

Rental assistance, Woodland war-torn hall, p.6



Woodland warriors, p.7

## Greenbelters Party During National Night Out Event

by Amy Hansen



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

A very small child stands next to a very large fire engine at the National Night Out at Beltway Plaza on August 3, 2021.

It felt like a party from a different year and not only because Michael Jackson's 1983 hit song, 'Wanna Be Starting Something,' played in the background. The air felt cool. The Delta variant hadn't completely come into Greenbelt's collective consciousness and everything was outdoors.

Greenbelt's part of the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3 took place in a back parking lot of Beltway Plaza. The event is billed as an annual community-building campaign for police and community partnerships. What

See **NIGHT OUT**, page 12

### Election 2021

## 2021 Campaign for Greenbelt City Council Opens on Monday

by Kathleen Gallagher

Monday, August 16 is the first day for those intending to run for positions on the 44th Greenbelt City Council to officially begin the process of qualifying as candidates. In a short time, both incumbents and challengers will be filling out forms and circulating petitions in order to qualify as candidates and have their names placed on the ballot for the Tuesday, November 2 election.

Although the minimum age for voting in city elections was lowered to 16, the minimum age for running for office in Greenbelt remains 18.

Packets containing all the necessary information and forms for running will be available at City Clerk Bonita Anderson's office in the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, beginning Monday, August 16. The last day for submitting the required materials is Monday, September 27 at 5 p.m. For more information, visit the city website at [greenbeltnmd.gov](http://greenbeltnmd.gov) or call 301-474-8000.

As soon as the September 27 filing deadline has passed, the election ballot can be established. With the oversight of the city's Board of Elections, candidates

will draw by lottery to determine their places on the ballot.

Once certified, candidates are required to file reports of contributions and expenditures. The penalties are severe for not submitting these reports on time and may carry hefty financial penalties or removal from the ballot.

### What Goes On

- Monday, August 16 8 p.m.** City Council Worksession: Public Forum to include Greenbriar Park transfer into the Forest Preserve
- Wednesday, August 18 8 p.m.** Council Worksession: Food Trucks/Davenport – Proposed financial policies adopted by council
- Thursday, August 19 1 to 3 p.m.** Free Produce Distribution, Community Center

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

## Is the Maryland Maglev Project In the Infrastructure Bill?

by Amy Hansen

City, county and national representatives weighed in on the \$1 trillion Infrastructure Bill that is currently in front of the U.S. Senate, discussing whether the bill as written provides funding for the SCMaglev train project.

In a letter to U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin sent on August 5, Greenbelt City Council members wrote that they

vehemently oppose the proposed Federal funding of the maglev project. The letter asked the senators to, "Please propose new language that denies Federal funding to such ill-conceived projects."

In a similar letter, also sent on August 5, State Delegate Alonzo Washington said, "I am writing to express my strong opposition to the funding specifically included

for magnetic levitation trains outlined in the Senate infrastructure legislation. Not only should this language be removed, but there should be provisions included to prevent any federal funding from benefiting the Baltimore Washington Superconducting Magnetic Levitation train, which will have

See **MAGLEV**, page 8

## Greenbelt Family Cheers Loud Enough for Tokyo to Hear

by Jack Downs

(First of a series)

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

The Greenbelt Downs family held a reunion in West Virginia in July at the Three Otters Eco-Retreat on the shores of the Potomac River outside Paw Paw. One family member wasn't there and the Downs family couldn't have been happier.

Zachary Downs Shattuck's family owned the resort and he was usually up there summers working. But this summer and last, he had been in Colorado.

The phone call came on September 24, 1997. Teresa Downs Shattuck, Zach's mom, sharing the news she'd just received, said, "We just came from Zach's appointment. He has hypochondroplasia dwarfism." The family had known for some time that Zach was slipping right off the bottom of the growth charts. Now their fears were confirmed. How was Zach ever to live a normal,



PHOTO COURTESY U.S. PARALYMPIC TEAM

Zach Shattuck is Tokyo bound.

ordinary life?

According to the website [bstigmafree.org](http://bstigmafree.org), approximately 30,000 people in the U.S. are

dwarfs at less than 4 feet 10 inches tall and nearly all are born to normal-height parents. Of the

See **TOKYO**, page 4

## Sharp Rise in Local Covid-19 Cases Concerns Residents

by Cathie Meetre and Clara Kuehn

Looking around in Greenbelt, it is clear that there are fewer people wearing masks and that the comfort level with meeting others has increased since a good fraction of the community has been vaccinated. Unfortunately, however, the number of new cases in the 20770 zip code is noticeably on the rise. The trend began a few weeks ago – like popcorn popping – with the odd case or two after periods with just the occasional isolated individual or zero cases. But the pattern in the last few weeks is much more concerning. For our Greenbelt population of about 25,000, the count of cases from August 2 to 9 is the equivalent

of 120 cases per week per 100k population. This is well above the CDC definition of a "high" transmission rate.

The graph accompanying this article is based on data downloaded from [Maryland.gov/opendata.maryland.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/MD-COVID-19-Cases-by-ZIP-Code/ntd2-dqpx](http://Maryland.gov/opendata.maryland.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/MD-COVID-19-Cases-by-ZIP-Code/ntd2-dqpx). In it, the last two weeks show the noticeable jump upward in local cases. For several weeks the average hovered around zero or very close to zero, but the most recent seven-day running average shows an average of 4.6 new cases per day. This is up

See **COVID-19**, page 8

### All City Employees Will Need Vaccines

All employees of the City of Greenbelt must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 by Wednesday, September 22, as decided by a late-night vote by the city council at their Monday, August 9 meeting. All city employees, including city council members, must receive their first vaccine by Wednesday, September 1 and be fully vaccinated by September 22 or submit to weekly testing until fully vaccinated.

Due to a surge of infections with the Delta variant, Councilmembers Judith Davis and Rodney Roberts requested council revisit their previous decision not to require such vaccinations.

Employees will be allowed time off to get vaccinated. Human Resources will record and track vaccination validations.

# Letters to the Editor

## Believe It

For the third time in recent days, I've found a bird in Greenbelt that had died for no apparent reason. Actually, the bird in the photo was dying. When I came back later to check on him, his little eyes closed and he appeared to be dead.

But I'm still seeing bird feeders filled with seeds, and bird baths filled with water. Please believe the warnings: the mystery illness that's killing birds is not only real, it's here, and luring

birds to congregate at feeders and baths may be luring them to their deaths. They could be contaminating the seeds and water with whatever might be causing the illness – still unknown – and passing it to each other that way, or through close contact with each other. The illness isn't just somewhere else; it's here.

If you care about birds, please stop feeding them, for now. They won't starve – it's summer, so they have access to natural food sources.

Susan Cahill



PHOTO BY SUSAN CAHILL

Watching this dying bird close his eyes broke the writer's heart.

## Election 2021

# How Many Ways to Vote? And They're All Good

by Kathleen Gallagher

The City of Greenbelt would like to see more city residents vote in its city elections. Those who have been here for a while have undoubtedly noticed that the number of methods by which residents can vote has expanded considerably over the last few years to make voting as convenient as possible.

With the latest addition, there is now in-person early voting, in-person voting on Election Day and mail-in voting with various methods for turning in one's ballot, including U.S. Mail, drop-off at the Municipal Building and possibly another method to be identified later.

Because of the pandemic, Prince George's County has encouraged mail-in voting for safety in elections, as was accomplished in the primary elections last year. For voters who prefer other methods, however, more opportunities for voting are available and strongly supported, too.

An application for a mail-in ballot will be mailed to all Greenbelt registered voters by Tuesday, September 7. If one replies, a ballot will be received by mail no earlier than Friday, October 8.

Next Week: When and how to register to vote.



PHOTO COURTESY DONNA PETERSON

The Golden Girls of Greenbelt, News Review in hand, visit the Sight and Sound Theater in Pennsylvania to see Queen Esther. From left are pictured Marti Galvin, Donna Peterson, Mary McGraw and JoEllen Sarff.

## 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.

## UMD Reporter

Melissa Signorini, a Maryland journalism major soon to graduate, is an intern writing for the News Review.



## Mail Subscription Price Increase

Effective August 1, 2021, the cost of a mail subscription will be \$55 per year. This is the first price increase since 2017 and is needed to offset postage increases.



Old Greenbelt Theatre  
129 Centerway  
301-329-2034  
[www.greenbelttheatre.org](http://www.greenbelttheatre.org)  
Members Always \$6.50!  
Member kids are always FREE!  
Adults \$9, Kids \$6,  
Senior/Student/Military \$8  
All shows before 5 PM:  
Adults \$7, Kids \$5  
OC = Open Captions  
CC = Closed Captions  
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES  
August 13th – August 16th  
SUMMER OF SOUL  
(PG-13) (CC) (2021)  
(117 MINS)  
FRI. 5:30 PM, 8:30 PM  
SAT 5:00 PM, 8 PM  
SUN. 2:30 PM (OC),  
5:30 PM  
MON. 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM

## Service or Garden Side?



This house is in your price range, and it comes with free books.

- 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

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### PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

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

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

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

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

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

# Community Events

## At the Library

Greenbelt Library open hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays from noon to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sidewalk service for held books is available outside the upper-level entrance (pickup reservation required), or requested books can be picked up on the shelves inside the library, as before. Study rooms are open but meeting rooms remain closed.

Appointments for one hour of computer use can be made up to seven days in advance at [pgcmls.info/reopening](http://pgcmls.info/reopening) or 240-455-5451; some computers may be available with no appointments. Shelved books are open for browsing without restrictions, no appointments required. The library is not accepting book donations for the foreseeable future but has a third-party book donation bin outside the lower-level entrance.

### Mobile Printing, Hotspots

The library offers mobile printing to the public. The first 10 black-and-white pages are free. More information is available at [pgcmls.info/mobile-printing](http://pgcmls.info/mobile-printing).

Families can borrow mobile hotspot devices for up to nine weeks at a time. Adults aged 18 and older with library cards in good standing may request a SmartSpot through the curbside booking form. One device per household may be borrowed.

### Learning Resources

Brainfuse HelpNow offers an array of additional learning resources for Prince Georgians, including SkillSurfer, a library of lessons, videos, tests and more, available year-round. The library also helps students prepare for standardized tests and writing college admissions essays through the EBSCO LearningExpress online resource. Check [pgcmls.info/events](http://pgcmls.info/events) regularly for related programming.

### Summer Reading

The Washington Nationals and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System are partnering on Summer @ Your Library, a summer reading and library engagement program offered in English and Spanish for all ages. The program runs through Friday, August 20 and will be primarily offered online with select in-person events.

### Teddy Bear Picnic

This outdoor event will be held on Saturday, August 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for children ages newborn to 5. Bring a favorite stuffed animal for stories, songs, crafts and a parade.

Face masks and physical distancing are required for all participants over the age of 2.

Register at [pgcmls.info/event/5253890](http://pgcmls.info/event/5253890) or by calling 240-455-5451. Maximum capacity is 50 participants, with a limit of three in a group.



## Both Local Volunteers, Blood Donors Needed

Donate blood on Friday, August 27 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. Register at [redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive](http://redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive), but note that only a few appointments remain.

The Red Cross needs new volunteers to support disaster shelters. Volunteers will help with reception, registration, food distribution, dormitory information, information collection and other vital tasks inside disaster shelters. Both entry- and supervisory-level opportunities are available.

They also need volunteers who can work in disaster shelters to address people's health needs and provide hands-on care in alignment with their professional licensure (registered nurse and licensed practical nurse/licensed vocational nurse). Daily observation and health screening for Covid-19-like illness among shelter residents may also be required. If you are an RN, LPN, LVN, APRN, NP, EMT, paramedic, MD/DO or PA with a current and unencumbered license, this position could be right for you.

Blood and platelet donors are needed. Eligible donors can help overcome the critical need for blood and ensure blood is readily available by making an appointment to give by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.



## HUG WALK Returns

RUAK (Random Unselfish Acts of Kindness) is again organizing the annual HUG WALK (Help Unite Greenbelt With A Little Kindness) to be held on Sunday, October 10, rain or shine.

All Greenbelters are invited to participate in this event, joining the walk in any of the Greenbelt neighborhoods noted below and continuing through the city. RUAK requests that any and all groups and individuals from the community co-sponsor this no-cost event. Spread the word and join your neighbors to celebrate Greenbelt as a special warm and welcoming place.

### Walk Schedule

1 p.m., gather at the Indian Creek Trail bridge at Greenbelt Station; 1:30 p.m., walk step off; 2 p.m., walk continues from Springhill Lake Recreation Center; 2:30 p.m., join the walk at Buddy Attick Park; 3 p.m., join the walk at Roosevelt Center; 3:30 p.m., join the walk at Greenbriar Community Center; 4 p.m., join the walk at Windsor Green Community Center; 4:30 p.m., walk concludes at Schrom Hills Park.

Any group that wishes to join more than 40 civic, social and religious groups that are already co-sponsoring the event should contact RUAK at [spreadruak@gmail.com](mailto:spreadruak@gmail.com) or Robert Goldberg-Strassler at 301-345-8755 by September 26.

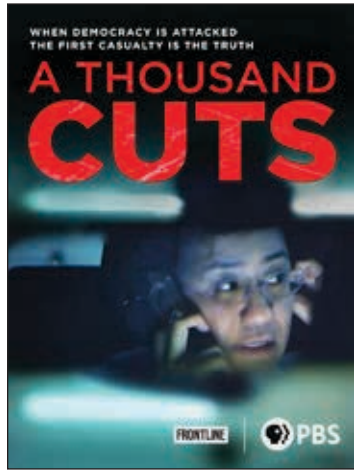


PHOTO COURTESY NEW DEAL CAFE

## Reel and Meal: A Thousand Cuts

On Monday, August 16 at 7 p.m. Reel and Meal will feature A Thousand Cuts, a feature-length documentary distributed through PBS Frontline. The documentary and discussion afterward will be streamed on Zoom. Registration is required at [tinyurl.com/ReelMealAug](http://tinyurl.com/ReelMealAug).

The Co-op Supermarket at Roosevelt Center will provide a vegan meal for a fee. On the menu is Dodah's Kitchen spinach lasagna and a side salad. To order, call the deli at 301-474-0522 by 1 p.m. on Monday, August 16, for pickup between 4 and 7 p.m.

A Thousand Cuts goes inside the escalating war between the government and the press in the Philippines and follows Maria Ressa, a renowned journalist who has become a target of President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on the news media.

Discussion will follow the film until 9:30 p.m. For more about the film, email Daniel Thies at [Thies.Daniel@gmail.com](mailto:Thies.Daniel@gmail.com). The film trailer can be viewed at [youtu.be/Gy\\_gWR0dEpY](http://youtu.be/Gy_gWR0dEpY). To contact the Reel and Meal organizers, email [reelandmeal@newdealcafe.com](mailto:reelandmeal@newdealcafe.com).

Reel and Meal, a monthly film series focused on environmental, social justice and animal rights issues, is organized by the Utopia Film Festival and the Prince George's County Peace and Justice Coalition.

## County Schools Offer Free Summer Meals

Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) is operating its annual Summer Food Service Program through Wednesday, August 18. Grab and Go breakfast and lunch meal packages will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 62 schools, including Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights Elementary Schools. Students attending in-school summer programs will receive breakfast and lunch.

Visit the PGCPS website for a complete list of school and library meal sites or find a nearby meal distribution site by visiting [MDsummerMeals.org](http://MDsummerMeals.org).



## Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is. [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com)

## Monday Meet Ups With Homeschoolers

Every Monday, Greenbelt homeschoolers will meet up from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m., at Schrom Hills Park, weather permitting, beginning Monday, September 13. These meet-ups offer free play and social support for families. Bring a bag lunch if desired. All are welcome.

## Café Seeks Artists For Group Art Show

All artists, working in any medium, including photography, are invited to submit photos of their work for a group show entitled All That Jazz. The theme of the show is music. The show will be at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center in conjunction with music festivals held in September and October. Submit the photo to [ShaymarHiggsArtShows@FreeArtForAll.org](mailto:ShaymarHiggsArtShows@FreeArtForAll.org) for consideration as soon as possible.

The New Deal Café Art Show program is sponsored by Friends of New Deal Café Arts with support from the City of Greenbelt.

## Golden Age Club

August 18: Celebration of August birthdays

August 25: Bingo

All meetings are at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays.

To get on the Golden Age email list, contact Becky Sutfin at [rsutfin@greenbeltdm.gov](mailto:rsutfin@greenbeltdm.gov). She can provide Zoom or telephone information to participate in the club's virtual meetings.

## County Has Rent Help

Prince George's County is offering rent relief because of Covid-19. The county's 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) will help eligible applicants with payment assistance for rent and utilities. Landlords may also apply on behalf of their tenants. Applications will be accepted until funds are out. To apply and for more information visit [hcd.mypgc.us](http://hcd.mypgc.us) and click "Emergency Rental Assistance Program."

## GCC Paper Drive For School Supplies

Greenbelt Community Church (GCC), United Church of Christ begins its Annual Paper Drive and Collection of School Supplies for local schools from August through mid-September. While nothing is certain, living in Covid-19 times has taught us to look for the needs in our local communities and then begin problem solving. Thankfully, from past drives these skills are in abundance with several teachers/GCC members and friends.

Schools will open in some format and teachers and administrators will need paper, often an expense that is paid for by school staff out of their own pockets. The church is looking for copy paper, lined paper, notebooks, composition books, index cards and construction paper.

In addition, many students will need school supplies this new school year. The church is asking for colored pencils, glue (stick and bottles), pencils, pens, paper towels, hand sanitizer, tissues, crayons, post-it notes, pocket folders, etc. Many of these items are on sale at local retailers in August and September and it is easy to add a few more items to a shopping cart or to online orders.

Donations can be dropped off at the church, 1 Hillside Road, on Mondays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (look for the office sign), or during Sunday services from 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. To donate by check, make a check out to GCC and note "paper drive" on the envelope or check. Gift cards are also accepted.

GCC is grateful to the many people who have supported this drive in the past and will continue to give generously in the future.

More Community Events are located throughout the paper.

### Greenbelt Access Television

Aug 13, Fri – Aug 19, Thu

Verizon FIOS Channel 19 • Comcast 77  
Streaming on [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

THIS WEEK on GATE • Your Community Access Station

7am	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	Local Community Programming
8am	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	Yesterday's Syndicated Program
9am	<b>GATE Classic Film</b> Film Noir • 1949	<b>The Third Man</b> Joseph Cotten • Alida Valli • Orson Wells
11am	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	Local Community Programming
Noon	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	Today's Syndicated Program
1pm	<b>PGCPS Science Bowl</b>	Judy Hoyer v Longfields
2pm	<b>Music at the New Deal</b>	Four Shillings Short • Celtic & Folk
3pm	<b>GATE Classic Film</b> Film Noir • 1949	<b>The Third Man</b> Joseph Cotten • Alida Valli • Orson Welles
5pm	<b>PGCPS Science Bowl</b>	Judy Hoyer v Longfields
6pm	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	Local Community Programming
7pm	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	Today's Syndicated Program
8pm	<b>GATE Classic Film</b> Film Noir • 1949	<b>The Third Man</b> Joseph Cotten • Alida Valli • Orson Welles
10pm	<b>Music at the New Deal</b>	Four Shillings Short • Celtic & Folk
11pm	<b>Democracy Now!</b>	Today's Syndicated Program
MN	<b>Greenbelt Newsreel</b>	Local Community Programming

Connect with GATE [www.greenbeltaccessstv.org](http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org)

# TOKYO continued from page 1

roughly 200 forms of dwarfism, none can be prevented since they are genetic in nature. Before he reached the age of 2, at a follow-up appointment, the pediatrician asked Zach to “throw the ball.” Something special happened. It was clear Zach had an arm.

From his earliest years in Greenbelt, Zach was fascinated by balls, any kind. Zach first played T-ball in Greenbelt and from the beginning the height difference was dramatic. Comments ranged from “Oh, look how cute! Is he somebody’s little brother? I wonder how come he’s on the field?” to “Won’t he get hurt?”

Of course, by his second time at bat, the coaches and parents were shouting, “Move back! This kid can hit!” On Zach’s eighth birthday, he wept because his parents thoughtlessly got him a bicycle, not a ball.

Zach attended Greenbelt Nursery School and his dad, Rich, was on the board of directors. Zach also attended kindergarten at Greenbelt Elementary School, graduating in 2002. That summer, he and his family, including baby sister Casey, moved to Mount Airy, Md.

Zach didn’t just play sports. He lived and breathed sports. From his earliest days in T-ball, and through his years of soccer and baseball, he not only participated, but excelled. He was a natural athlete.

He always had a consistent set of fans, given the 14 first cousins – all children of the eight kids of Jack and Dee Downs, Greenbelt residents since 1955. One of the Downs, Paul, was Greenbelt’s Outstanding Citizen in 2017. A big impetus for the fandom is

that at every level, the family assumed it would be Zach’s last opportunity to compete equally with the normal kids who towered over him.

But somehow, Zach kept going. He’s played team soccer, baseball and basketball at every level, and in high school, played junior varsity basketball, wrestled varsity and started on the soccer team in the Maryland state semifinals for South Carroll High School against Fallston. Before a large crowd on a chilly Friday night, Zach’s team lost a close game.

Zach participated in the 2013 World Dwarf Games at Michigan State University in Lansing. The World Dwarf Games take place every four years bringing Little People from around the world for an Olympic-style athletic competition.

That year, in pure Zach fashion, he signed up for a host of sporting events, including sports he’d never tried, such as track and field. At the last minute, Zach, at his dad’s urging, signed up for a swimming event – the 25-meter freestyle. “But I can’t swim,” Zach protested.

“It’s 25-meters. No turns, and just don’t breathe,” his dad replied.

After the race, Zach was approached by several of the swimmers and coaches. “Good form. You’re a natural.” “Who do you swim for?” “Who’s coaching you?” “Are you trying out for the Paralympics?”

(Next week, the story continues. Zach enters Frostburg, finds a coach and starts his amazing journey to Tokyo and the 2021 Paralympics.)



The playground on Research Road is newly decorated with a rocketship. Let the countdown begin.

PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE



Congratulations to Zach Shattuck who will be participating in the Tokyo Paralympics later this month..

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



**The Bus**  
Seniors and Customers with Disabilities RIDE FREE

**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  
Reverend Rivera, Pastor  
In-Person Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Come meet our new pastor.

“Man is in the highest degree of materiality, and at the beginning of spirituality, that is to say, he is the end of imperfection and the beginning of perfection.” – ‘Abdu’l-Bahá  
**Greenbelt Bahá’í Community**  
www.greenbeltbahais.org

The Bible Says...  
**The kindness of God leads you to repentance.**  
Romans 2:4  
**MCF COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
IN PERSON Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School  
**MCFcc.org**

**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

**Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**  
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi  
Phone: 301-937-3666 [www.pbuuc.org](http://www.pbuuc.org)  
Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community  
August 15 10 a.m.  
**Living a Good Life**  
Leo Jones with with Worship Associate Ebony Contreras  
What makes a good life? There may be as many answers as there are human beings. But what are the essentials? Are there commonalities across race, ethnicity and culture? Has the perception of what is a good life changed over time? What did our parents, grandparents and great grandparents think of when they pondered this question? Did the question even occur to them? How have our modern sensibilities shaped the way we think and feel about a good life? There are so many questions. We will ponder them as we explore the spiritual foundations of this complex issue.  
Zoom video at <https://zoom.us/j/93495780708>



**Obituaries**  
The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.  
You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

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

**Greenbelt Community Church**  
1 Hillside  
Invites you to  
**The Labor Day Luncheon on the Lawn**  
(all outdoor event)  
Monday September 6  
After the parade (11-ish)  
Menu:  
Barbecue Sandwiches, Hot Dogs  
Coleslaw or a bag of Chips  
Baked Beans, Desserts  
Lemonade, Ice Tea, Soft Drinks  
Cost: \$10.00 for Adults  
\$7 for children under 12  
10% of the proceeds go to The Labor Day Festival Committee and the rest of the 90% will be donated to Greenbelt’s Emergency Relief Fund.

**Greenbelt BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Christ-centered Biblical & Reformed  
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am  
Sunday School 9:15am  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00pm  
101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt, MD  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

**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.  
**NOW LIVE/IN PERSON Sunday at 10:15**  
Guest Minister: Rev. Deb Vaughn  
Wisdom and knowledge – The chicken and the egg?  
[www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD](https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD)  
[www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org](http://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org)  
One Hillside Road

**ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
• Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am\*, Sat 9am\*  
• Sunday Mass:  
◦ Sat vigil 5pm\*  
◦ Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
• Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.  
Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.  
\*Live-streamed on Facebook and available on our YouTube page later.  
**CELEBRATE WITH US**  
135 Crescent Rd.  
[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)

**City Notes**

Animal Control welcomed Animal Control Officer Rebecca Myers. With two cats surrendered and a kitten adopted, shelter residents are now three dogs, four cats, 10 kittens and a rabbit.

Horticulture/Parks weeded Buddy Attick Food Forest and trimmed shrubbery. Refuse/Recycling collected 30.26 tons of refuse and 11.63 tons of recyclables.

Recreation and Public Works met with the Labor Day Festival Committee to discuss Labor Day activities.

The Virtual Recreation Center features artist studios at the Community Center.

The American Red Cross recognized the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center as a 2020 Top Training Provider.

Springhill Lake Recreation Center Summer Fun campers visited the indoor pool at the Aquatic & Fitness Center; Public Works provided transportation.

Park rangers monitored athletic fields, where permitted and unpermitted sports sometimes conflict.

The Museum offered two free, scheduled walking tours.

Therapeutic Recreation facilitated distribution of frozen meal packs to 33 seniors.

CARES' Darren Stephenson and Liz Park attended National Night Out in New Carrollton and Greenbelt, respectively, promoting CARES programs.



**Vax Scholarships**

In an effort to encourage Marylanders to protect themselves from Covid-19, the Maryland Higher Education Commission and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) have set up a \$1 million VaxU Scholarship Promotion fund for vaccinated residents ages 12 to 17. The state is offering up to 20 scholarships during nine statewide drawings. Those who win will receive a \$50,000 scholarship through a Prepaid College Trust or a College Investment Plan from the Maryland 529 plans. The funds will go toward covering the cost of tuition and fees for a four-year college or university. Students who have a registered Maryland address at the time of their vaccination and who get vaccinated in Maryland (not at federal locations) will be automatically entered in the promotion for a chance to win.

Two winners will be selected each week on Mondays until September 6. On this, the last draw date, four winners will be selected. MDH will run the drawings, and every week a random generator will decide prize winners. Alternate winners will be selected in case original winners do not accept the prizes, are deemed ineligible or do not produce all necessary documentation and information to be validated as eligible.

For more information on eligibility and the promotion, visit the Maryland Higher VaxU Scholarship Promotion website. For all questions, email [VaxUScholarship.mhec@maryland.gov](mailto:VaxUScholarship.mhec@maryland.gov).



# 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 AUGUST 16-20**

Monday, August 16 at 8:00 p.m., **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Public Forum to include Greenbriar Park Transfer into the Forest Preserve**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

Wednesday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m., **ADVISORY PLANNING BOARD.**

Wednesday, August 18 at 8:00 p.m., **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Food Trucks/ Davenport - Proposed Financial Policies Adopted by Council**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv)

**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).**

**VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES**

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups.

There are currently vacancies on:

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

For more information call 301- 474-8000

**CITY ELECTION INFORMATION DATES & DEADLINES for the 2021 City Council Election**

- 8/16 - First day to receive papers and file nomination petition
- 9/27 - Last day to file nomination petition (by 5 p.m.)
- 9/27 - Date of drawing for placement on ballot – 7:30 p.m.
- 10/01 - First Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12 p.m.)
- 10/04 - Last day to register to vote (must be received by 4:30 p.m. in Upper Marlboro)
- 10/08 - First day to send out mail-in ballots
- 10/09 - Early Voting begins
- 10/22 - Second Interim Campaign Contributions & Expenditures Report (by 12 p.m.)
- 11/01 - Training session for Election Judges and Clerks
- 11/02 - Election 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- 11/02 - Mail-in ballots must be received by 6 p.m.
- 11/05 - Final Contributions & Expenditures Report (12 p.m.)
- 11/08 - Charter Meeting for swearing-in at 7:30 p.m.

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

**Nominations for 2021 Regular City Council Election**

In accordance with Section 14 of the City Charter, a regular election will be held in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, to elect the seven members of the City Council.

Any qualified voter of the City may be nominated for the office of Member of Council upon filing a nomination petition with the City Clerk (signed by not fewer than 50 Greenbelt resident voters), a written acceptance of the nomination, and other statements that are required by the City Charter or by law. Required forms and information are available at 25 Crescent Road, beginning Monday, August 16, from 8:30 a.m until 4:30 p.m. PLEASE RING THE DOORBELL AT THE CRESCENT ROAD ENTRANCE.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM MONDAY, AUGUST 16 THROUGH MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021.

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



**SMALL FUNDS AVAILABLE for studying the ecology, history, and use of the Greenbelt Forest Preserve**

The Greenbelt Forest Preserve is a 255-acre preserve owned by the City of Greenbelt, Maryland. As established by City Code in 2003, the land is "preserved in a natural state for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." The City Council has established a fund to encourage research about the ecosystem and history of the Preserve, and improve stewardship of the Preserve. The fund will be dispersed as reimbursable grants to researchers for certain types of expenses. Anyone can apply. Preference will be given to projects with outputs that enhance the ability of the city to manage the Preserve.

Up to \$2,000 is available in 2021.

Request an application from [forestpreserve@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:forestpreserve@greenbeltmd.gov).



**SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!**

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards! Apply now at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/jobs)

**Greenbelt Nursery Project**

This free program is available to:

- Families living in the city limits of Greenbelt
- Children ages newborn to 3 years old
- Children who wear diapers or pull-ups

Features:

- Receive up to 10 home visits (one visit every other week from nursing students)
- Home visits start on September 15th and are scheduled between 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Wednesdays)
- Home visits end on December 7th
- Student nurses are fully vaccinated and will wear personal protective equipment (PPE) while in the home

Free Services Offered:

- Diapers, Formula, Baby Accessories monthly
- Baby Wellness Nursing Assessment
- Baby Milestone Progress Review
- Information/Resource Linkage
- Healthy Eating Education



Need more information? Want to register? Please call Katherine Farzin (240) 542-2019 or email [kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov)



**Emergency Diaper Pick-Up**

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Greenbelt Nursery Project is supporting Greenbelt families in need of diapers on **Thursday, August 19, 2021 1:00 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.**

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.

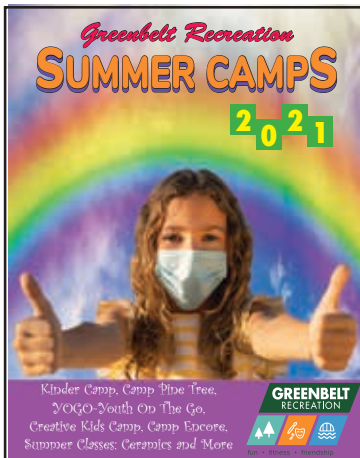
Register at: <https://bit.ly/3A51Nt4>

**FREE Produce**

**Thursday August 19 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**Greenbelt Community Center 15 Crescent Road**

There are no income requirements or registration.



**Greenbelt Recreation Summer Camps Have Openings!**  
Visit [greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://greenbeltmd.gov/recreation)

**Free Resources for City Residents**

- Rental Assistance
- Mental Health Resources
- Anger Management Classes
- Parenting Classes
- Virtual GED Classes
- Tutoring Services
- Free Diapers
- Free Produce

Call 301-345-6660  
Email [cares@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:cares@greenbeltmd.gov)  
Visit [greenbeltmd.gov/cares](http://greenbeltmd.gov/cares)

**GREENBELT PRESCHOOL PROGRAM - Ages 3-5 MOM'S MORNING OUT**



Greenbelt Recreation has provided a licensed preschool program for over thirty years. The fall program will return onsite five days a week at the Greenbelt Youth Center. We will offer a traditional preschool program that provides activities that encourage social development, beginning reading, math and science curriculum, fine and gross motor skills, all while encouraging lots of fun with peers. Please call 301-397-2200 to receive an email or phone call from our Preschool Director for more details. Registration is ongoing, so sign up soon to reserve your spot.

# Prince George's County Rental Assistance Eligibility, Info

by Matthew Arbach



Dr. Liz Park, director of Greenbelt CARES (top left) offers rental assistance at a virtual town hall on July 29, with the help of Tamika Gauvin (bottom right) and Kayla Williams (bottom left).

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

The county's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is continuing to receive applications from landlords and tenants. On Thursday, July 29, Deputy Director of the Department for Housing and Community Development Tamika Gauvin and Staff Attorney from Community Legal Services (CLS) Kayla Williams were present at a virtual town hall, hosted by Director of Greenbelt CARES Dr. Liz Park, providing information on the process, rights and services available to county residents in need of rental assistance during this challenging time.

Gauvin began by revealing the three sources of funding for ERAP. There are two sources dubbed ERA 1, with one straight from the U.S. Treasury Department, at \$27.1 million, and the other also from Treasury, at \$27 million, but funneled through the state. The third, named ERA 2, is \$30.5 million, and comes from the American Rescue Plan Act. ERA 1 is set to continue through September 2022, and ERA 2 to 2025. So far, \$20 million has been spent. Any funds that are not used in other jurisdictions are potentially eligible for the county, as Prince George's County leads the state in funds delivered so far.

## ERAP Assistance

As of July 23, ERAP has received 676 landlord applications, with 361 funded, and 3,613 tenant applications, with 302 funded. Initial filings were predominantly from landlords, with tenants experiencing a spike in recent weeks. Gauvin said the landlords are a good mix of small and large, emphasizing that the smaller landlords are enduring the most financial stress due to their more limited earnings.

Eligibility is restricted to those with a leasing agreement or a month-to-month agreement. Income eligibility is allowed for those with up to 80 percent Area Median Income (AMI), with priority focused on household income up to 50 percent AMI. A

new policy is the use of Qualified Census Tracts (QCT), which reveal the predominant income bracket of a given area. Those living in an eligible QCT are not required to present income documentation. For those in higher income areas, documentation is still required. Another new eligibility mandate is that financial hardship needs only to have occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic and not simply as a result of it.

ERAP will pay for up to 18 months of arrearages in rent and utilities beginning April 2020. There is no limit to the amount paid, based upon program guidelines.

## Help with Applying

Some important points to be aware of are: service is first come first served; no IDs or SSNs are required; no questions on immigration status; the best outcome comes from tenants and landlords working together; and, there are many community partners that can assist in the application process.

"CLS," said Williams, is "a non-profit organization that provides civil legal education, advice and free legal representation to low-income individuals in Prince George's County." Beside their office, CLS assistance can be obtained by seeking them out at the Hyattsville District Court (on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays), as they provide same-day tenant representation.

The three moratoriums that can be used in defense of a rental complaint are: the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) federal evictions moratorium (now extended to October 3 and applicable to counties with substantial or high level of Covid-19); the governor's Temporary Eviction Prohibition (set to expire August 15); and the county's CB-78-2020 bill (whereupon a landlord may not raise rent more than 2.6 percent in cases without a substantial loss of income and the prevention of a rental raise notice and the

imposing of late fees and penalties during the state of emergency and within 90 days after the state of emergency was lifted on July 1).

According to Williams in a separate interview, concerning the CDC moratorium, "There is no guarantee the moratorium will last through October 3 or that it will apply to our county the entire time." The CDC moratorium covers only evictions due to failure to pay rent. Said Williams, "The moratorium is not automatic and must be raised in court as a defense," advising tenants to get a signed CDC declaration to their landlords immediately.

Williams stressed that the eviction moratoriums are delays only and that rent must be paid eventually.

## Recommendations

Williams made several strong recommendations: always attend one's court hearing, as this is the best time to notify the court and the landlord of the applying for assistance, raise a defense and negotiate a postponement; it is best to reach out to the landlord first, as more time and consideration can be obtained, due to the court's lack of leeway in its adherence to the law; and, to pay what you can, even if it's a small amount.

## CARES Assistance

Greenbelt CARES continues to provide a rental and utility assistance program. One is required to live within the Greenbelt city limits. A one-time maximum of \$3,000 can be provided for emergency rental assistance and \$250 for utility assistance. One cannot have received county assistance to qualify. Greenbelt CARES can be reached at [cares@greenbelt.gov](mailto:cares@greenbelt.gov).

## For More Information

The complete town hall video is available on the city's Facebook page. ERAP can be reached at [ERAPTenants@co.pg.md.us](mailto:ERAPTenants@co.pg.md.us). CLS can be reached at [clspgc.org](mailto:clspgc.org) or 240-391-6370.

# City Hears Future IT Needs, Rundown on Pandemic Work

by Matthew Arbach

Dale Worley, the City of Greenbelt Director of Information Technology (IT), said that it is only a matter of time before the city IT system falls prey to a cyberattack, citing the inevitable intrusion from a determined cyber assailant. The city IT Department is continuing in its efforts to forestall such an attack and enable a speedy recovery in the event that it occurs. On Monday, August 2, Worley gave an update on his department's activities to the Greenbelt City Council and presented a set of recommendations to improve cybersecurity.

During the pandemic, IT has deployed 60 laptops for employee home use, increasing the VPN (Virtual Private Network, for a secure internet pathway) capacity to better facilitate this. In conjunction with Greenbelt Recreation, 275 virtual recreation classes have been created, leading to the city receiving a Solutions Award from the Public Technology Institute. Other achievements included a transition of the Greenbelt Police Department dispatch and Toughbooks to the county Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and an upgrade and consolidation of the city's network switches. IT is working to have Windows 10 and Office 2019 for use in city departments, as well as One Drive storage. Future funds from the American Rescue Plan may be used to fund a feasibility study for broadband use in the city.

Worley said that city employee users rated a 90 percent on the Security Scorecard in their ability to recognize and deal with cyber threats. Worley reported on the city's ubiquitous use of data backup protocols.

IT is focused on document management, to make all city paperwork electronic to increase efficiency. The process has begun in Human Resources, with the city manager's office involved as well. The cost of expanding

document management to Finance and the city clerk's office is estimated at \$15,000.

Worley and council advocated for an audit of the city's IT by an outside agency. Currently, \$10,000 is available in the IT budget to fund this, with council approval needed for additional funds.

City use of the Comcast fiber network is nearing its end, requiring a decision from IT (informed by consultation with the county's INet Committee) and council on how to replace it, either with a new franchise or the construction of its own system. Concerning the latter, an overall cost of \$75,000 was estimated.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan stressed the importance of a more integrated system for greater usability. Councilmember Edward Putens responded that having only one overarching system could lead to a more complete failure. Worley acknowledged that there was always a tradeoff in any route chosen.

According to Worley, IT is both under-resourced (as of Fiscal Year 2021, IT spending was at 3 percent) and understaffed, at five employees in charge of the entire city system. Worley speculated that for the city to have a round-the-clock IT service, three times the current staff would be required.

Council felt it was time to take cybersecurity very seriously and make sure adequate funding is set aside.

Worley extolled the city IT system as "solid, secure and resilient," using "core standards" in its purchase of hardware and software to maintain optimum performance.

Yet, even though there has been no evidence of intrusion, moving forward, Worley cautioned against being complacent and not being as prepared as possible.



Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll discovers a luna moth in the pollinator garden at the Lake.



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Dr. Jay McCarl, Dr. Dianna Lee, Dr. Clayton McCarl, Dr. Richard Duarte, and Dr. David McCarl are licensed general dentists.

# Woodlands Caretakers Tackle Invasive Species Near GES

by Lin Orrin and Zach Conron

Adults and young people who live near Greenbelt Elementary School (GES) spent Saturday morning undertaking trail maintenance in Parcel X, an area of woods located across the street from GES with a trail that leads to the Stream Valley Park. The cleanup goal was to clear the trail of walking hazards and invasive plants. Catherine Plaisant, a former research scientist at the University of Maryland, demonstrated the proper way to get rid of poison ivy along the trail and pointed out other invasive plants while also tagging friendly native species with red ribbons.

Several invasive varieties were targeted for removal to prevent their spread, including multiflora rose, Japanese honeysuckle and knotweed. Poison ivy and greenbrier, which are indigenous, were trimmed back from areas adjacent to the trail since they can be harmful to hikers. Native trees or shrubs that were protected included black cherry, dogwood, ash, native azaleas and wild blueberries.

The volunteer group called, Parcel X Caretakers, was formed unofficially in the fall of 2020 after several members who live adjacent to the woods began to notice how rapidly growing bamboo was invading their yards. Bamboo can be very persistent and a threat to native biodiversity. Under the guidance of the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Woodlands Committee, a couple dozen neighbors cut the entire grove of bamboo and committed to regularly trimming it to the forest floor. Other bamboo groves in Greenbelt are being addressed in similar fashion by volunteers.

Excited by their initial success and with a mind for more long-term projects, the Parcel X Caretakers became official in June 2021. In July the group replaced the rotted handrails on the green footbridge and repainted it. In the future, they plan to remove invasive plants and replace them with native plantings in order to strengthen and diversify the ecosystem and to do so in a way that is both responsible and sustainable.

Zach Conron, a GHI Woodlands Committee member who organized the first effort last fall, says this is definitely a multi-person endeavor. "I'm not as knowledgeable about the plants or many other relevant skill sets as other GHI Woodlands Com-



Volunteers Anton, Megan, Gloria and Jonathan Rytting and Zach Conron watch as Catherine Plaisant demonstrates how to remove poison ivy.

- Photos by Sarah Conron



Julius Green cuts invasive plants in Parcel X.

mittee or Parcel X Caretakers volunteers. What I bring to these projects more than anything else is enthusiasm and sweat. Like many other residents, I decided to move here three years ago in part because I am passionate about the environment. My wife Sarah and I were most drawn to Greenbelt because of the strong sense of community we feel here. Witnessing so many of our neighbors devote their time to protect and restore our common space is proof of the solidarity we have with each other and future generations."

The group aspires to be a prototype for other local caretaker groups. There are other similar wooded parcels throughout central Greenbelt that need volunteers to protect and rejuvenate them. Parcel X Caretakers meet in front of 65-A Ridge Road on the first Saturday of every month from 9 to 11 a.m. to work on projects. New volunteers are welcome.

For more information on how to get involved, email Zach Conron at [zconron@gmail.com](mailto:zconron@gmail.com).

# Composting, Pollinators Are Center Stage for Four Cities

by Melissa Signorini

The future should rot ... in compost bins, that is.

Composting in Greenbelt was discussed on Wednesday, July 28, at a virtual meeting of the Four Cities Coalition (Greenbelt, College Park, Berwyn Heights and New Carrollton), which was hosted by Berwyn Heights.

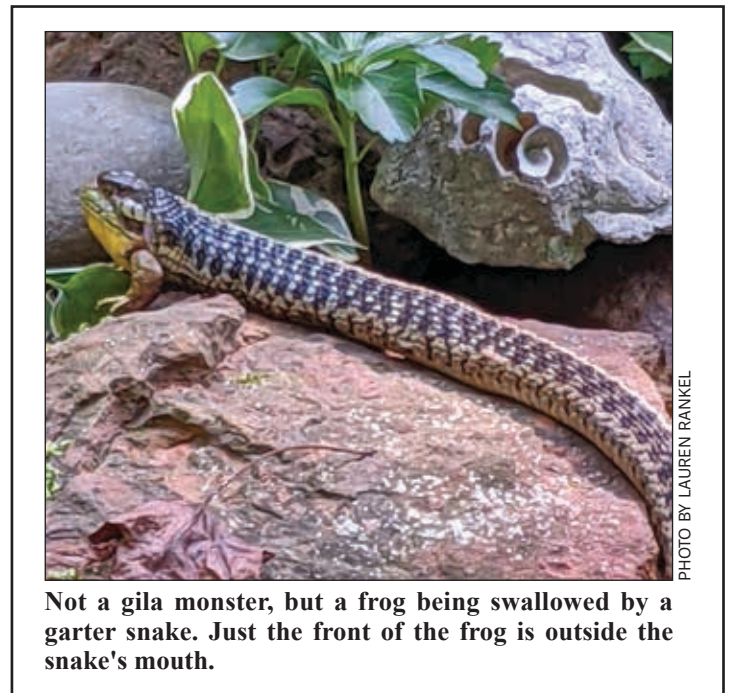
CMON, Composting Municipalities Organizing Now, made up of both municipality representatives and residents, is a leading group in this drive. Currently there are only a few food-composting facilities in the area. Dr. Luisa Robles, Greenbelt sustainability coordinator, said that CMON wants to see the establishment of a network of "smaller composting facilities throughout our communities so that we don't have to drive our food scraps to Western Branch." Western Branch, the facility owned by Prince George's County, can hold up to 20,000 tons of food waste a year. Another facility in Virginia can hold the same.

Compost Crew is a locally owned food-scrap recycling business that currently supports Greenbelt, Berwyn Heights and College Park in their food scrap drop-off programs. CEO Ben Perry praised the communities in leading by example for food scrap composting, saying, "You have paved the way for other municipalities to follow in your footsteps since you guys started your programs." He said that the goal is to build a self-sustaining food-recycling program, one that can be supported by creating local composting infrastructure in the four cities. Perry explained

that food scrap recycling supports growing food locally at farms and gardens. He said that it makes possible a close, tight-knit system in one's own municipality to go and see firsthand the food that is being grown, recycled, recovered and composted. "It can be such a tight, visible, transparent system," he added.

Compost Crew has already built some small, turnkey modular farm facilities to be used for food-scrap recycling, two in Montgomery County and one now being built in Prince George's County. Perry hopes that efforts by the Prince George's County Council to expand the definition of composting in the Zoning Rewrite legislation will allow small-scale composting facilities to be located near neighborhoods.

Also at the meeting, Greenbelt was introduced as a new Bee City USA affiliate. Greenbelt Environmental Coordinator Kevin Carpenter-Driscoll discussed ways to work with other municipalities to come up with and share resources for wildlife corridors and habitats for wildlife, especially pollinators. "We think it'd be a great opportunity to work together to try and restore some native habitats to our native pollinators which are incredibly important to our food web system." As an addition to resources already listed on Bee City USA's website, Greenbelt has individually added some resources. This includes a list of native plants local to the city, and a list of places where these plants can be purchased.



Not a gila monster, but a frog being swallowed by a garter snake. Just the front of the frog is outside the snake's mouth.



## HOUSE MANAGER/PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

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**Brandon**

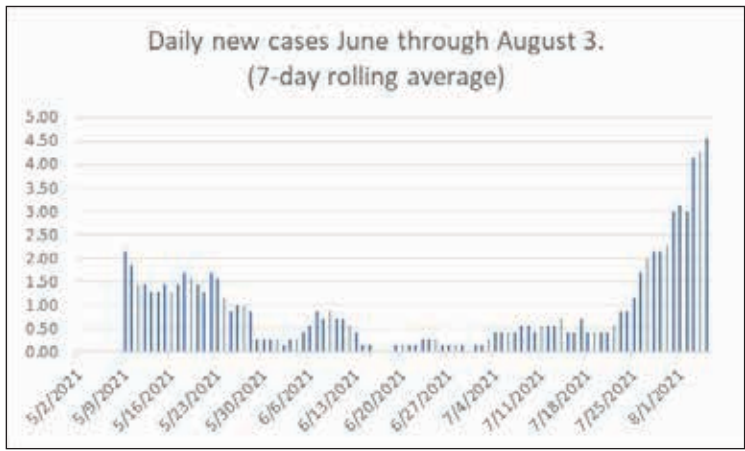
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**Gordon**  
for City Council

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

Authority of Residents for Ric, James Cooper Jr., Treasurer

# COVID-19 continued from page 1



GRAPH BY CATHIE MEETRE

Covid-19 case counts in 20770 zip code downloaded from Maryland.gov (opendata.maryland.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/MD-COVID-19-Cases-by-ZIP-Code/ntd2-dqpx).

from one or two cases per week at the end of June into early July, to something more like 30 cases per week now – rates more than double that of May. From July 31 through August 5, the number of new cases each day were 3, 7, 3, 3, 10, 3, 3, respectively, for a total of 32. Since the pandemic began, the cumulative number of cases in 20770 is 2,108.

There is no information available to say whether these are

Delta-variant cases or if the individuals are very sick. It doesn't say if they had been vaccinated or if they have been hospitalized. But it is definitely a cautionary note to our residents to keep their guard up. Consider wearing a mask in public again even if not mandated, evaluate attending crowded gatherings and pay attention to handwashing and distancing.



PHOTO BY GLENN HARRIS

A doll and a bear hang out to dry on the clothesline after bath time in the toy box.



PHOTO BY HELENER MESIAS

Grapes grow at Laurel Hill Road.



PHOTO BY KATHRYN BEARD

This groundhog swam across the lake, posed for a closeup and scurried away.

# MAGLEV continued from page 1

a significant negative impact on our community.”

### The Bill Says

The 2,702-page Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act document mentions maglev technologies three times.

First, on page 75. The document proposes funding for “planning and construction of projects that facilitate intermodal connections between emerging transportation technologies, such as magnetic levitation and hyperloop.”

Maglev technology comes up again on page 763, where the bill provides for “Research, development, and testing to advance and facilitate innovative rail projects, including projects using electromagnetic guideways in an enclosure in a very low-pressure environment.”

And then on page 853, the term comes up again as the bill allows the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to “prescribe regulations governing railroad-related noise emission standards for trains operating on the general railroad system of transportation at speeds exceeding 160 miles per hour, including noise related to magnetic levitation systems and other new technologies not traditionally associated with railroads.”

### Van Hollen Answers

Van Hollen answered Washington's letter on August 6. After explaining the pieces of the bill that he is proud of, including funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Bay Program, the Baltimore Red Line and money for high-speed internet across the state, Van Hollen writes that “the bipartisan infrastructure bill does not change federal law or eligibility for federal funding for Maglev and does not provide any direct or indirect funding for the Maglev project in Maryland.”

He goes into detail about each point of reference, explaining why the Infrastructure Bill may include maglev technology but does not cover the Maryland project in particular.

Van Hollen closes by saying, “I have serious concerns about



Letters from Maryland Delegate Alonzo Washington, U.S. Senator Van Hollen and the City of Greenbelt. Go to [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/news-stories/is-the-maryland-maglev-project-in-the-infrastructure-bill/](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/news-stories/is-the-maryland-maglev-project-in-the-infrastructure-bill/) to read the full letters.

the ongoing project in Maryland and I continue to press for more information and time for public comment on the project, including by successfully pushing for an extended public comment period on the Environmental Impact Statement.”

### Washington Responds

Washington responded to the receipt of Van Hollen's letter, saying that while appreciative of the Senator's general tone, “The language in the bill remains very concerning.”

He pointed out that there are no current maglev trains running in the country and only a few under consideration. “The open-ended nature of the language remains concerning, and it is my hope that our Congressional delegation will

take steps to ensure that Northeast Maglev is explicitly excluded from receiving funding under this legislation.”



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## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Renovations of Buildings 002, 005, and 308 Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential impacts associated with the proposed renovation of Buildings 002, 005, and 308 with the construction of small additions onto Buildings 002 and 308 and a small greenhouse for Building 005 at the Henry A. Wallace Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) located in Beltsville, Prince George's County, Maryland. This notice announces the availability of the EA for public review and comment. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508, and evaluates the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives. Under the Proposed Action alternative, BARC Buildings 002, 005, and 308 would be renovated to eliminate environmental hazards as well as provide updated and more efficient equipment and working space for workers. The additions to Buildings 002 and 308 would provide adequate working space to meet programmatic requirements for divisions within the buildings.

**The EA is open for a 10-day public review from August 12th through August 21st.** An electronic copy of the draft EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) can be found on USDA's website at: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/northeast-area/docs/environmental-assessment/>. Hard copies can be obtained by contacting Ms. Janice Rogers, Facilities, Division, USDA, 10300 Baltimore Avenue, Bldg 426 BARC-East, Room 108, Beltsville, MD 20705, or via email at [Janice.Rogers@usda.gov](mailto:Janice.Rogers@usda.gov).

Comments on the draft EA and FNSI should be submitted to Ms. Janice Rogers at the addresses listed above no later than 30 days from publication of this notice.



# 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

July 29, 11:39 p.m., 5809 Cherrywood Lane. A man was robbed at gunpoint by two people who stole his white 2007 Infiniti FX35 with Maryland plates A314027.

### Burglary

July 30, 6:51 a.m., 9230 Springhill Lane. A person broke into the laundry center and retrieved their own laundry.

Residential burglaries took place July 30 at 4:22 a.m. at 6140 Springhill Terrace and on July 31 at 3:29 a.m. at 5904 Cherrywood Terrace.

### Theft

August 2, 5:48 a.m., 6100 Greenbelt Road. A wallet was taken from the men's locker room at Planet Fitness.

August 2, 12:23 p.m., 7491 Greenbelt Road. Two cell phones were stolen from the AT&T Store.

### Vehicle Crime

Twenty-two (22) airbags were stolen. All were taken from Honda Civics. One was taken from 7400 Greenway Center Drive, another from 7605 Mandan Road, six from 8000 to 8200 Greenbelt Station Parkway, seven from Lakecrest Drive and six from 9100 Edmonston Court.

One vehicle was stolen, a black 2003 Cadillac Escalade, taken from 9121 Springhill Lane.

Four tires and rims were taken from each of two vehicles, one at 7480 Greenway Center Drive and the other at 9140 Edmonston Court. A rear Maryland tag

3BL1238 was taken at 9135 Edmonston Terrace.

Tools were stolen from 9128 Edmonston Court.

Personal items were taken at 6300 Golden Triangle Drive, 6109 Breezewood Court, 6000 block Greenbelt Road and 6001 Cherrywood Court.

Personal items were taken from an unsecured vehicle at 5912 Cherrywood Terrace. An attempted theft occurred at 57 Court Ridge Road, where an unsecured vehicle was rummaged through but nothing was taken.

Vandalism included breaking a windshield at 14 Ridge Road. Paint was scratched at 5915 Cherrywood Terrace. A rear window was broken at 6200 Breezewood Drive, where dents were made along a side door.

### Police Conduct DUI Checkpoint August 14

On Saturday, August 14, the Greenbelt Police Department will conduct a sobriety checkpoint in the area of Greenbelt Road and Lakecrest Drive from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

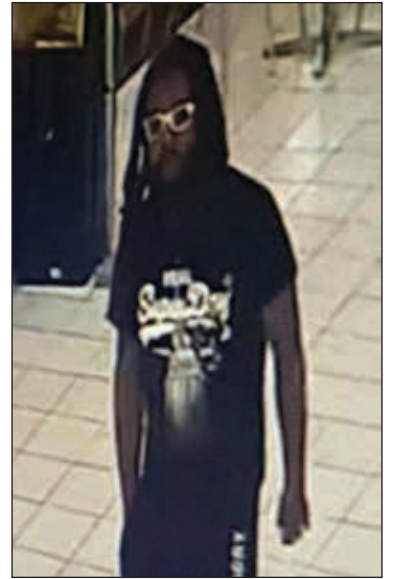
The goal is to both deter motorists from driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol, and to arrest those who ignore the danger of getting behind the wheel while impaired. The checkpoint is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

For further information, contact Officer Matt Schurg at 301-474-7200.

# Afternoon Shooting at Shell Mart Is Under Investigation

The police are currently investigating a non-contact shooting that occurred on Thursday, August 5, about 1:40 p.m. in the area of the Shell Food Mart on Cherrywood Lane. Officers responding to the scene, after receiving reports of shots fired, found multiple shell casings.

The pictured individuals are believed to be involved in the shooting. Anyone with information on them is asked to contact Detective Fernandez with the Greenbelt Police Department at 240-542-2137.



The pictured individuals are believed to be involved in the shooting at the Shell Mart.

- Photos Courtesy Greenbelt Police

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

Call 1-866-411-TIPS.

People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.

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

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CLASSIFIED: \$3.00 minimum for ten words. 15¢ for each additional word. Submit ad with payment to the News Review office by 6 p.m. Tuesday, or to the News Review drop box in the Co-op grocery store before 5 p.m. Tuesday, or mail to 15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770.

BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

OVERPAYMENTS: To properly account for overpayments too small to warrant refunding, the News Review accumulates overpayments of less than \$1.00 and periodically contributes the funds to a registered charity. Once the office reopens, this policy will not apply to payments made in person.

ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com. AD DESK: 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



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# How Buy Nothing Invokes Grace in Giving and Getting

by Melissa Sites

Cooperative living is built into many Greenbelt institutions, which makes a Facebook group called the Buy Nothing Project a natural fit with Greenbelters. The group encourages members to post Gifts for offer, and Wishes that others may fulfill, to build relationships around giving.

More than simply a way to exchange material goods, this group fosters a sense of community and brings joy to its participants.

Melissa Ehrenreich started the group in Greenbelt, following the protocols developed by Liesl Clark and Rebecca Rockefeller, who founded the project in July 2013 in Bainbridge Island, near Seattle. Their model focuses on “creatively and collaboratively sharing the abundance around us” (buynothingproject.org/about). The project has reached thousands of groups in at least 44 countries. Now with over 1,000 members in Greenbelt, the Buy Nothing group helps members experience community, especially during the isolation of the pandemic.

Participant Windy Cooler said, “I had been a member of Freecycle,” a Yahoo group for redistributing objects, “and I was attracted to buying nothing because it combined the aspects of Freecycle that I appreciated, with neighbor-to-neighbor advice and favors, and aspects of the time bank that I like: giving what you have and asking for what you need.”

Cooler explained that while Freecycle focuses on material goods, the Buy Nothing process includes a public conversation about the item, including its sentimental value. “It’s a different social experience,” Cooler noted. She has also requested and received advice from the group.

Emilia King spoke about helping her mother give away treasured possessions after moving out of a house after 46 years. Her mother was comforted “to hear who was taking up her things and for what reason.” A teacher, King received antique school supplies which she made into an attractive shadow box.

Cooler recounted mobilizing the group to facilitate an Egg Hunt at Easter time. Calling on the group to donate plastic eggs, Cooler and her son hid them at their local playground for kids to find. After she shared her idea about the group, she said, “We covered most of the playgrounds in Greenbelt with 250 eggs, as people began volunteering to fill and hide eggs,” and also involved another group, the Greenbelt Mamas and Papas.

Beverly Connor, who works at a nearby college library, told about providing a student who had gotten into graduate school with everything he would need for his room at his new university. “He drove away on July 9 with his car packed with stuff.”

As with Freecycle, recipients sometimes fail to pick items up, but Cooler pointed out that mix-ups are easily remedied. “I have been really grateful. I know these people. They are my friends and neighbors, I can just go and put it on their porch” if an item goes astray. The Buy Nothing ethos encourages participants to use social skills and talk with each other. Cooler said, “One of the things we’ve learned during Covid-19 is to express ourselves, our boundaries, our desires. One of the nicest things I ever received was a gift of someone’s time. I really needed an entomologist to present about cicadas” at an ice cream social for children. “A fun young woman, a fairly recent Ph.D.,” fulfilled the request, bringing preserved bug specimens along with her.

Buy Nothing was perfect for King when her daughter and a friend needed two copies of My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult to annotate and turn in. King was very grateful when someone gave her hot chocolate during quarantine. She asked the giver, “Is there anything that you need that you haven’t asked for?” It turned out the chocolate giver wanted muffin tins, which King happily provided.

Shobha Dandeker Duncan, who joined the group in October 2020, said, “during the pandemic we were all isolating, and it was so wonderful to be able to connect even if I didn’t see them. My husband was in the hospital in February and people were so kind and generous. When he passed, there was such an outpouring of care and condolences.” She also noted, “I got two brand new barstools for my kitchen. They were incredible. The giver asked if I would come to the door and take off my mask, because her son was an infant, and he had never seen anyone other than his mother and father.”

Connor said, “When Covid hit, [the group] was a lifesaver because I got to know my neighbors, and I went outside my court and got to know people, who became friends. When you give away on Buy Nothing, you know someone wants it and is going to use it or give it to someone else. It’s getting a second life – or a third, fourth or fifth life.”



PHOTO BY SHOBHA DUNCAN

This give thanks sign was given by Dana Cocchiarella and gratefully received by Shobha Duncan in the Buy Nothing group.



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

The Lake reflects the sunrise.

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**Senior Living** 55+ Community 2Br 2Ba corner lot w/ garage & more. Remodeled w/ new kitchen, baths, sunlit enclosed patio, new carpet & paint. **Estate Sale** GHI 2 Bedroom townhome with hardwood floors, opened kitchen & breakfast bar. Large fenced backyard opens onto protected woodlands. **Brick townhome on corner lot** Surrounded by protected woodlands. Main level addition with 1/2 bath and laundry. Opened floorplan - fresh paint & more. **Brick Townhome with Addition** Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard. **Large floorplan w/addition** Half bath on main level. Masonry townhome w/ fenced backyard & brick patio. Zoned HVAC system, 11' x 17' master br. **One Bedroom Lower Level** Coming Soon. Single-level living - no stairs. Currently being remodeled throughout with new kitchen, bath and more! **Townhome with 2 additions** 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced, corner lot. Large family room addition in back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC. **4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome** Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands. **Charlestowne Village** Single-level 1-br cond. in Greenbelt neighborhood! Parquet floor, new kitchen, remodeled kit. With Stainless Steel appliances. **Addition - Backs to Woodlands** Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on main level. Zoned HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck. **Brick Townhome** 2 Bedroom GHI townhome on main level. Remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with new washer. Hardwood flooring on both levels. **Upper Level One Bedroom** GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice! **2 BR Townhome** Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet fresh paint & ceramic bath. Don't miss this one! **Full Attached Inlaw apartment** 5 BR, 4 Bath home with lots of space. Elevator to basement. In-law suite. 2 Full kitchens, generator, fireplace & more.

**Your Greenbelt Specialists In Roosevelt Center**

# NIGHT OUT continued from page 1

that translates to is a party.

More than 100 people showed up, laughing as they shot hoops, stood in line for pizza or chicken and admired the motorcycles from the Platinum Rollers Club. Little ones chased soap bubbles, chalked the blacktop and hugged the costumed fire-mascot.

Some people wore masks while others didn't.

Police and fire officials joined in some of the games and handed out printed information. Members of the city council and county council wandered through the crowd greeting people. Businesses from Beltway Plaza gave away

free food, while The Space encouraged artistic adventures and Greenbelt CARES handed out information about health screenings and eviction prevention.

One of the highlights, beside the free food, was a K-9 demonstration by Police Officer Gerald Potts and his canine partner Duco, a Belgian Malinois who showed off his skills to the crowd. First, Potts gave two young volunteers cell phones to hold onto for a few minutes while he explained where Duco would come from. Then he asked them to throw the phones into the grass. When Duco emerged from

a car, he found the phones and alerted Potts by sitting. Duco's reward was playing with a ball for a few minutes before demonstrating his understanding of hand signals and whistled commands. After the event, Potts asked the kids to line up if they wanted to greet the dog. Duco remained calm, though his energy didn't seem to diminish at all.

The party lasted from 6 to 8 p.m. Another National Night Out event was held in the Hunting Ridge community on Hanover Parkway, but drew a smaller crowd.



Members of the Platinum Rollers Motorcycle Club gather for an informal portrait.



Under the supervision of Officer Gerald Potts of the Greenbelt Police Department, children at the National Night Out line up to interact with and pet Duco, the Greenbelt police dog.



At left, a young girl practices CPR on a large teddy bear, using instruction from a member of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department at the National Night Out at Beltway Plaza on August 3, 2021.



- Photos by Glenn Harris

At right, adults lift up a young girl so that she can dunk the basketball.

# Flash Floods in Greenbelt



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

A car on Lakecrest Drive navigates a flash flood caused by torrential rains.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW SWANSON

Debris fills the underpass next to the Sunoco station in Greenbelt after the storms that rolled through the area on Monday, August 9. The dog in the photo is named Kona.

