanorroosevelt/).



## Paint Out Picnic

Join Artist-in-Residence Racquel Keller to paint in Buddy Attick Park on Sunday, June 6. Sign up for one of two timeslots, 11 a.m. to noon or noon to 1 p.m. Participants may bring their own materials or receive a basic set of paints and supplies from Greenbelt Recreation Arts. Sign up at [www.signupgenius.com/go/paintoutpicnic](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/paintoutpicnic). This event is free.

## Utopia Reel and Meal



The Utopia Film Festival staff presents a trip down memory lane at the May Reel and Meal Monday, May 17 at 7 p.m. Visit all of the great D.C. area movie theaters, of which Old Greenbelt Theater is one of the very few remaining.

The first film for the evening is a short entitled "Twenty Five Cents Before Noon," which explores that bygone world once such an important part of our culture. Then, in the feature film of the evening, for some fun and adventure, follow Hollywood legend Ernest Borgnine as he tours the U.S.A. in the film "On the Bus," sharing highlights from over 100 films he appeared in as he walks the viewer through some of what played in those theaters gone by.

Relax with some popcorn and the computer in the comfort of home next Monday with the tour guide for this event, Jeff Krulik, whose long career of filmmaking includes the screening of many of his works on PBS, in festivals and elsewhere.

The Co-op Supermarket offers a special optional vegan meal for sale that day. Call 301-474-0522 to reserve.

Register to join this free film screening and discussion with the filmmaker online at [tinyurl.com/ReelMealMay](http://tinyurl.com/ReelMealMay), email [greenbeltaccess@gmail.com](mailto:greenbeltaccess@gmail.com) or call Frank Gervasi at 301-467-2418.

## Connecting Greenbelt

Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG) will be sponsoring a vigil on Tuesday, May 25 at 6:30 p.m. with members of religious organizations and other community groups in front of the Library and Community Center, Building Bridges to Stop the Violence: Remembering George Floyd and others. Masks are requested.

CAG is a multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of residents who gather monthly to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. The group is building multiple resources. The first is research-tested coping strategies for self-care and stress management called the Caring and Connecting Toolkit ([bit.ly/CAGtoolkit](http://bit.ly/CAGtoolkit)). Residents are invited to share their ideas and help build resources together.

To find out about the group's monthly meetings, email [communityconnectionsbg@gmail.com](mailto:communityconnectionsbg@gmail.com).

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

## Dem Club Features Delegates Report

by Konrad Herling

Sunday, May 23, 3 p.m., on Zoom is where our 22nd Legislative District representatives will tell us the story of a most productive session. Other states in the country are looking at Maryland, as our state legislature was able to pass a significant police reform bill. It also overturned the Governor's veto of the Long Gun bill, thus the sale of shotguns and rifles will require background checks. The legislative team of Senator Pinsky and Delegates Healey, Washington and Williams were also key players in passing the Dignity Not Detention bill, which prohibits jurisdictions from contracting with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain undocumented people in their local jails. That legislation may be vetoed by Governor Hogan.

Additionally, the state's legislature education bill, passed on March 28, was created in response to federal legislation which gives state education boards the authority to establish accountability standards. The Governor, according to the Baltimore Sun on April 2, will not veto this bill and will not sign this legislation (citing his concern that no funding was identified). Nonetheless, the law is now effective.

To receive the event's Zoom link, connect with the organization at [Rooseveltclub.com](http://Rooseveltclub.com) and RSVP as directed or use the calendar page as directed. Those interested in renewing their membership or becoming new members can do so also at the [Rooseveltclub.com](http://Rooseveltclub.com) site. Call club President, Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369 with any questions.

## Peace Officers Vigil To be Held May 15

The public is invited to attend a vigil gathering to remember all peace officers who have fallen in the line of duty this Saturday, May 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the junction of Crescent and Ridge Roads near the Police Station. May 15 is National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The vigil will also honor and remember currently serving Greenbelt peace officers. This local event is organized by Greenbelt Citizens for Public Safety (GCPS). For more information contact [RobertLSnyder08@comcast.net](mailto:RobertLSnyder08@comcast.net).

## Porch Greenbelt Food Collection is Growing

The April RUAK Porch Greenbelt food drive collected 592 pounds of nonperishable food as well as personal hygiene items from the three collection areas. All were donated to the St. Hugh of Grenoble Food Pantry. The next May collection date for front porch pickup between 2 and 5 p.m. will be Sunday, May 16 for Boxwood Village and Ridge Road from Lastner Lane to Research Road.

Volunteers are sought to expand Porch Greenbelt to additional neighborhoods in Greenbelt. Anyone with questions or who is interested in being a volunteer with Porch Greenbelt may contact Robert Goldberg-Strassler at [spreduak@gmail.com](mailto:spreduak@gmail.com).

## Theater Reopening?

After a long strange winter, spring has sprung and summer is right around the corner! Vaccination rates are going up, Covid-19 cases are going down and many are looking forward to a return to something close to normal. The Old Greenbelt Theatre can't wait to welcome its patrons back to the theater, and is excited to share the reopening plans with them.

In mid-June, once all staff have had access to full vaccination, the reopening process will begin with a series of strategic test screenings. These audiences will be slightly larger than permitted current rental groups and allow fine-tuning safety protocols and cleaning procedures.

## Registration Opens To Honor Caregivers

Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) and Dementia Friendly America Northern Prince George's County are hosting a free, drive-thru caregiver appreciation event in Greenbelt on Thursday, May 27 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Greenbelt's unpaid caregivers will receive 10 gift bags full of thank you items for their dedication to providing care during the pandemic.

Pre-register at: [forms.gle/mEvWPQxGA318qGhs5](http://forms.gle/mEvWPQxGA318qGhs5). For more information contact Katherine Farzin at [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov) or 240-542-2019.

## Some Simple Steps To Stop the Maglev

Are you wanting to take steps against the maglev but don't know what to do and don't have much time? Join Simple Steps to Stop the Maglev. Simple Steps, which can be accomplished in 10 minutes or less (most of the time), are sent three to five days per week and it is optional to follow them. Anyone wanting to join can contact Susan at [suzanbwild@gmail.com](mailto:suzanbwild@gmail.com).

## Ice Cream Social

On Tuesday, May 18 at 6 p.m. on Zoom, Maryland State Delegate Alonzo Washington and Prince George's County Schools CEO Dr. Monica Goldson will present a forum to talk about the plans for schools in the forthcoming period, including plans for next year. Topics will include safety measures, typical school days and the use of federal funds.

Also on the agenda is the Maryland General Assembly's Blueprint for Maryland's Future which the governor vetoed. Now that the veto has been overridden, when will the funding arrive and how does the legislation affect county schools?

Register for the Zoom meeting at [tinyurl.com/stateofpgcps](http://tinyurl.com/stateofpgcps).

A coupon for ice cream is available to those who register for this meeting from an ice cream shop in Hyattsville. More instructions are located on the Zoom page.



## Greenbelt Virtual Business Coffee

Greenbelt City Council will host a virtual business coffee on Tuesday, June 8, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about the latest happenings in and around Greenbelt as well as connect with other local businesses.

Also, during this virtual session, businesses will be engaged in a facilitated discussion about the tools, strategies and resources needed to look beyond reopening and recovery to long-term business sustainability and resiliency.

Space is limited. To register go to [greenbelt-business-coffee-june-2021.eventbrite.com](http://greenbelt-business-coffee-june-2021.eventbrite.com). The Zoom link will be sent to all participants 24 hours before the event.



**GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION**  
Friday May 14 - Thursday May 20

**TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!**  
<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey>

CONNECT WITH GATE ON

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE	CONNECT WITH GATE ON
7 am Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
8 am Democracy Now!	Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am GATE Classic Film ★★★★★ <small>Film Noir • 1945 An exceptional Noir</small>	Detour Tom Neal • Edmund MacDonald • Ann Savage <small>Directed by Edgar G. Ulmer</small>
10:30 am Strata: Portraits of Humanity	Exploring Human Cultural Heritage
11 am Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
Noon Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
1 pm Science Bowl PGCPs	Elementary Edition Judge Woods v Longfields
2 pm Music at the New Deal Café 52E2	Black Masala • DC Brass Band Second-Line Bhangra Funk
3 pm GATE Classic Film ★★★★★ <small>Film Noir • 1945 An exceptional Noir</small>	Detour Tom Neal • Edmund MacDonald • Ann Savage <small>Directed by Edgar G. Ulmer</small>
4:30 pm Strata: Portraits of Humanity	Exploring Human Cultural Heritage
5 pm Science Bowl PGCPs	Elementary Edition Judge Woods v Longfields
6 pm Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming
7 pm Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
8 pm GATE Classic Film ★★★★★ <small>Film Noir • 1945 An exceptional Noir</small>	Detour Tom Neal • Edmund MacDonald • Ann Savage <small>Directed by Edgar G. Ulmer</small>
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10 pm Music at the New Deal Café 52E2	Black Masala • DC Brass Band Second-Line Bhangra Funk
11 pm Democracy Now!	Today's Syndicated Program
Midnight Greenbelt Newsreel	Local Community Programming

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77  
STREAMING LIVE at [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream)

# Local Groups Continue Virtual CROP Walk May 2

by Lyn Doyle

Hunger persists, both in the U.S. and overseas. Throughout this year, the CROP Hunger Walk had to be virtual. CROP is the community fundraising arm of Church World Service which is an ecumenical agency fighting hunger and poverty since 1946. The Hyattsville CROP Walk began in 1981 with walkers supported by sponsor donations. In Prince George's County, Help-By-Phone will receive 25 percent of all funds earned from sponsors.

The rest of the donations will go toward hunger-fighting projects in the U.S. and overseas. Go online to see examples of the project.

Two Greenbelt organizations who walked for CROP on Sunday, May 2, were the Golden Age Club and the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club. Those interested in contributing can send a tax-deductible check, made out to CROP, to Judith Davis, c/o City of Greenbelt, 25 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD 20770.



From left, Crop Walkers Judy Parker, Lyn Doyle and Marti Galvin of the Golden Age Club rest after their circuit of Greenbelt Lake.



Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club Crop Walkers take a breather after their Lake walk. From left, Toni Mathewson, Lyn Doyle and Pat Wickersty

- Photos by Lyn Doyle



PHOTO BY JOYCE WINELAND

Lovely weather brings the fisher folk out in droves on Sunday afternoon, April 18, at the Lake.



PHOTO BY STEPHEN KEARNEY

The full moon lights up cicada netting at 11 Court Ridge.



In addition to our sympathy to family and friends, the News Review sends condolences to members of the Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club whose former coach, Ryan Lee Sr., and his wife, Ivania Lee, were killed on May 10 in a Maryland City shooting.

Condolences to the family and friends of Kennedy Nwabueze Ogbonna who died May 4.

Congratulations to Nathan Addai, Eleanor Roosevelt High School 2021 graduate, the recipient of this year's David Craig Memorial Scholarship Fund \$12,000 award to attend the University of Maryland College Park campus to study computer science.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY of GREENBELT

During the pandemic, we gather VIRTUALLY for Liturgy of the Word Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For ZOOM link:

FDeBernardo@aol.com

## Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

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

301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now. Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc. 10 a.m. Sunday mornings



The Bible Says...  
Therefore, to the one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to that person it is sin.  
James 4:17



Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11a ONLINE  
[MCFcc.org/online](https://www.mcfcc.org/online)

"Among the greatest of all services that can possibly be rendered by man to Almighty God is the education and training of children."  
- 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed

Sunday Morning Worship 11:00am  
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00pm  
Sunday School 9:45am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm

101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
301-474-4212



Greenbelt Community Church

Whoever you are and wherever you are on your Spiritual journey, you are welcome HERE.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
God is still speaking

This Sunday's Sermon on Facebook Live Sunday at 10:15 Scripture Being Fulfilled

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

## ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.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



May 13 10 a.m. via zoom

"Our Annual Spring Choir Service!"

The PBUUC Choir, David Chapman Music Director; with Special Music; and Worship Associate John Barr

Our amazing Paint Branch Choir will lead us in worship and music as they bring us their annual spring Choir Service.

## Mishkan Torah Congregation



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

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

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

**City Notes**

Street Maintenance/Special Details installed banners for 2021's first Farmers Market and Horticulture/Parks removed wind-damaged tree limbs. Refuse/Recycling collected 28.58 tons of refuse and 11.63 tons of recyclables, including at the FEMA vaccination site, and helped the Baptist Church recycle cinder blocks. Public Works extinguished smoldering mulch at the Aquatic & Fitness Center.

The Animal Shelter hosts four dogs, four cats, eight kittens and a rabbit, and the Dog Park welcomes 38 permitted dogs. Park rangers mitigated unpermitted group sports activities, including alcohol consumption, at Schrom Hills Park.

Recreation helped CARES with a children's Chalk Art Festival and, with the Old Greenbelt Theatre, presented another Moonlit Movie. Preschoolers studied frogs at the Lake. The Virtual Recreation Center features camps, family fitness and special events.

Community Center staff has safely provided over 500 contactless supply pick-ups since December, GAIL conducted a Pop-Up Thrift Shop and Therapeutic Recreation facilitated 39 senior meal deliveries.

**Community Church Collects Sneakers**

The Board of Congregational Life at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. GotSneakers has developed a unique program that asks communities to reach into their closets, and not their pockets. This sneaker recycling program helps keep sneakers out of landfills, which has harmful effects on the environment, and will send the sneakers to countries where the poor often go barefoot out of necessity. For more information about GotSneakers, go to their website at [www.GotSneakers.com](http://www.GotSneakers.com).

A donation box for sneakers will be placed outside of Fellowship Center, the small building behind the church, for people to drop off sneakers at any time. GotSneakers will pay GCC a varying amount for name-brand and off-brand laced-up sneakers with no tears inside or outside. The company even pays for cleaning and shipping – all GCC does is collect sneakers. "We know that most people have extra sneakers in their closets they would like to donate rather than throw away. An additional incentive is now raising funds to feed the hungry and help the environment. It's a win-win situation for everybody."

**Scholarship Open**

The Boxwood Village Civic Association offers an annual \$500 scholarship to a current Boxwood Village resident. It is available to graduating high school seniors and full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester) undergraduate students. The scholarship is partially funded through the proceeds from the Boxwood booth at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival, Annual Boxwood Yard Sale and other activities.

The application form should be completed and returned by June 30. A scholarship committee comprised of three Boxwood Village residents will choose this year's recipient. For further information or to pick up an application form, email Pat McAndrew at [pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net](mailto:pmcandrew@mzmlaw.net).



# City Information & Events

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

**VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR MAY 17-21**

Monday, May 17 at 7:30pm, **FINAL BUDGET WORK SESSION**  
Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TREES**, Virtual

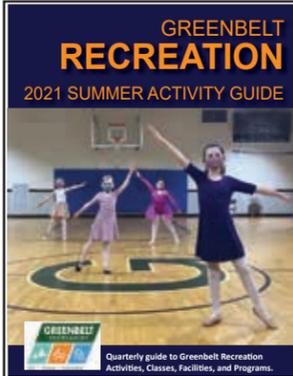
Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30pm, **PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** On the Agenda: City Council Referral Synthetic Turf Field, Beltway Plaza Redevelopment, Work Session – Advisory Group Chairs, and City Holiday Events – Inclusiveness

Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30pm, **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD** On the Agenda: Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan Update

Wednesday, May 19 at 7:30pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION w/Green Ridge House** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Thursday, May 20 at 5:30pm, **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**, Virtual

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



Greenbelt Recreation  
**Summer Activity Guide**  
Available at  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)

Registration begins on:  
Monday, May 17 for Greenbelt Residents  
Monday, May 24 for non-residents  
Classes begin the week of June 14, 2021

Includes options for all ages and interests. Discover seasonal special events, varied recreation facilities and classes to provide

opportunities for community celebrations. Learn something new or improve your skills in an activity you enjoy, all while socializing and staying active!

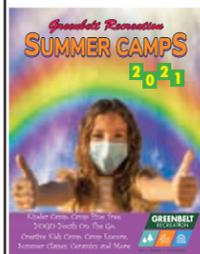
Visit our [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) or call 301-397-2200 for more information.



**Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center parking lot**  
**Friday, May 21,**  
**6:30am-8:30am**

The annual event traditionally celebrates bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, low-cost commuting option, and it provides both physical and mental health benefits. To make sure even those working from home can participate, we are encouraging telecommuting registrants to bike to their pit stop and then cycle back home to start the workday. The pit stop is a grab 'n go, contactless pick-up event. Face masks and social distancing will be enforced.

**Register at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org);**  
**Pit Stop Manager: Di Quynn Reno, 240-542-2053.**



**Greenbelt Recreation Summer 2021 Camp Guide**

NOW AVAILABLE!  
Visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center at  
[www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)  
Registration going on now.



**Free Produce Distribution**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 20 from**  
**1:00-3:00pm**  
Greenbelt Community Center  
15 Crescent Road

**EMERGENCY DIAPER PICKUP**

The Greenbelt Nursery Project is supporting needy Greenbelt families by distributing diapers on **Thursday, May 20th, 2021.**

Parents are required to bring state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate, proof of Greenbelt residency (mail from a federal, state, or local government agency which display their name and Greenbelt residential address). No walk-ups accepted. Please register online at

<https://forms.gle/giCpu6T7u1VYPz2Q7>

Registration required.

Time and location given upon submitted registration.

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on:

- Advisory Committee on Education
- Arts Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

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



**CITY OF GREENBELT NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

The City Council of the City of Greenbelt proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2021, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 4.1%, from \$2,158,720,987 to \$2,247,288,405.
2. If the City of Greenbelt, Maryland maintains the current tax rate of \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 4.1%, resulting in \$732,895 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.7949, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to offset increasing assessments. The City proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 4.1% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$732,895 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax increase will be held at 8 p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021, virtually via Zoom.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Public participation: Dial-in: 301 715 8592; Meeting ID: 870 1542 0497; Password: 736144

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call the City Clerk at 301-474-8000 for further information.

**Notice of Charter Amendment Resolution**

At its regular meeting of April 26, 2021, the City Council adopted a resolution to amend the City Charter. As required by state law, this resolution will be posted in its entirety for 40 days, until June 5, at the Municipal Building and on the City's Web site [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov). Copies may also be requested of the City Clerk. It will become effective on June 15, 2021, unless a proper petition to submit the amendment to the voters on a referendum is filed as permitted by law. As also required by state law, this notice is given to provide a fair summary of the resolution.

Charter Amendment Resolution Number 2021-1 (Resolution Number 2091) A Resolution of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, to Amend Section 2 of the Charter of the City of Greenbelt, to amend Section 27 titled "Absentee Voting" by replacing with "Mail-In Voting" of the Greenbelt City Charter.

Purpose: To amend the City Charter to replace absentee voting with mail-in voting. Mail-in voting would allow voters to request a ballot (no reasons needed) to vote in the upcoming 2021 Council Election. However, the voters will still have the option to participate in early voting or in-person voting on Election Day.

For more information, please contact the City Clerk at 301-474-3870 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov)

**Follow @cityofgreenbelt on Facebook and Twitter**

## ACE AWARDS continued from page 1

The awards were presented to the students by the ACE liaisons of their respective schools. These members include Gordon Gainer, vice-chair of ACE, Don Rich, Janet Mirsky, Kate McIlhenny, Veronica Martin-Alston and Jon Gardner. There are three other members of ACE: Elsie Waynes, who was unable to attend that night; the liaison from the Youth Advisory Committee, Jackson Tuthill and the city staff liaison, Liz Park.

The purpose of the awards was to recognize Greenbelt students who honor the city's traditions of citizenship, leadership and academic achievement. The Student Awards complement the Educator Awards, which ACE presented to teachers and staff members from Greenbelt schools in March.

The honored students all received certificates of recognition from the city, the county and the state. From ACE, each of the elementary and middle school students received a \$25 gift card and the graduating ERHS winners each received a \$2,500 scholarship.

### Magnolia Elementary

The first 2021 ACE student award winner was from Magnolia Elementary School. Fifth grader Brianna Obeng Agyei was recognized as an exemplary Talented and Gifted (TAG) scholar in all subjects. Jelani Thomas-Kamara was also recognized from Magnolia as an ACE award recipient.

### Greenbelt Elementary

The next recipient was Vincent Oseafiana from Greenbelt Elementary School, described as a wonderfully ambitious and capable student who consistently demonstrates strong, positive personal values and sets an excellent example for other students. Also awarded from Greenbelt Elementary was Magali Ngumesone. After being introduced and awarded, Ngumesone gave a speech about her gratitude in receiving this award. "I'm so truly honored . . . your outstanding and meaningful action has sparked a chain reaction in me to excel even better in the future."

### Springhill Lake Elementary

Awarded from Springhill Lake Elementary was Zainab Ahmad. ACE member Mirsky described Ahmad as not only dedicated to doing the absolute best she can in all areas of her academic life, but as doing so with grace, kindness and a deep love of creativity. The next winner from Springhill Lake was Jaleel Le'Sueur, described as a supportive classmate throughout the virtual learning experience who helps create a positive, cooperative environment and is always willing to offer help to teachers and peers.

### French Immersion

The award winner from Dora Kennedy French Immersion was 8th grader Caitlin Anderson, who has proven her ability to complete tasks with favorable results, despite distance learning. Anderson always attends virtual classes prepared to face the challenges of the day and does so with poise, grace and enthusiasm even through these challenging times.

### Greenbelt Middle

From Greenbelt Middle School, Chianugo Okeke and Trinity Morgan were both awarded. ACE member Martin-Alston said Okeke "has an unwavering commitment to academic excellence and community outreach"



Eleanor Roosevelt High School ACE awardees Jennifer Onoha, left, and Tyler Zeigler



SCREENSHOTS BY BEVERLY PALAU

and said of Morgan, "She is a true leader in and out of the classroom. Not only has Trinity excelled academically, she is also active within her community doing wonderful things."

### Roosevelt High

The final three awards were given to students from ERHS. Tyler Zeigler, a young woman of exemplary character and a Girl Scout for 11 years, maintained honor roll grades throughout high school. ACE presented Zeigler with a \$2,500 educational scholarship in recognition of her accomplishments and to contribute to her future endeavors.

Jennifer Onoha, a senior in ERHS's highly selective and academically demanding Science and Technology Center, is a member of the Debate Team; Girls Varsity Cheerleading Squad; Truth, Love and Character Club; Young Women's Christian Association, a young women's empowerment group; and the Spanish Honor Society. She also received a \$2,500 educational scholarship in recognition of her accomplishments and to contribute to her future endeavors.

The final award given was the Delegate's Award, presented by Delegate Anne Healey. The award was presented to Hashem Wahed from ERHS. Healey described Wahed as a person who values hard work, follow-through, getting the job done and doing it to the best of his ability. A passionate, curious, ambitious and industrious student, Wahed also values education and does not take that privilege for granted. "It's the most important thing in his life," said Healey. Wahed was awarded a \$500 Scholarship to help him in future studies. Wahed said he was shocked when he first found out he had received this award. "I was working hard, getting my grades up . . . I never really expected someone to notice but apparently I was wrong." He also thanked his mother for always instilling such a strong value of education and hard work in him and all the faculty at ERHS who helped motivate him.

*Haley Kerby is a University of Maryland Journalism student writing for the News Review.*



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[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

## GATe Elects Its New Board: Old Friends and New Faces

by John Campanile

The Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) board elected officers for the 2021/22 term during a special meeting held on April 27.

By unanimous votes by the board, the officers are: Frank Gervasi, president; Ric Gordon, vice-president; Claude Aubert, secretary; and John Campanile, treasurer.

Two new board members were elected during GATe's annual meeting on April 18: Rebecca Holober and Nelea "Lea" Johnson, who were officially welcomed by the entire GATe board.

Holober worked for the Food and Drug Administration as an educational and project management specialist. She has been a member and volunteer with the Utopia Film Festival for many years. Holober plans to use her educational and management background to help develop GATe.

Johnson is currently employed by the City of Glenarden as an executive assistant to their city manager and mayor. She has obtained a Contracts Law II certificate from Yale University and is seeking her degree in business administration from the Univer-

sity of Maryland Global Campus. Johnson has taken editing classes from GATe. A comedy script of hers was a semi-finalist in the Los Angeles Film Festival.

Aubert, who is currently serving as secretary, is returning for his third term on the board. Aubert envisioned and created the Rose Award Contest to increase community involvement. He believes he can help GATe become a more professional organization through collaboratively improving policies and procedures.

Gervasi outlined GATe's mission: "To educate Greenbelt residents with our content and through our classes. We also teach those who are interested in how to produce videos so everyone can tell their stories on television or the internet."

Gordon added: "Through the avenue of GATe, Greenbelters can learn of each other no matter what part of Greenbelt you live in. And we can use GATe to continue to find the common ground and learn from each other."

GATe is available on Verizon channel 19 and Comcast channel 77 or everywhere at [GreenbeltAccessTV.org](http://GreenbeltAccessTV.org).

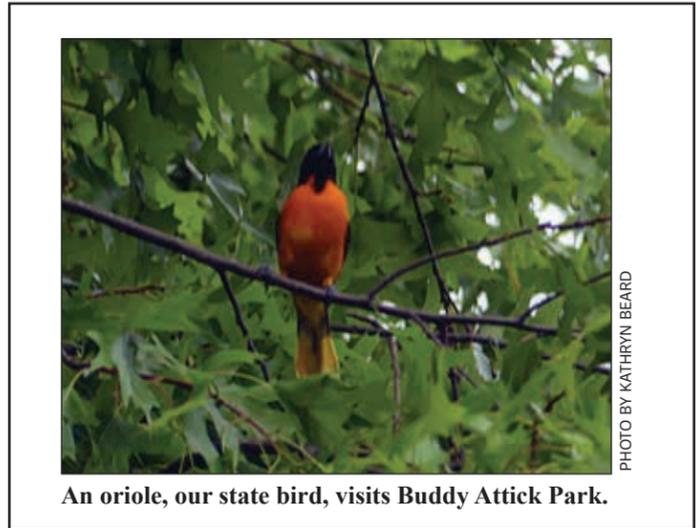


PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

An oriole, our state bird, visits Buddy Attick Park.

# Join Us In Celebrating Fair Trade Month!

Something for Everyone!

[www.greenbelt.coop](http://www.greenbelt.coop)

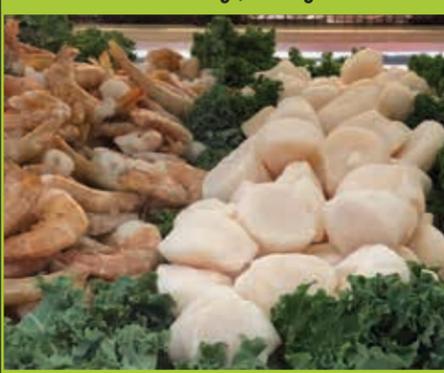
Greenbelt

## COOP

Supermarket Pharmacy

### Seafood Fest!

Thursday, May 20



**Cod & Salmon Fillets**  
**Live Littleneck Clams**  
**Pasteurized Lump Crabmeat**  
**9:00 am-6:00 pm**



# Public Safety Groups Move Forward with New Budget

by Matthew Arbach

The public safety budget was under review by the Greenbelt City Council on May 3, bringing together representatives of the Public Safety Advisory Committee (PSAC), Community Animal Response Team (CART), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) and Animal Shelter. Despite pandemic restrictions, these necessary organizations continue on with their particular mandates in keeping the city safe. As well, representatives of the Greenbelt Police Department (GPD) presented at the meeting, which will be covered in a forthcoming News Review article.

Laura Kressler, chair of PSAC (also Team leader of CART, co-leader of CERT and spokesperson for both groups), informed council that due to the pandemic, its funds for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 remain unspent due to a cessation of their face-to-face approach. Yet, said Kressler in a city memo, "the committee does plan to look into alternative types of outreach we can do this year to replace our normal activities," such as virtual programs. Their normal activities include National Night Out and the Labor Day public safety booth and information day activities. Kressler asked for a repeat amount of \$900 for the new fiscal year, which will go for educational materials like brochures, magnets, safety whistles and lights.

Kressler said that PSAC has come to the end of its review of Mayor Colin Byrd's Fair and Just Policing Act, a report on which will soon be made available to council, which Byrd said he was grateful to hear. Byrd felt that the new state policing laws will have a bearing as well and advised that council may need to move ahead with the legislation before the report is received.

Resident Bill Orleans and Councilmember Rodney Roberts felt that drafts of the report should be considered public information in order to stimulate the forthcoming debate. Councilmembers Emmett Jordan, Edward Putens and Silke Pope were comfortable with PSAC waiting to disclose its report until its completion. Kressler said that their process has been transparent, with screen shares from their open meetings available.

### CERT

CERT has 20 active members, 70 percent of whom are residents. CERT requests \$150 mostly for health supplies, cheaper background checks for the city's new identification cards and related trainings, such as a lost person class. CERT looks to improve its computer systems and assistance to the community and the police department.

CERT has been highly focused on Covid-19 pandemic-related response activities, including: grocery shopping and rides to medical appointments for seniors; staffing the FEMA mass vaccination site; assistance to the county's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), surge response and the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps, Prince George's County Unit as well as educational outreach ef-

orts related to the pandemic.

CERT has also been a significant part of the National Capital Region Virtual Emergency Response Team (VERT), an initiative spearheaded by its Montgomery County CERT sister organization, which includes 20 organizations and 120 digital volunteers.

### CART

Kressler informed the meeting that CART has 19 active members, 68 percent of whom are residents. Like CERT, CART has been part of many Covid-19 initiatives. The CERTCON 2021 conference held virtually this fall will enable CART members to train for "a real-life disaster response situation." Your Dog's Friend Foundation provided training in a wide spectrum of dog-related subjects like behavior, emergencies and communication between dog and owner. Other trainings were health-related, like Stop the Bleed and CPR for humans and animals. CART has been highly involved in FEMA training.

CART requested \$1,500, to be used for health supplies and improvement of their IT systems.

Kressler said that a CART disaster response trailer "is currently in the finalization stage," with its delivery imminent in the next few months. CART's goals include more emergency outreach and public-private partnerships, increased recruitment and training of members, and more effective notification systems and operating procedures for members.

### Fire Department

Chief Thomas Ray and Deputy Chief Greg Gigliotti summarized the budget needs and status of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department. In spite of a legislative error, the department still expects county money for a new fire engine in mid-May. The station is in need of interior/exterior repairs as well as a new HVAC run-stop control system. Gigliotti was unsure which of these would be a county or city expense and committed to research the topic. Ray said that currently the balance

for ambulance fees is at \$180,000 with council hoping it will be used for fuel and maintenance.

Gigliotti advised more of a city-led approach to creating a new fire station (a move to the location of the Armory has been considered by the city), as using county funds would exert county control over management and staff.

### Shelter and Dog Park

Animal Control Supervisor Nelly Ortiz and Police Chief Richard Bowers presented on behalf of the animal shelter and dog park. Currently there are two animal control officers, one for each of the day and evening shifts with another full-time and half-time employee being sought. Budget needs include a replacement vehicle, animal care costs and upkeep on the shelter itself.

Bowers said that patrolling of the Dog Park is the main issue, to make sure proper use and registration is being followed. Thirty Dog Park permits have been issued with a total revenue of \$400. Bowers and Pope urged residents to notify GPD of any improper activity at the Dog Park, with Bowers stressing that so far, no illegal incidents have been reported. The Dog Park continues to remain unlocked.



A snake rests in a log.

PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

# New Firefly Sanctuary Opens In Stream Valley Park

by Melinda Thompson



PHOTO BY MELINDA THOMPSON

Mary Ann Canter poses at the Firefly sanctuary.

In Stream Valley Park behind Northway, the new Firefly Sanctuary is now officially open. Tall green grass and a stream provide the perfect habitat for fireflies.

Mary Ann Canter led the group that wanted to add a firefly sanctuary to Greenbelt as a way to make saving the fireflies a permanent endeavor. She said that the main cause of the dwindling number was habitat loss and the sanctuary has been created to provide an open area.

"We let the edges go a little rough, so they're not mowing quite as much which should help the fireflies, and we've had great weather and nice rain," Canter said. "So, I think that we'll have a really beautiful display this year."

Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll the environmental coordinator with the Department of Public Works said that right now the fireflies are in the larva or pupa stage where they eat small insects and then burrow underground before emerging as adults.

"I suspect the majority of species will begin the pupa stage within the next few weeks and emerge as adults in late May to mid-June," Carpenter-Driscoll said.

Carpenter-Driscoll has been working on adding signage to the sanctuary telling people what it is

and reminding crews not to spray or mow the area.

The sanctuary is in a part of the park that does not have any lights.

"If you have lights, you have no fireflies," Canter said. "Because they can't see each other and they use their lights to find their mate."

Canter said in the future, she would like to see more signage informing the public about the stages of a firefly's life.

She also said that in the future she is hoping to promote firefly sanctuaries to other parks in Greenbelt where there are currently a lot of fireflies. She wants to work on outreach and the possibility of having an event to look at the fireflies and inform people about them.

As the summer comes closer, she says, make sure to mark your calendars for early June so that you can see the fireflies light up the night sky.

Melinda Thompson is a University of Maryland Journalism student writing for the News Review.



## FOR SALE: All Electric 2012 Nissan Leaf SL

Only 25K Miles, Excellent Commuter Car, Like New: Inside and Out, \$8500 OBO

Drive up to 75 miles a day and never buy gas again!

Details at <http://thomasbannister.com/leaf>



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9473 Annapolis Road, Lanham, MD 20706



## STEER into SPRING

Auto Loans with Rates as low as 1.65% APR\*

APR = annual percentage rate. Rates subject to change without notice. Rate based on credit. Credit qualifications and approval required.



VACCINE continued from page 1

with access and functional needs is available as well as onsite interpretation in eight spoken languages along with American Sign Language with Certified Deaf Interpretation and Sensory Interpretation.

The Community Vaccination Center opened in parking lot 1A of the Greenbelt Metro station on April 7. This facility has the capacity to administer 3,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine every day. In the time since the center opened, staff have provided more than 75,000 vaccinations to residents.

Register for an appointment by visiting covidvax.maryland.gov or calling: 1-855-MD-GOVAX (1-855-634-6829). Anyone younger than 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to receive a vaccination.

**Falloff in Demand**

The FEMA site, however, is apparently seeing at least some falloff in new vaccinations (see story on this page). The blaze of publicity surrounding the FEMA site, the highly accessible Beltway location and its extended hours may have siphoned some of the crowds from Cheverly but an overall drop in new recipients is apparently being felt at both sites.

It is likely that individuals motivated to be vaccinated and with the resources to get themselves in the queue have now poured in the doors. But a more flexible and imaginative approach is needed to reach the substantial group whose work patterns, language, immigration status, transportation issues, fears or misinformation make vaccination more problematic. Government at the state and local level seems to be moving in this direction. In addition, because facilities are operated by different organizations, coordination is essential to not overreact to the decrease.

**Boosting Demand**

Governor Larry Hogan recent-

ly announced plans to incentivize state employees to get shots and potentially other large government and private sector employers will provide work site immunizations or incentives. Schools could also be focal points for vaccination as the eligible age groups get younger. As an example of what can be done, the county health department recently held an innovative 24-hour vaccine-a-thon at the Wayne K. Curry Sports and Learning Center.

The county this week also launched an outreach campaign to bring vaccines to the reluctant, underserved or transportation challenged. The county expects to individually contact over 200,000 eligible residents by phone, text or going door to door. Greenbelt is not targeted for this activity initially, but most neighboring municipalities are on the list.

**Still Below Par**

The number of Prince Georgians (population ~900,000) fully vaccinated stands at about 250,000, with about 100,000 still heading for their second shot and 20,000 who received single-shot vaccines. This means that about 370,000 residents are either fully vaccinated or in the pipeline to be vaccinated as of May 11 (though officials at the Cheverly site noted anecdotally that second shot recipients had a higher rate of no-shows). That leaves over 300,000 eligible residents (not counting those under 16) who have received no vaccine at all.

**One and Done**

To bring shots to underserved populations and include those who are reluctant or fearful, the focus will likely be on using single-shot vaccines. The county has several health department vans heading out into neighborhoods to catch people in their place of work or worship, while shopping or at home but this is inevitably a low-volume (if essential) means of distribution and the one-shot regimes require much less logistical support.

*A Volunteer's View*

# Manning Vaccination Clinics

by Cathie Meetre

As a Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps volunteer, I have been assigned to both an outdoor Covid-19 testing site in Hyattsville (in February, brrrr...) and more recently to the vaccination clinic at Prince George's Health Department in Cheverly, just across from the Prince George's Hospital Center. Both test and vaccination sites exhibited the same pattern. Initially besieged by those desiring tests, the Hyattsville test site's attendance dwindled from about 200 tests per day with cars overflowing the parking lot, to a handful until it was closed. The health department site seems to be headed in the same direction. (See also the story on page 1 relating to the scheduled change in services at the Greenbelt Metro FEMA vax site.)

The Cheverly facility is operating well below capacity. Volunteers who had served there since it opened said that the first several weeks they were constantly on the run. Every seat in the extensive facility was full and the line stretched around the building. This was not a walk-up clinic – everybody had an appointment and they were still bursting at the seams. At the peak in mid-March to mid-April, they were vaccinating about 600 individuals per day with 11 rooms each vaccinating non-stop.

**Demand Is Down**

Fast forward to Thursday, May 6, when I was scheduled at Cheverly for the first time. The facility had only 60 appointments scheduled for the whole day, meaning over 500 potential appointments were going begging. Volunteers were twiddling their thumbs and though vaccination rooms were down to six, nurses were popping out of their quarters questing for arms to stick.

**Vaccine Batches**

When people had to wait, it wasn't because of the crowds, it was so that a vial of vaccine that served six people (Pfizer) or 11 people (Moderna) could be guaranteed to be completely used up without waste during its span of viability or by the end of the day. With the low turnout, sometimes it was nearly two hours before a quorum was assembled – resulting in the last arrival for the vial getting his or her vaccination immediately while others with earlier appointments waited for an



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

An empty waiting room at Prince George's County Health Department indicates the drop in demand for vaccinations.

hour or more, despite efforts by staff calling recipients to come in earlier than scheduled.

Pfizer vaccine was in plentiful supply, but the word was that Moderna was running low. There were fewer Moderna second-shot patients coming in so several were rescheduled to other days to avoid opening a new vial. For some Moderna recipients, this was not their first rescheduling.

**Hold 'em or Fold 'em**

At the very end of the day, the receptionist phoned a patient to confirm he was arriving shortly because he was the last person needed to liberate a vial of Pfizer vaccine – for which five other people had been patiently waiting quite a while. He said, "Yes, I'm already here – just coming in." So the vial was opened and shots commenced. When his name was called, however, he was nowhere to be found. A second phone call established (with some difficulty) that he was, in fact, just signing in at the Sports and Fitness Center clinic about 10 minutes away – the wrong "here."

But it's a cliff-hanger. Did he use up the last shot? Did a shot go to waste? Did he stay at Sports and Fitness? Only The Shadow knows – because I went home.

The Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps is the state branch of a national organization that provides trained volunteers to assist in disasters or emergencies.

Though some of the volunteers are medically trained, many do ancillary tasks like registration or running supplies. Appropriate just-in-time training is provided as well as classes and simulations that equip volunteers with relevant skills. To learn more, go to [mdresponds.health.maryland.gov](https://mdresponds.health.maryland.gov).



PHOTO BY JOHANNA GODERRE

Ranunculus



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COMPASS

# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
 Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

### Carjacking

April 30, 11:27 p.m., 9100 block Springhill Lane. A man approached another man who was getting into his vehicle and pushed him, produced a handgun and demanded the car keys. He then fled in the vehicle, a blue 2015 Toyota RAV 4 SUV with Maryland tags 7EM9301.

### Shooting

May 3, 1:25 p.m., 6411 Ivy Lane. Officers responded to a report of the sound of gunshots. No one having been shot was located, but evidence of shots being fired was found. A short time later three adults walked into a local hospital suffering from non-life-threatening gunshot wounds. There is no information at this time about who the shooter might be. An investigation is ongoing.

### Assault

April 29, 9:01 a.m., 9109 Springhill Lane. Two men were involved in a verbal altercation when one of them displayed a handgun and threatened the other person. One of the men then fled on foot in the company of another person.

May 4, 8:50 a.m., 7400 block Greenway Center Drive. Two women were involved in a traffic altercation when one of the motorists exited her vehicle and allegedly sprayed the other woman's vehicle with what she believed to be pepper spray. They were advised to obtain warrants.

### Fraud

May 1, 5 p.m., 100 block Northway. A man put a letter containing a check in the U.S. Postal Service mailbox at Hillside Road and Northway on March 10. Unknown person(s) gained possession of it, altered the amount and the name of the payee, and deposited the check into a bank account.

### Theft

April 30, 11:21 a.m., 7415 Greenbelt Road. A credit card was taken after a locker at LA Fitness was broken into. It was used later to make unauthorized purchases.

### Trespassing

April 30, 11:27 a.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A non-resident man was arrested and charged with trespassing after he was found on the grounds of Beltway Plaza after having been banned from the mall by agents of the property. He was released on citation pending trial.

### Vandalism

May 3, 6:28 p.m., 5921 Cherrywood Terrace. A man saw a juvenile use a rock to break out the bedroom window of his residence. He then spoke with the parent, who handled the incident.

### Burglary

April 29, 5:33 a.m., 7541 Greenbelt Road. A forced entry was made into Starbucks. It is not known if anything was taken.

April 29, 5:46 a.m., 7555 Greenbelt Road. A forced entry was made into Subway and a cash register was taken.

### Peeping Tom

May 1, 11:18 p.m., 6600 block Lake Park Drive. A woman said a man was looking in her condominium window. She believes she knows who the man is. An investigation is ongoing.

### Vehicle Crime

One vehicle was stolen. A black 2013 Toyota Camry with Maryland tags 5CR2213 was taken from 9342 Edmonston Road on May 3.

Four vehicles were recovered, two by Metropolitan Police. A Honda XR650LM motorcycle taken from Mandan Road was located in the 600 block O Street, N.W., in D.C. and a 2010 Honda Accord taken from the 9200 block Springhill Lane was found in the 2000 block Ridgecrest Court, S.E., Washington, D.C.

A 2005 Nissan Murano stolen April 30 from 8106 Mandan Road was recovered the next day in the 7500 block Mandan Road. A 2012 Honda Civic reported stolen March 7 from the 9200 block Edmonston Road was recovered April 30 by Prince George's County Police in Lanham. The tags on the vehicle at the time of theft, Virginia VMV2980, were not recovered and are still out as stolen.

Front tags were taken from two vehicles, one in the 9100 block Springhill Lane and the other in the 6200 block Greenbelt Road.

Driver side airbags were removed from four vehicles after windows were broken to gain access. These were taken from 7700 and 7722 Hanover Parkway and 7809 and 7821 Mandan Road.

Handicap placards were taken from two vehicles on Mandan Road, 7801 and 7821, after windows were broken out to gain entry.

A window was broken out at 8150 Lakecrest Drive and military equipment was removed and a wallet was removed at 9110 Edmonston Road.

### Victim Identified

The man who had been pronounced deceased from gunshot wounds on Tuesday, May 4, in the 9100 block of Springhill Lane, in a report in last week's Police Blotter, has been identified as Kennedy Nwabueze Ogbonna, a 29-year-old Greenbelt resident. An investigation is ongoing.

# Playing Together Again: Outdoor Band



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

Eleanor Roosevelt High School band students have started meeting outdoors after school in small groups, in order to play together after more than a year of virtual band class. Students are spaced six feet apart and wear special masks with a flap through which the instrument mouthpiece can be inserted, as well as bell covers to filter the air coming out of the end of the instrument. Despite the challenges of masks, and the need for many clothespins to stop the music blowing off the stands, the students and band teacher Rachel Zephir are delighted to be able to make music together again in person.

# MAGLEV continued from page 1

are described. The comments also include DEIS postponement of geophysical and geotechnical analysis, though analysis of soil and the subsurface strata are a significant factor in design (especially of tunnels and bridges) from the very earliest stages. She pondered how alignments could have been chosen without considering such factors.

### Strategy

Part of carrying the day is strategic planning to capitalize on any potential advantages and to be ready to respond to setbacks. Grant's strategy incorporates a series of fallbacks. They want to win in the first round with a strongly-supported recommendation to pursue the no-build option. If, however, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) decides to go ahead, Grant's first fallback recommends a new DEIS be required since the current one is so flawed. Her second level of fallback is that requested information must be delivered and that the comment period should be extended to accommodate that – at least buying time.

### Lining up the Ducks

Grant pointed out that the comments are so detailed for a number of reasons. One is that they make the point that, "The city is really serious about the project and not just making a position statement." She also notes that the level of detail and thoroughness provide a deterrent because of the work required to counter the well-documented objections. Lastly, if the city wants to appeal, it has all the groundwork needed to immediately request an injunction to stop any work taking place. If the project moves forward regardless, the countering evidence must be available immediately, because once work starts, it's too late. She also noted that to appeal an issue, it must be raised during the comment period.

Grant was frankly amazed by the recent communique from Baltimore Washington Rapid Rail (BWRR) that the Spellman overpass, cited in the DEIS as being demolished, was in fact safe. But she emphasized that this information cannot be relied upon as jurisdiction lies with the FRA and not with BWRR.

Councilmembers were enthusiastic about the report. Councilmember Judith Davis wanted to deliver a copy in person to U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer and Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen. She noted that she hoped reference was made to the

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which as a resident noted "would slow them up by two years," by requiring an analysis of intentional bird take which would result from the effects of the disturbance around the tunnel entrance.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts mentioned there were five different projects affecting the Beaver Dam Creek which were being considered piecemeal. He was assured that they were all included in the brief.

Other council activities at this meeting will be summarized in a later issue.



## PRELIMINARY AGENDA GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thursday, May 20, 2021

- A. **GHI Open Session Meeting – starts at 7:45 p.m. (open to members and visitors)**
  - Certification of the Election of Board Members by Chairperson of the N&E Committee
  - Board Re-organization and Election of Officers for the 2021-22 Term
  - Code of Ethics Acknowledgement for Board Members
  - Appointment of Member Complaint Panels
  - Proposed Board Meeting Dates during May to December 2021.
  - Designation of GDC Stockholders
  - Announcement of Executive Session Board Meeting Held on May 6, 2021
  - Announcement of a Complaint Hearing Held in a Closed Meeting on May 10, 2021
  - Approve Minutes of the Special Open Session Meeting Held on April 15, 2021
  - Approve Minutes of the Regular Open Session Meeting Held on April 15, 2021
  - Proposed Letter from GHI re: ScMaglev Draft Environmental Impact Statement
  - Proposal to Conduct a Member Survey re: Interest in Electric Charging Stations for Vehicles
  - Proposal to Conduct a Post-HIP Member Survey to Obtain Data for Future Home Improvement Programs
  - Approve a Motion to Hold an Executive Session Meeting on May 20, 2021
- B. **GHI Executive Session Meeting – starts after the GHI Open Session meeting adjourns (closed to members and visitors)**
  - Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting held on April 15, 2021
  - 2021 Contract for Sidewalk Repairs – 2nd reading
  - Member Complaint Matter
  - Member Financial Matters

When: May 20, 2021 07:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register?jufu2qgDsvE9IBr9QRHaobISOyCXAMiIsP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members  
 For more information, visit our website: [www.ghi.coop](http://www.ghi.coop)

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**EVERY SATURDAY & SUNDAY** - VFW Post 8950 presents: The Community Flea Market at 9800 Good Luck Rd., Lanham, Md. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 301-873-0663.



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# PUBLIC WORKS continued from page 1

cemetery and the Greenbelt Connection.

### Accomplishments

The budget document identifies pages of accomplishments from the mundane "painted all the yellow curbs in Franklin Park" to the impressive "achieved the highest point total ever since the Sustainable Maryland program's inception." Readers are encouraged to view the budget document online to see the full range of the department's accomplishments.

### Covid-19

Public Works was a key player in the city's response to the pandemic. Staff designed, fabricated and installed the plexiglass sneeze guards that have sprouted up throughout city facilities, redesigned some workspaces to allow distancing and continued essential services such as refuse collection. Parks maintenance was possibly the only department where staff could not work from home. Work was redesigned fairly quickly to allow all workers to go about their business while maintaining social distancing. The pandemic also changed how staff cleaned city facilities, Public Works Director James Sterling reported. Department management is constantly preparing as if city buildings were opening tomorrow, which, he noted, comes at a cost. They also took advantage of buildings being largely empty to conduct repairs and improvements that would otherwise be difficult, such as installing a water filtration system in the Youth Center, where water quality had been acceptable, according to tests, but was discolored and unappetizing in appearance.

### Infrastructure

In the current fiscal year, no capital projects were performed unless funded by grants. Thus, the proposed projects are the same as those proposed for the current year. The department has established an equipment life cycle, a replacement schedule and replacement cost estimates for each city facility. Money will need to be allocated for these projects and other needed capital improvements, Sterling said. He urged that the city resurface at least one mile of street each year. With 26 miles of streets maintained by the city, this would create a 26-year re-pavement cycle.

### Sustainability

Sustainability continues to be a departmental focus. Currently, all the electricity the city uses is from wind. By the fall of 2022 he expects that the solar farm project will be in operation, which will offset 80 to 90 percent of the current electrical consumption. The department is shifting from gas-powered to electric-powered vehicles and equipment to the extent possible. Staff must prove that there is no electric-powered alternative before purchasing gas-powered equipment. The purchase of electric leaf blowers, chain saws and the like has been popular, Sterling reported, as they are generally lighter than the gas-powered equivalent. However, there is some equipment for which there is yet no acceptable electric option such as large chain saws and pickup trucks used for snow and ice removal.

### Staffing

Sterling reported that Public Works is currently seeking to fill three supervisor positions with

another retirement expected by the end of the year. As part of this process, they are evaluating the department's current needs and operations and modifying the job responsibilities in response. He expects that the organization chart will look much different in the FY23 budget document. No additional positions are requested. Sterling noted, however, that the department will be taking on the maintenance of Greenbelt Station rights-of-way and park areas. In addition, remaining Sustainable Maryland Certified imposes additional workload and the no-spray pesticide policy has created more manual labor to maintain the city parks. At some point, he said, these needs will require additional staffing to maintain the current level of services.

### Waste Collection

The FY21 adopted budget had projected a \$29,800 loss in the waste collection and disposal budget. The department did somewhat better, losing \$9,900. A larger loss (\$52,500) is projected for the next fiscal year. No increase in fees is requested.

### Greenbelt Connection

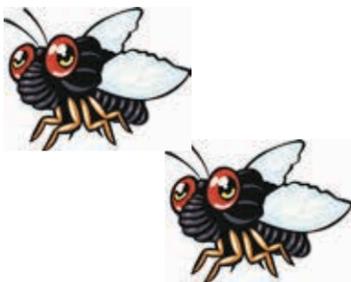
Demand for rides remains high. Sterling said that on weekdays it is hard to get a ride unless the resident makes a reservation several days in advance. When asked by Councilmember Silke Pope if the city could increase the range of the service, taking residents further afield, Sterling noted that it would be difficult to maintain the schedule if the buses go further away.

Fares remain unchanged with seniors paying \$1 per ride and others paying \$2. The connection consistently operates at a deficit with fares bringing in \$7,400. Tax revenue pays the remaining \$118,700.

Since the city is currently using Berwyn Heights' connection bus, Councilmember Rodney Roberts wondered if the city could operate both buses regularly, rather than using the second bus as a backup. Sterling noted that the budget does not cover the cost of a second driver, which Mayor Colin Byrd immediately requested to add to the list of possible additions for discussion at the May 17 final budget work-session.

### Other Additions

Councilmember Judith Davis asked that a "tree canopy enhancement program" be added to the list of possible additions. This program would pay residents to plant trees.



### JC Landscaping

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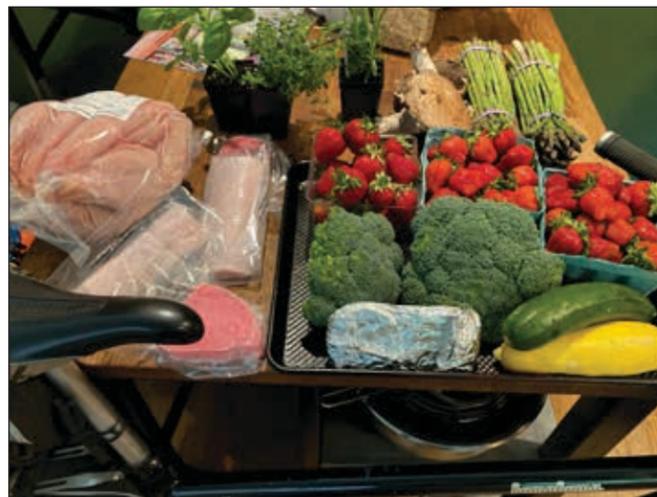
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# Farmers Market 2021 Opens



Shoppers at the Greenbelt Farmers Market on Sunday, May 9 include Hannah Dalager with Halea, Kaya, and Violet.

PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS



How much goodness goes on one bike? Jeff Lemieux of Proteus Bicycles displays his haul from the first market of the year.

PHOTO BY JEFF LEMIEUX

A steady stream of people enjoyed the first market of the season. All the early vegetables were aplenty and the star of the show was the scarce but delicious early strawberries. Although masks were

still required, the atmosphere in this Covid-19 year was markedly more open feeling and most people seemed sufficiently inured to their masks that there were no sore moments.

**Don't be a doormat!**  
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**Overpayments Policy**

To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, effective March 25, 2021, the News Review will accumulate overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contribute the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

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# A Walk with a Naturalist Opens Eyes, Ears and Mind

by Kyla Hanington

To walk with Graeme Simpson is to be brought into awareness and wonder about the world around you at the micro-level. Plants like the grasses at Buddy Attick Park and the clover, Graeme told me, attract butterflies like the eastern tiger swallowtail, cabbage moth and skippers. I nodded as he talked, as though I knew what skippers were, as though I understood clover to be anything other than something I wish I could find four leaves of.

I thought Dan and I were meeting Graeme, a world-renowned nature photographer originally from New Zealand and current resident of Greenbelt, to talk about his observations about litter around Greenbelt Lake, but what happened instead was that Graeme introduced Dan and me to something magical and life-altering; in just a few minutes he brought us into glorious wonder and enthusiasm about everything around us. "This is a white oak, your state tree," Graeme said, pointing out the beautiful tree we were standing beneath.

Mostly I just tried to nod and keep up, as Graeme gently showed us an empty robin's nest in a bush low to the ground. "This was an inexperienced robin," he said, explaining that she had laid five eggs and just in the last two days a snake had gotten to them. "But she'll learn and when she lays another batch this summer she'll lay them higher, in a tree," and he waved his hand toward the many trees that surrounded us. The story about the egg loss not a sad one, then, but one of hope.

Graeme showed us wild garlic mustard, which people harvest at the lake for their salads. He showed us the beginnings of the nest of a Baltimore oriole and described how the birds build them. He pointed out black locust trees, covered in white blossoms; tulip poplar trees; American hollies that attract ruby- and golden-crowned kinglets; fringe trees; freshly planted milkweed by the forebay that will soon attract monarchs; mimosa trees; wild strawberries; and Japanese honeysuckle. There we paused as Graeme drew our attention to the songs of migratory warblers in the woods just beyond. As he showed us plants, he talked about what birds use them, pointed out a fox's den, told us how green herons, of which there is frequently one at the lake, are toolmakers, catching dragonflies they then use to lure fish.

Graeme also showed us garbage. On his walks around Greenbelt Lake he collects litter, and on our walk he wore a rubber glove on one hand so he could stoop and gather what he called micro-litter as we passed. "Cigarette butts have been increasing," he told us. "They get in the tummies of the waterfowl...so they think they are full, and they die." Graeme told us about some of the migratory waterfowl we might see: ruddy ducks, wood ducks, hooded mergansers, common loons and more. I thought of them with a cigarette butt or two in the stomach, filling them up, and started paying more attention to spotting micro-litter myself, so I could collect it and



Graeme Simpson holds up fishing line he found dropped on the ground less than 30 feet from the nearest garbage can.

dispose of it to keep the birds and animals we look forward to seeing a bit more safe.

Graeme told us, "We have a mallard on the lake – and she's a really good mother at the moment, looking after nine little ducklings. And she has a hook that's gone right through the top beak. Experts have come to see and they can't catch her, because if they take her away to fix it the young ducklings won't survive." He stooped to pick up a plastic water bottle. "That's what happens, you see, when there are hooks and things left behind."

Graeme told us he picks up hundreds of cellophane wrappers from the straws of juice boxes, noting that people are so careful to throw their juice boxes away but drop the plastic wrapper on the ground. While we were with him, he found several, along with plastic bottle caps and plastic rings those caps attach to, which birds swallow or get trapped around their necks, respectively. On the peninsula there were two different bags of dog waste; some owner had been mindful enough to pick up after their dog and then left the plastic bag with nicely sealed poo in it on the ground. Dan said, "I want to ask them, who are they leaving that for?" There is no sealed-bag-of-dog-poo collector, and yet this garbage, like so much of what we saw, was dropped within 30 feet or so of a visible garbage can.

There are local fishers Graeme

sees every day who are incredibly mindful of their hooks and lines, who clean up as they go, but others who come by for a day or two are less careful, frustrating regulars and damaging birds. Graeme showed us fishing line he'd picked up earlier in the morning. "This gets around the neck of the state bird, the Baltimore oriole. They use it for nesting material, and their little feet get stuck in the line."

He cleans up around the lake regularly. "It's a natural thing in New Zealand," he explained, "an idealism that you want to walk everywhere without seeing litter on the ground." But he is not the only person focused on cleaning up around Greenbelt Lake, naming regulars he sees who also pick up litter as they go. He said that they pick up about 2,500 pieces of micro-litter every five days, while in other parks of the same size there could be as much as 25,000 pieces.

"I try to lead by example," he told us, as he stepped down an embankment to collect yet another plastic water bottle, "and people do see me cleaning up and make an effort to clean up, too." The story of litter around Greenbelt Lake not a sad one then, but one of hope. Dan and I now see the Lake in a new light, flush with birds, wild strawberries and tiny pieces of litter we will collect and put safely where they belong.



Graeme tells Kyla about the turtles who lay eggs on the banks of the peninsula.



This Oriole's nest is constructed of fishing line.

- Photos by Daniel R. Hamlin

## Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.




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